



# Western Springs Primary School

## Autumn 1 Newsletter



What a fantastic half term we have had at Western Springs and what a busy half term it has been too!

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received from all of the children, parents and staff at Western Springs. It has been my pleasure to work with you all on the school's journey of improvement.

The children have settled back into school calmly and enthusiastically and I am immensely proud of them all. Walking around school during the day is a joy and all the children are working extremely hard in their lessons. They should all feel very proud of themselves. I certainly feel proud of them all.

I am very much looking forward to the next half term, and the year ahead.

Mrs Powell

### School Rebranding

As you know, following a survey of parents, the decision was made to rebrand the school and in doing so change the school's name.

The children worked very hard to suggest names for our school and following a vote by all the children and staff, a new name was chosen.

From January 2021, we will be

### Forest Hills Primary School

This is particularly appropriate to the location of our school and also maintains a link with Western Springs, USA, since there is a park and a school there called Forest Hills.

The children have also been very busy designing a new school logo for our uniform, which was presented to the designers a few weeks ago. Designs will be shared with parents and children when the children return to school.

### Playground Markings

Since returning to school, you will have noticed our new playground markings, which the children have taken great pleasure in this half term.



As well as games and activities for break times, there is a daily mile track to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

### Reception Admissions

The application process for Reception places for September 2021 opens on 1st November 2020.

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Information can be found [here](#).

The closing date is 15th January 2021.

If you know anyone whose child is due to start school in 2021, encourage them to join one of our virtual or socially distant tours of the school. These will be by appointment only due to COVID-19. We look forward to welcoming them.

## COVID 19 Reminders

A massive thank you to all our children and parents for your patience and understanding during what has been the most challenging period in our lifetime.

Next half term, we will continue to operate a one way system around the school site and we will continue to ask parents to wear face masks whilst on the school grounds. Staff will wear face shields when dismissing, and I would like to ask that parents refrain from conversations at the door and instead contact the school office. Mrs Hogg will pass on any messages shared and request that class teachers contact you at the end of the day.

During half term, some families may suffer from symptoms of COVID-19. If you or anyone in your household has symptoms, please call 111 for advice. If you have a test which comes back 'negative', please inform the school office on your child's return to school so we can record this. If you have a **POSITIVE** test result during half term, please **report this to school immediately by emailing the school office**. The school email address is

[office@westernsprings.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@westernsprings.staffs.sch.uk)

This will enable us to seek advice to ensure the health and safety of all of our children and parents.

Thank you again for all of your support.

## Fundraising

Next half term, we will be fundraising for the Poppy Appeal and for Children in Need.

As you know we are selling Children in Need 'Pudsey' wrist bands for £1. These are currently on sale and we will continue to sell these after half term, All proceeds will of course go to Children in Need. On Friday 13th November, the children can also wear their pyjamas to school to raise funds. Further details to follow.

After half term, we will also be selling poppies. We would ask for a minimum donation of 20p for a poppy and on Wednesday 11th November we would like to invite our children to '**wear red**' for remembrance. We will have a two minute silence at 11:00 to remember those who died, were injured, or served in any conflict.

## Sensory Garden

During the lockdown period and throughout the summer months, Mrs. Bulzacchelli was very busy creating a sensory garden on our playground.



This has become a popular destination for those choosing a quieter, more peaceful break and lunch time.

## Perry Hall Multi Academy Trust—Academisation

Western Springs Primary School is due to become part of PHMAT on 1st November 2020.

As you know, PHMAT has been supporting the school since April 2020 through Mr Asbury and Mrs Powell.

From 1st November, you will not notice any changes to the day to day running of the school. These changes have been put into place since September when all children returned to school.

When we become part of PHMAT, we will also establish a Local Governing Body. We will have two parent governors. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please speak to Mrs Powell or Mr Asbury.

Each half term you will receive a Trust Newsletter which will keep you informed about our schools and celebrate our successes. Please see the link below to the Trust Autumn 1 Newsletter:

<https://www.perryhallmat.co.uk/trust-letter-to-all-parents-autumn-1-2020/>