



## West Green Primary School Newsletter

April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

If you cast your mind back to a couple of weeks before the end of term it did seem that Spring had finally sprung. Believe it or not we have enjoyed some lovely sunny days in school towards the end of this term. The children have really enjoyed the fact they have been able to use the trim trail and tyre trail again when the weather has been good enough.

We've had parents evening by phone, but are hoping that next time it will be face to face with the class teachers. Year 4 and Year 5 parents evenings will be held after the Easter holidays.

To top it off Year 2 and Year 4 had their ukulele concert via Zoom, which was a great success. It was a shame that we had to cancel parents coming to see the concert in person, but due to an increase in covid cases amongst staff and children we had to make a decision to reduce contact for the safety of families and staff. With this said, we feel we are getting there slowly but surely and hope that in the not too distant future we can continue activities with no restrictions.

Thank you for your continued understanding when we have to change or cancel events at short notice.

A very Happy Easter from all the staff at West Green Primary School.

### **CLASS PHOTOS**

The class photos have been taken, and by now you will all have received the proof of the photo. It is entirely your choice whether you purchase a copy of the picture. Please do not feel obliged to buy a copy, only purchase one if you really want one.

It has been a few years since we last had class photos done, and it really is a lovely way for us as a school to capture a moment in the school's history. We have copies of the photos up in the school, which will be around for many years to come.

### YEAR 5 TRIP

Year 5 recently went on a school trip, which was very exciting for us as it is one of the first day trips the school has been on in a while. The children came back looking tired, but happy! They seemed to have a great time.

*We travelled to the Railway Land Wildlife Reserve in Lewes to observe and study the River Ouse. First we looked at maps for the area and spoke about some of the key geographical features of the reserve. Then we went outside for our first look at the river (which was weird because it was flowing in the opposite direction - away from the sea)! After that we learnt about some of the features of the river (like it's floodplain and meander) and mapped out the whole journey of the river. After lunch we looked at some of the river's mini beasts including the Caddis Fly Larvae and Water Boatman (we even caught a small river fish). Our last activity for the day was measuring how fast the river was flowing by timing how long a stick would take to travel 10m downstream. We had so much fun and learnt so many new things!*

**Miss Millar, Year 5 Teacher.**





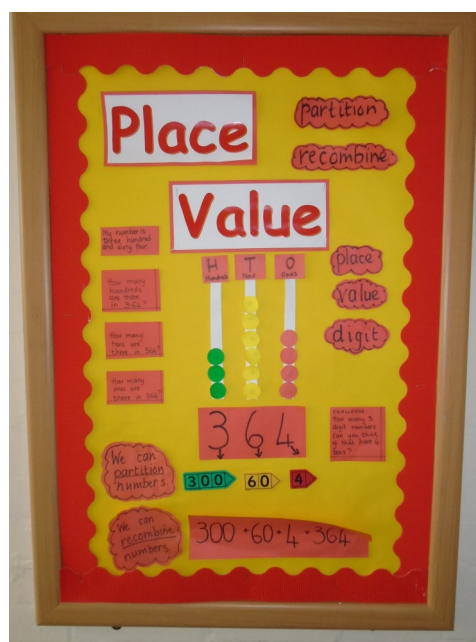
## SCHOOL LIFE

Each class have put up some beautiful displays outside their classrooms, which unfortunately parents have probably not been able to see. Here is a collection of some of their work so far this year, and some from last year you will not have seen.

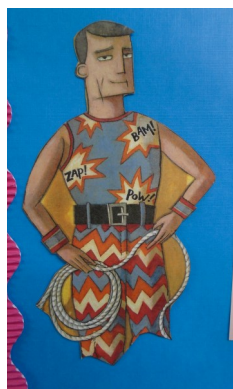
### Reception



### Year 1



### Year 2





### Year 3



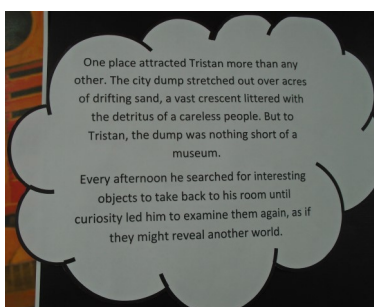
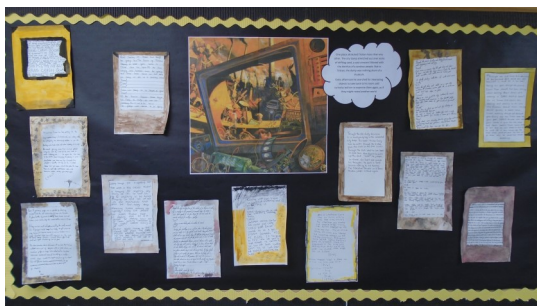
### Year 4



A work in progress...



### Year 5



### Year 6





### **NEW TYRE TRAIL**

Our new tyre trail at the front of the school has been very popular with everyone in the school. Even our own Mr Hodgson couldn't resist a quick whizz around the trail (to make sure it was fit for purpose and for health and safety reasons obviously)! It is so popular we have to limit the amount of children who can use it at any one time, but we do wonder if there is a World Record for how many children we can fit onto the tyre trail at one time (clearly we won't do this)...



### **A TIME OF CELEBRATION**

We are very proud to be part of a multi cultural community, and in this regard we like to celebrate and learn about all aspects of different cultures and religions within our school community.

Muslims have now entered the month of Ramadan. This is when most Muslims fast between dawn and sunset. Fasting allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith. It is thought to teach self-discipline and reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

To mark the end of Ramadan there is a celebration called Eid. Eid means happiness, and it is the festival of breaking fast. To celebrate Eid, members of the Muslim faith will dress in their finest clothes in order to celebrate with their families and loved ones.

In this regard we will have a non-uniform day on Friday, 29 April 2022, where your children can dress to impress, or wear whatever they feel comfortable in. We are not asking for any donations, but if you would like to made a donation to a charity of your choice via official sites please feel free to do so.

## YEAR 6

Our Year 6 class have now received their Year 6 leavers hoodie, and are rarely seen in anything else since they got them!



## THANK YOU

We would like to say a big thank you to Crawley Baptist Church who have continued to support us pre, during and post (hopefully) pandemic. No words can express how thankful we are for all the help and donations they have given us over many years. They have just provided us with a donation that has allowed us to buy 2 i-pads for every class in the school to primarily use as e-readers so children can read books on screen. With limited resources these i-pads were so desperately needed, so a very big thank you to Crawley Baptist Church from everyone at West Green Primary School.

## ECO FRIENDLY

We are always looking for ways as a school to try to make the world a better place. We have recently decided to stop using individual milk cartons which are provided for children under the age of 5, and now use reusable beakers. Although this does not seem like a big change, it is at least putting less waste into landfill sites.



## SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Many pupils have been asking us what we can do to help the people of Ukraine in the current crisis that the country is facing. First News, the newspaper for children that the school subscribes to, have recommended donations go to the Disasters Emergency Committee. The education secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, has endorsed the campaign.

We will not be holding a specific fundraising event ourselves, however if you would like to help, this is the Disasters Emergency Committee page with details of how to donate:

<https://dechelp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200731191-Donations-Gift-Aid>

Our thoughts are with the thousands of children and adults who are being affected by the unimaginable crisis they are facing.





### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT COVID ADVICE**

The government has set out the next steps of living with Covid 19. As of 1st April 2022, the current Government advice is:-

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

#### **WhatsApp**

To be able to use WhatsApp a person must be at least 16 years of age. Previously the minimum age requirement was 13 years but, in April 2018, it returned to 16 years. WhatsApp's main purpose is to send messages to friends - it isn't public in the same way that Twitter is, and people can only message friends who are already added on their phone. As long as your child only has trusted people as contacts on their phone, it is a relatively safe social media app. We are aware that many children have access to WhatsApp (with or without their parents permission). If you do allow your child to use WhatsApp, please ensure their safety:

- To prevent children being added to groups by people they don't know in WhatsApp, it is recommended changing the group chat settings from 'Everyone' to 'My Contacts Except...' and using the tick icon to select all contacts. The 'My Contacts Except...' option means only your child's phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups. But by selecting all contacts, it means that nobody should be able to add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation.
- With regard to group chats, the group chat function allows up to 256 people to chat in one conversation stream. Each group is set up by one person, known as the group admin, who is the only person who can add or remove participants and change or add further group administrators. Anybody in the group, even if they're not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see messages that your child posts and likewise your child will be able to see theirs. Also, if your child is added to a group with someone they have themselves blocked, that person will then be able to contact them.

Although your child might not be able to control if they're added to a group chat, they can always control their own participation within it – they can leave whenever they want to. To do this, when on the group's page, tap the 3 dots in the top right (or the name of the group at the top of the screen on an iPhone), then tap Group info, then EXIT GROUP in the red box at the bottom of the screen (or scroll down to Exit Group on an iPhone).

If you allow your child to use WhatsApp, it is a good idea to talk to them about group chats, stating the risks and showing them how to exit a group if they're invited to one that has people in it that they don't know.

- The app has a default privacy setting which allows anyone else on WhatsApp to view the user's profile photo, status, and when they last used the app. It's easy to change this setting to specify that the WhatsApp profile is only seen by 'My contacts' or 'Nobody' making the app feel a lot safer for younger users.



#### **CHANGE OF DETAILS**

If any of your contact details change (address, home phone, mobile etc), please inform the school office so they can update the school records accordingly.

#### **MEDICATION**

From time to time we will sometimes administer paracetamol to a child if they are feeling unwell, but it is not necessary to send them home. The brand we use is either Calpol paracetamol 6+ sachets or meltlets (so cannot be administered to anyone under 6 years old). For this to be administered to your child you will have needed to have signed a form giving your permission. We will always telephone you to get your permission before we administer any paracetamol, but without the signed consent form we cannot administer it in any event. If you have already signed a permission slip you do not need to do anything else.

#### **TRIM TRAIL AND TYRE TRAIL**

At the end of the school day it has been noted that parents are allowing their children to play on the trim trail outside the classrooms. If you do allow your child to use the trim trail (or tyres) at drop off/collection time it is **your responsibility** to ensure they use it safely. Please keep an eye on your children at all times during drop off/collection to/from school to ensure their safety.

#### **UNIFORM**

We no longer take school uniform orders via the school office. When you require new uniform for your child you can order it from: [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

Tel: 0800 069 9949

#### **MOBILE PHONES**

Please can you remind your child that if they bring a mobile phone to school with them, they must **not** use the phone whilst on the school premises. All phones must be turned off when your child has arrived at school, and handed to their class teacher. All phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

#### **BIRTHDAYS AND TREATS**

We love birthdays, and we love celebrating them even more! If you provide sweets for a class in order to celebrate your child's birthday, we would ask that you ensure they are individually wrapped, nut free and, if possible, vegetarian. This will mean all of your child's classmates can celebrate their birthday with them. We are not able to hand out any cakes or sweets that are homemade.

Also, from time to time throughout the school year, we will give out sweet treats to children. We will ensure we always meet a child's dietary requirements. **Please inform the school if you do not want your child to be given any sweet treats.**

#### **ASTHMA INHALERS/AUTO INJECTORS**

If we hold an asthma inhaler or auto injector for your child, please be aware that we need two, one in the classroom, and one in our medical room. When that item is out of date we will contact you and ask you to provide us ones that are in date. **Please make sure that you provide us in date items as a matter of priority. It is for your child's safety and must be acted upon immediately.**

#### **FILMS AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER (AND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR)**

Mainly at Christmas and Easter time we will sometimes arrange for the children to watch a film as an end of term treat. The films will either be a 'U' or 'PG' certificate. We would never show a film that we judged to be inappropriate. **However, if you do not wish your child to watch a 'PG' certificate film then please let the school office know so that a different film can be chosen for your child's class to watch.**

#### **NO NUTS REMINDER**

Please remember that we are a 'No Nuts' school. This means that no food brought into school by either children or staff should contain nuts. This includes Nutella (there are other alternative chocolate spreads available that do not contain nuts).