

# West Heath Primary Newsletter

February 2023

This month's newsletter contains more details up until the summer term. Please see below.

We hope you are finding the calendar useful to keep up to date with school events.

You can also find it on the school website.



## Cost of Living Crisis

As the cost of living is affecting many families, we would like to make you aware of the **free school meal** eligibility checker.

If you are unsure, whether you are entitled or not then, you can complete a FSM form, which you can get from the school office. You can also check on the DFE website.

If your child is in **EYFS, Year 1** or **Year 2** then all children qualify for **Universal Free meal**, which the Government pay for; we really would like as many children to take this up as possible.

If your child is a fussy eater, we can accommodate them too!

Come and speak to Mrs Hatch in the school office who will liaise with the School Kitchen.



## Wider Curriculum Experiences

### Curriculum Trips and Visits

You can find the dates of trips and visits on the school calendar on our newsletters and on the school website. Classes will have the opportunity to go on topic-related trips, as well as local walks and fieldtrips. Class teachers will contact you in advance of the trips through Ping with more information.

### Sports Competitions and Fixtures

From time to time, the children may also have the opportunity to take part in age-related sports fixtures and competitions. Staff will contact you with more information through Ping as soon as the dates are received by school.



Year 1 have enjoyed having lots of parents in for their Forest School Workshops this week. It really was an absolute pleasure seeing the children encouraging their parents to get their hands dirty for some outdoor play! Muddy hands, muddy boots and happy faces all round!





EYFS are asking for donations to enhance our provision.

- Lampshades
- Mirrors
- Clocks
- Wicker baskets (large and small)
- Items from the past that children can explore e.g. type writers, telephones, record players, binoculars

If you can help then please give, any items to EYFS staff.

Coming after Half term .....



Featuring performances from West Heath Choir, Performing Arts and Dance clubs!

**Reading at West Heath**  
**As you know, reading is one of our curriculum drivers at West Heath**

**World Book Day**

We will celebrate World Book Day in School on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**.

We would like the children to dress as their favourite book character and bring a favourite book to school to share. Please do not go to lots of expense in buying costumes. Often friends or family may have costumes to borrow. The best costumes are often those that are created from items that you may have at home already.

**The children will bring home their World Bok Day Voucher to redeem against a free world book day book or £1 off a book of their choice in participating shops.**

**Pre-loved Book Sale**

We have some books from a previous scheme that we no longer use in school. We will be having a book sale in the playground after school on World Book Day. Come along and grab a bargain bundle. Please bring change if possible.

**Book Donations**

We have been asked by some parents and children if we accept books from home that the children may have grown out of or no longer use. We are always grateful for donations of books to replenish book shelves in classes and our school library. Donations of books can be brought to school and given to your child's class teacher at any time.

**Reading for pleasure and enjoyment**

We are excited to be opening our school library next term for parents/carers to come into school and choose a book to share and read with their children at home. More details will follow on Ping.

If you can encourage your child to read for pleasure, they will really reap the benefits. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.

Here are some ideas for encouraging your child to read for pleasure:

**Set aside a special time** – just a few minutes a day is enough to create a reading habit.

**Get caught reading yourself** – show that reading for pleasure is not just for children.

**Read to each other** – if your child really doesn't want to read on their own, then read together. You read a page, then they read a page. Or one of you could read any dialogue. Be brave and put on different voices.

**Value the books they choose to read** – all reading is valuable for a child's development. Some of us prefer non-fiction; some of us prefer comics. One child might like superhero books; another might a book of football statistics.

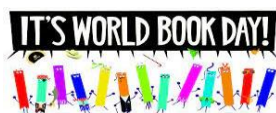
**Set a challenge** –Can they read a book from six different genres: a comic, an information book, a funny book, a sci-fi book, a classic and an instruction manual?

**Reading buddies** – reading to a younger sibling can boost your child's self-confidence & communication skills.

**Audiobooks** – audiobooks allow children to experience a book above their own reading level. It also allows you to share a book together or make the most of those car journeys. Listening to a story over and over again can improve vocabulary and encourage deeper comprehension.

**Stage and screen** – use your child's favourite films or games as a springboard into reading. Knowing the characters and storyline can be a helpful bridge into reading a longer story.

**Book club** – find out about local book clubs.



# Diary Dates 2023

## FEBRUARY

			<u>16<sup>th</sup> February</u>  <b>Break Up for Half Term</b>	<u>17<sup>th</sup> February</u>  <b>Training Day</b> - school closed to children
<b>20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM</b>				
<u>27<sup>th</sup> February</u>  <b>School re -opens to Children</b>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> February</u>			

## MARCH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<u>1<sup>st</sup> March</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> March</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> March</u>  <b>World Book Day Dress Up</b>  <b>Pre Loved Book sale</b>
<u>6<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Great Big Dance off</b>	<u>8<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>9<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>10<sup>th</sup> March</u>
<u>13<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Mother's Day Assembly</b>	<u>14<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Parents' Evening</b>  <b>Book fair</b>	<u>15<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Parents' Evening</b>  <b>Book fair</b>	<u>16<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Book fair</b>	<u>17<sup>th</sup> March</u> <b>Comic Relief</b> - Non Uniform Day - donations can be made on Parent Pay <b>Book fair</b>
<u>20<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Easter Raffle Donations all week Book fair</b>	<u>21<sup>st</sup> March</u>  <b>EYFS &amp; Year 6 Height &amp; Weight Check</b>	<u>22<sup>nd</sup> March</u>  <b>Roundhouse Trip Class 14</b>	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> March</u>	<u>24<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Clubs finish today</b>
<u>27<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Easter Raffle Ticket Sale</b>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Easter Raffle Ticket Sale</b>	<u>29<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Easter Raffle Ticket Sale</b> <b>Egg Technology Day</b>  <b>Roundhouse Trip Class 13</b>  <b>Showcase – more info to follow</b>	<u>30<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <b>Easter Raffle Ticket Sale</b>  <b>Silver Attendance Awards– Parents</b>	<u>31<sup>st</sup> March</u>  <b>Break Up for Easter Holiday</b>  <b>Passport Party</b>

APRIL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> EASTER HOLIDAY				
<u>17<sup>th</sup> April</u>  Primary school place offers	<u>18<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>19<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>20<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>21<sup>st</sup> April</u>
<u>24<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>25<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>26<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>27<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> April</u>

MAY				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>1<sup>st</sup> May</u>  BANK HOLIDAY school closed	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> May</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> May</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> May</u>  School potentially closed for Elections	<u>5<sup>th</sup> May</u>
<u>8<sup>th</sup> May</u>  Kings Coronation School closed	<u>9<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS2 SATS WEEK	<u>10<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS2 SATS WEEK	<u>11<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS2 SATS WEEK	<u>12<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS2 SATS WEEK
<u>15<sup>th</sup> May</u>  Walk to School Week	<u>16<sup>th</sup> May</u>  Walk to School Week	<u>17<sup>th</sup> May</u>  Walk to School Week	<u>18<sup>th</sup> May</u>  Walk to School Week	<u>19<sup>th</sup> May</u>  Walk to School Week
<u>22<sup>nd</sup> May</u>  KS1 SATS WEEK	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> May</u>  KS1 SATS WEEK	<u>24<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS1 SATS WEEK-  Year 6 Residential Trip	<u>25<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS1 SATS WEEK  Year 6 Residential Trip	<u>26<sup>th</sup> May</u>  KS1 SATS WEEK  Year 6 Residential Trip Passport Party  Break Up for Half Term
29	30	31		

JUNE				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
<u>5<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>8<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>9<sup>th</sup> June</u>

<u>12<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>13<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>14<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>15<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>16<sup>th</sup> June</u>
<b>Phonics Screening week</b>	<b>Phonics Screening week</b>	<b>Phonics Screening week</b>	<b>Phonics Screening week</b>	<b>Phonics Screening week</b>
<u>19<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>20<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>21<sup>st</sup> June</u>	<u>22<sup>nd</sup> June</u>	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> June</u>
		<b>World Music Day</b>		
<u>26<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>27<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>29<sup>th</sup> June</u>	<u>30<sup>th</sup> June</u>
		<b>Year 1 Trip to Weston</b>		

JULY				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> July</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup> July</u>
	<b>Parents Transition Meetings</b> 3.30 – 4.15 Y 1, 3, 5	<b>Parents Transition Meetings</b> 3.30 – 4.15 Y 2, 4, 6		
<u>10<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>11<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>12<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>13<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>14<sup>th</sup> July</u>
<b>SPORTS WEEK</b>	<b>SPORTS WEEK</b>	<b>SPORTS WEEK</b>	<b>SPORTS WEEK</b>	<b>SPORTS WEEK</b>
<u>17<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>18<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>19<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>20<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>21<sup>st</sup> July</u>
		<b>Y6 Leavers BBQ and parent event</b>		<b>Y6 Leavers Trip</b>  <b>Passport Party</b>  <b>School Closes for Summer</b>
<u>24<sup>th</sup> July</u>	<u>25<sup>th</sup> July</u>	26	27	28
<b>Training Day</b>	<b>Training Day</b>			
31				