

West Green Primary School Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The second half of the Autumn term has been very busy for the school in the run up to the Christmas holidays.

Our Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2 put on a lovely Christmas performance for the school. They did so well, and we were very impressed with their attitude and behaviour during the performances.

The parents evenings for all classes have now been completed. Everyone who requested an appointment was provided with a time to meet with their child's class teacher. Apologies for having to revert to the 'old fashioned' system where you had to come in and manually sign up for an appointment. We, along with many WSCC schools, have started using a new computer management system and there have been a few teething problems. Normal service should be resumed for the next parents evening where you will be able to book online.

We had a non-uniform day in aid of Children In Need. As with all our non-uniform days we do not collect donations within the school, but ask that parents who wish to make a donation do so via the official donation sites.

The whole school were invited to take part in a carol concert at Crawley Baptist Church. The children who attended sang beautifully and once again were extremely well behaved. We were made to feel so welcome by Crawley Baptist Church, and would like to thank them for all the support they have given us over the years.

Further on in this newsletter you will read about the incredible achievement of our school council in raising monies for wet play equipment. In order to get the most out of the money raised, and to give more choice to the children during wet play, we would be grateful if you could donate any boardgames or simple jigsaws that you no longer need or use to the school. Simple and quick boardgames are preferable (rather than games like Cluedo or Monopoly that can take a long time to play).

From all the staff at West Green Primary School, we wish you a very merry Christmas. We hope you enjoy the holidays with your friends and families. Have a happy new year and we will see you all again in January.

West Green Primary School

NON-UNIFORM DAY—CELEBRATING DIWALI

Towards the end of the half term break, we had a non-uniform day to join in with the Diwali celebration. Everyone made such an effort, and we all had a great day. Here are some pictures of the day.



CHILDREN IN NEED

It was that time of year again where we joined in the celebrations for Children In Need. We do not ask for donations in school but instead ask that if you do wish to make a donation that you do so via the official website, or at official collection points. The children and staff had a lovely time on this non uniform day...



SCHOOL COUNCIL CAKE SALE

What a remarkable achievement for our School Council representatives who organised our recent cake sale at the end of last term. Not only was it an outstanding success (honestly the amount of cakes that were donated by parents and children was more than we could have hoped for), the children managed to raise an impressive sum of money. The money raised will go towards wet play equipment. Thank you to everyone who donated and brought cakes. We had a few cakes left over with longer sell by dates and so we held a flash cake sale on another date which, when added to the original cake sale profits, raised a total £452.50. A well deserved round of applause for everyone involved.



LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

As we are an all inclusive school we are sometimes visited by the Lighthouse Project who will occasionally lead an assembly. They are a Christian based charity who visit us and explain about the Christian faith and values. The children really enjoy these assemblies and it is nice to be able to invite them back into school. The Lighthouse Project is led by a team of staff and volunteers. We love learning about all faiths around the world and so are very grateful to the Lighthouse team for visiting us.

Also, the Lighthouse Project organised a Christmas workshop for Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5. The children that were fortunate enough to attend really enjoyed themselves.

YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

We have been asked by some parents and children if we will be attending the Young Voices concert at the O2 next year.

We did look into the cost of attending, and we even registered for the event in the hope that we would take part. However, once we received a quote for the cost of the coach, and taking into account the additional cost of the t-shirts (and audience tickets if family members wanted to attend) we realised that the cost would have been too much for us to ask parents to pay in light of the current cost of living crisis.

We are hoping to organise a school choir sometime towards the end of the academic year. You never know, you might even be able to see them perform at the school Summer Fair! Watch this space...

DJEMBE DRUM PERFORMANCE

The children in Year 3 and Year 5 put on a djembe drum performance for their parents to show them what they have been learning this term. It was an extremely loud and enthusiastic performance, and we are so proud of the way the children put their all into showing off their skills. Well done to everyone who took part.

REGULAR REMINDERS

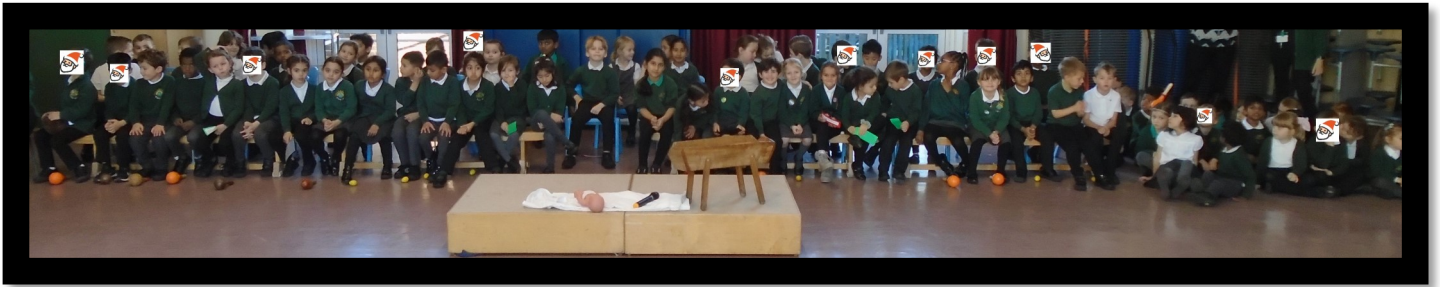
If your child is new to the school please familiarise yourself with the regular reminders page. We attach these reminders to every newsletter so we know that sometimes they might get missed. Please try to give them a quick read even if your child has been with us for a few years as sometimes they change, or get added to. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 delivered an exceptional Christmas performance. Rather than have the usual nativity play we decided this year that it would be nice to try something a bit different, but still in the spirit of Christmas.

Our children sang so well, and filled the hall up with lots of Christmas cheer. Well done to all the children for their hard work in the rehearsals, and in the performances. You have put us in a very festive mood.

The rehearsal...



Followed by the live performance...





Mrs Spence — the end of an era

Staff, children and parents alike were all sad to hear that Mrs Spence has decided it is the right time to enjoy her (well earned) retirement.

She has been a teacher for 29 years, and has worked at West Green Primary for 19 years. She taught many of the children who have passed through West Green Primary School. Over the years she has run a computer club, a cookery club and a film club.

We have missed her calm and steady influence this term, and it has been a shame that this year's Reception class did not get as much time with her as children in previous years did. However, Miss Delgado and Mrs Chapman have been doing a great job helping the Reception children settle into school life.

Mrs Spence celebrated her retirement with all the children by arranging a pantomime performance in school (from an external company). The children absolutely loved it. It was very loud, and so much fun!!! Thank you Mrs Spence for the thoughtfulness and kindness you have shown to everyone over the years.

We wish Mrs Spence a wonderful retirement and we hope you continue to enjoy your travels across the globe. Have lots of fun, but please remember us and send us a postcard or two!



SNOW DAY

It seems like we have been waiting for a decent snow day for years. It finally happened and we had a wonderful time...



STAFFING UPDATES



We have been joined by Mrs Tabassum who is another new addition to our Midday Meals Team. What a difference it has made to lunchtimes in the school hall with a third team member. A very warm welcome to Mrs Tabassum.



Since the news that Mrs Spence is retiring it means we have employed a new Reception teacher for the rest of this academic year. Mrs Jadaa is now settled into Reception. The children have made her feel very welcome and she seems to be enjoying her time with us.



Congratulations to Mrs Whitlock who welcomed her baby daughter into the world at the beginning of December. We are all so pleased for Mrs Whitlock and her family. We can't wait to meet her new arrival.



We will keep you updated on our new starters as and when they arrive. You can find information on school jobs that are currently available by visiting: www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/
You can then type in the location where you are searching for jobs, i.e. Crawley, Horsham etc.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

Cuts, Bumps and Bruises at Home

We know that childhood can be full of trips, tumbles and other little accidents. Every member of school staff has a duty to look out for the safety and wellbeing of the children in the school. This is a role given to us by the government and forms part of our conditions of employment. This means that when we see a cut, bruise, bump or other mark on a child, or a child tells us about a mishap, we have to establish that the child is safe and well cared for. Usually this involves talking to the child and then talking to parents or carers about what we have seen or heard.

It really helps teachers if parents let us know when they drop off children at school, about anything that has happened of this nature that the child might talk about or we might notice. If your child walks to school on their own then a phone call to the office is just as helpful. It helps to satisfy our professional obligation, and avoids those awkward conversations where we have to question you about what happened when you come to pick up your child.

Thank you so much for your help with this!

Online Safety

We regularly keep you updated on ways to keep your child safe online. In this regard the below mentioned websites are a great source of information for parents regarding online safety.

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ (Launched in May 2014 by founding partners, BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media, Internet Matters supports parents and carers to navigate the ever-changing digital landscape. They offer the best advice and information available to help you engage in your child's online life and manage the risks they may face online)

www.o2.co.uk/help/online-safety (This is a website provided by O2 whose resources are designed to help parents have more regular conversations with their children about online safety – enabling more families to enjoy the digital world with confidence).



COST OF LIVING CRISIS — WHERE TO FIND HELP IF YOU NEED IT

turn2us

This website is designed to help you find out if you are able to get help with your energy bills. There are many grants out there you may not know about. Some energy suppliers have their own grant scheme in place. You can ask your supplier if they have a scheme, and what the criteria is for claiming a grant. Turn2us also has other useful links in relation to other household bills e.g. water bills. To search for grants that you may be eligible for, you can use an easy tool on <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>. Tel: 0808 802 2000

StepChange Debt Charity

If you are worried about any debt, you can contact the StepChange Debt Charity for free advice on <https://www.stepchange.org>. Tel: 0800 138 1111

Food Banks in Crawley

There are a number of food banks in Crawley, if you do a web search you should be able to find some details. Listed below are some contact details to help get you started:

Freeshop - info@freeshopcrawley.com - Tel: 07861 907133

Crawley Food Bank Partnership (they are The Easter Team and also Crawley Open House who are working together)

Tel The Easter Team: 07940 900948/Tel Crawley Open House: 01293 447702

Government and Local Council Resources

The government have an online tool to help people check the benefits and financial support they might be able to apply for. You can check at:

www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support you can also find help at:

www.crawley.gov.uk/moneyworries

Your local council may be able to help you pay for things like:

- Energy and water bills;
- Food;
- Essential items such as clothes or even an oven.

This help is known as Welfare Assistance or the Household Support Fund. Each council runs its own scheme. The help they offer, and who can get it, varies. Ask your local council if they run one of these schemes. You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from your local council. If you are in receipt of benefits, they will not be affected if you get help from one of these schemes. See below for information on the WSCC Community Hub.

COMMUNITY HUB

WSCC have a community hub for anyone who may need help. You can request support from the Hub, including accessing the Household Support Fund, and where to get advice.

WSCC are focused on making sure they continue to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

If your request is urgent, for example, you are going to run out of food within the next two days, please phone [033 022 27980](tel:03302227980) so that they can make sure you get the help you need as quickly as possible.



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. The above is also relevant for antihistamine's. We use Piriton, but only if the parent has provided written consent and also verbal consent just before it is administered.

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

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).