

17th October 2018

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy start to the new term and we are really grateful for your support! I hope that the Weekly Bulletins are keeping you informed about what is going on in school. Please also take a look at the school website and Twitter feed in order to see further information. If you would like to see other items added to the Weekly Bulletin, please speak to Mr Grindrod; I am sure that he will be happy to take your suggestions on board.

The new Parent Pay arrangements are working well. If you do need further help or haven't got your log in details, please speak to a member of staff in the school office.

PASSPORTS

The children are working extremely hard this term and have produced some excellent work based on our whole school 'Rainforest' topic! There are however, a few children who are not doing their homework and who have several strikes for not having their PE kit in school!

We haven't had too many behaviour strikes and it would be great if this continues! In line with the Behaviour Policy, those children who have accrued behaviour strikes will not be allowed to attend after school clubs!

Please keep reinforcing our school values with your children; when we work together the children's behaviour is excellent!

SAFEGUARDING

Please remember that, if you are concerned about the wellbeing of a child in our school, you should go to the school office and inform a member of staff. We also have forms for you to fill in but if you prefer to make a phone call, please do so. Safeguarding is all of our responsibility and together we will be able to ensure that all children have their basic needs met!

BAD WEATHER

As the winter approaches, please make sure that your children have the right clothing in school and that they wear a coat. At West Heath Primary, we believe that there is no such thing as bad weather...only inappropriate clothing!



We go outside in all kinds of weather!

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NEW SCHOOL

It's hard not to see the progress of the new school building, the inside is equally as impressive! The new build is on schedule to be completed by February 2019 (hopefully, the winter will be kind to us so that the schedule is not affected!)

You will have seen in the recent Weekly Bulletins that the school will be closed for an additional week in February 2019. This is with approval of the Governing Body and the Local Authority. It is hoped that, by giving you advance notice, it will be easier for you to make child care arrangements. It is necessary to have the extra week because, at the point of handover, we have to install ICT equipment into classrooms; resources need to be relocated and confidential files need to be stored in line with to GDPR legislation. The new school kitchen must be organised so that we are ready to cook hot dinners for the children. We are not able to access the building until the February 2019 half term break and we can't move classroom furniture until this time.

At the point of handover, the contractors will take control of our current school and we will not be able to access it. Demolition will begin immediately and there will be no access permitted until August 2019! The decision to close the school for an additional week has therefore been taken with the above in mind and for Health and Safety reasons.

Thank you for your support with the relocation, it will be worth it!

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Government's obesity figures have been released. The figures below show the % of children, at our school, who remain obese from their time in EYFS to Y6! With our daily walks, PE and Sport, physical breaks and active lessons. We are delighted that the work we do is



lowering obesity rates for the West Heath Primary School children! We will be giving the children even more opportunities to be physically active this year and will continue to develop their skills in making

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healthy choices! If you have any concerns about your child's health or wellbeing please speak to a member of staff.

Obesity rates for the same cohort of children on entry to school (5 years old) and leaving school (11years old) in 2018		
National Figures	Birmingham Figures	West Heath Primary School
12%	16%	5.8%

Please check the newsletters for our latest sports results. We are hoping that we need an even bigger trophy cabinet in the new school! Thank you to all of those parents who attend sports fixtures, the children really do appreciate your interest and so do we!

The sports coaches from Getsports Active are working on a programme to offer more evening clubs. Street Skillz football training (which takes place on Wednesday evenings from 4.30-6pm) is very popular. More information about days, times and prices will follow!

GOVERNMENT FUNDING CRISIS

You will have heard in the news that school budgets are being significantly reduced over the next couple of years. We have already started to make provisions for this but are concerned about the longer-term impact of the cuts!

SCHOOL CUTS

91% of schools in England will see per-pupil funding cut
THAT'S -£3 BILLION A YEAR BY 2022

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED @SCHOOLCUTS.ORG.UK

Our priority will always be the children's education but times are changing and fundraising is becoming even more crucial. We wholeheartedly appreciate the assistance you give us with fundraising! The children really do benefit from the additional funds and the funds enable us to offer enrichment activities which we would not otherwise be able to afford! Our fund raising total currently stands at £11,934.13. **Thank you so much!** The money will be spent in the new school.

The Government are also muting their intentions to stop the sports funding nationally. In recent years, we have been able to subsidise school trips and visits; offer free afterschool clubs and free swimming lessons but this may not be possible moving forward. In addition, with a reduction in sports funding, we may need to consult on charging for after school clubs and transport to swimming. I am really hoping that this will not be the case but I will inform you of our plans as soon as decisions have been made!

Both myself and Coach Adam (Mr Hooper – PE Coordinator) are now working at a National Level with the Youth Sports Trust and our school has been highlighted for a national case study demonstrating the impact of our work in PE and Sport. Through our involvement in the national issues, we hope to help shape policies in order that children's health and wellbeing are as high on the Government agenda as they are in our school! We will continue to campaign for children's rights to be safe and healthy!

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Our attendance figures continue to be above national average (School 97%. National 95%) and we are really pleased with the importance you place on your child's education. Please remember that 2 weeks absence equates to over 60 hours of lost learning time and children really do find it difficult to 'catch up' when they return to school!

In contrast, a significant number of children are late for school every day! This is not acceptable and is affecting the children's start to the school day! They miss timetables, spelling and values assemblies! It also causes disruption for the other children in the class! Our school opens at 8.30 and registration is at 8.50. Please make sure that your child is on time and that they don't accrue strikes in their passports due to lateness! The children really look forward to the passport parties but the criteria are strict and do apply to all children!

Also, a reminder that you will incur a charge if you are late collecting your children from school and this applies to after school clubs too! The school day finishes at 3pm and afterschool clubs finish at 4.15pm! Your child really does look forward to seeing you at the end of a busy day at school; please be there for them!

ACHIEVEMENT

We are delighted to report that the school achieved our best ever results in the summer term 2018 National Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs). Most children should be at the Expected National Standard at the end of the Key stage (year 2 and year 6) and some children will Exceed National Expectations (Greater Depth.) We can't thank you enough for the help that you give to your children with their homework and the importance you place on their education! Reaching the Expected Standard will significantly help your child when they move onto secondary school!

YEAR 2	West Heath Primary School 2018 %		National 2018	
	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater depth
Reading	76	25	75	25
Writing	71	20	70	15
Maths	78	24	76	21
YEAR 6	West Heath Primary School 2018 %		National 2018%	
	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater Depth
Reading	85	30	78	28
Writing	82	23	78	28
Maths	82	39	76	24
R/W/M Combined	77	14	64	10

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AND finally, the school continues to go from strength to strength! This is testament to your support, staff commitment and your amazing children! On behalf of the staff and children, ***THANKYOU*** for your help in improving our school, it is very much appreciated!

Happy Days

Mrs Hooper