



Western Springs Primary School

Autumn 2 Newsletter

I can't believe the Autumn Term has flown by so quickly and that 2021 is only just around the corner.

This year has probably been one of the most challenging years in our lifetime but all of our children have adjusted really well and come back to school with a positive can-do attitude.

I am extremely proud of all of our children and I'm excited about the future of our school community. School is a calm, purposeful and enjoyable place to learn and I can't wait to be able to invite you back through our doors so that you can see our amazing transformation for yourselves.

Christmas celebrations have been limited by Covid-19, however the children haven't been any less excited. We enjoyed our Christmas Dinner on Christmas Jumper Day and the children in Early Years have learned some Christmas Songs, whilst the children in Years 1 and 2 have performed a short nativity.



You will also see some beautiful cards, decorations and calendars coming home this week—just what is needed to boost our Christmas spirit.



On behalf of all of the staff at Western Springs Primary School, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2021.

Mrs Powell

School Rebranding

Our school rebranding is on track for January 2021.

Our new school uniform has arrived and been distributed ready for Tuesday 5th January.



We have also agreed and ordered our new school signage, which will be going into position over the Christmas holidays.

We will be saying goodbye to

Western Springs Primary School

in December and a massive hello to

Forest Hills Primary School

when we return in January.

Fundraising

Thank you for your kindness this term. We have raised the following amounts for charity:

The Poppy Appeal

£49.11

(Not including poppy gifts sold in school.)



Children in Need

£168.78

A huge thank you to Mrs Jerromes for making all of the badges and chocolate Pudseys.

Well done everyone!



Online Safety

Do you know the age restrictions on these social media apps?



It may surprise you to know that the minimum age for these apps is **13 years old**.

Increasingly, children and young people are being exposed to content and issues that they have not yet reached the maturity to deal with.

Please check your child's devices to ensure they are not being put at risk.

In February 2021, we will be doing some training for parents and children on the subject of online safety as part of our Safer Internet Week. This will be an online event if we are still unable to meet in large groups. More details about this will follow in the Spring Term.

Attendance

Attendance this term has been fantastic considering the national restriction and periods of self-isolation.

Our overall attendance this term has been

95.94%

if Covid related absences are removed.

The class with the highest attendance is

Oak (Year 1 and 2)

They will win the attendance cup.



An amazing 31 of our children have achieved 100% attendance (Covid absences not included) throughout the Autumn Term and will receive a certificate.

Well done everyone!

Next term we will also be offering attendance clinics to support our children's attendance further.

Year 1 and 2

For Science in Year 1 and 2, we have begun our topic on Animals including humans. We looked at the five senses and talked about which body part was linked with each sense. We then used our senses to explore.

We smelt different teabags and described them; one was minty but the children described the coffee bag as rancid. We played I Spy, listened to different animals sounds and had to guess which animal was making it. We enjoyed taking objects out of the feely basket and describing their textures. We use words such as rough, smooth, hard and soft.



Our favourite activity was fruit tasting we enjoyed the melon and described it as sweet, we also liked the lemon which we described as sour.



Reception Admissions before 15th January 2021

The application process for Reception places for September 2021 is open and can apply [here](#).

The closing date is 15th January 2021.

If you know anyone whose child is due to start school in 2021, encourage them to book a virtual or socially distant tours of our wonderful school.

We look forward to welcoming them.

COVID 19 in the Spring Term

Thank you to all our children and parents for your patience during what has been a challenging term. Next 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. We will review this regularly to make sure we comply with Government advice.

If your child tests positive for Covid 19 before 23rd December, please **report this to school by emailing the school office**. The school email address is

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.

Dates for the Diary—Spring 2021

Monday 4th January—INSET Day

Tuesday 5th January—School reopens to children as

Forest Hills Primary School

Tuesday 9th February—Safer Internet Day (details to follow)

Friday 12th February—Children break up for half term

Monday 22nd February—Children return to school

Wednesday 31st March—Children break up for Easter

Thursday 1st April—INSET Day

Monday 19th April—Children return to school

I very much look forward to adding to these dates as the term progresses and inviting our parents into school for a range of event

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

This term, we have placed recycling boxes in our classrooms and in our school hall.

As the year progresses we are going to think about how we save energy, reduce our carbon footprint and reuse waste if it can't be recycled.

One way parents can help is by encouraging recycling at home and by ensuring that the children bring reusable water bottles to school.



In the new year, a local councillor will also be working with our children and we will form an Eco Committee of children to lead us on this.

Perry Hall Multi Academy Trust

On 1st November 2020 we became part of Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust.

Here are a few Trust staff you might see around school.

Mrs A Cheema OBE

Chief Executive Officer



Mrs N Fellows

EYFS Consultant



Mr M Webb

Facility and Estates



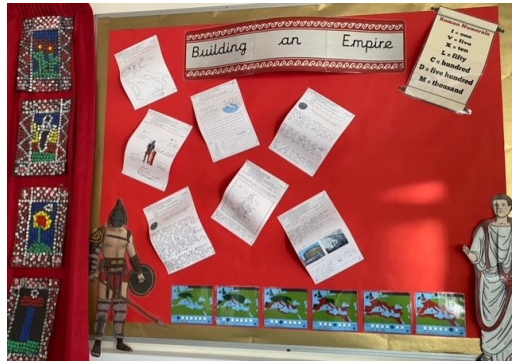
Each term you will receive a Trust Newsletter which will keep you informed about our schools and celebrate our successes.

The last newsletter was October, so you will receive one during the Spring term.

Year 3 and 4

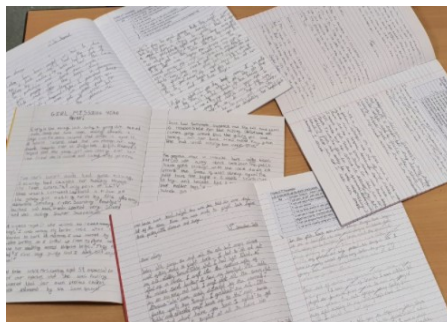
We have been learning about the Roman Empire.

We have created our own helmets, shields and mosaic paintings—we have loved it!



Year 5 and 6

The children in Year 5 and 6 have had a fantastic term and settled back to school with an extremely positive attitude. They have produced some wonderful writing, and lots of it. Miss Price, Mrs Bulzacchelli and myself are very proud and are looking forward to seeing what they achieve in the Spring and Summer terms.



During the final week they have also enjoyed a bit of Christmas crafting, producing a card, calendar and decoration for you to enjoy over the festive period and into the new year. Well done Year 5 and 6!



No Shouting Policy

Since September, we have adopted a no shouting policy in school. This is something that we believe in very strongly as a Trust.

There is nothing that can be achieved through shouting that cannot be achieved more effectively through talking to our young people. We believe that communicating high expectations and supporting our children to talk through problems is beneficial for life. Shouting is aggressive and that is why we will not shout at any child in school.

We would ask that parents also refrain from shouting at their children, and as a no shouting school this is not acceptable on our school grounds.

EYFS

In Early Years, we have enjoyed our Christmas crafting and making lovely decorations for our families.

We hope that you love them too.

We have also enjoyed singing some Christmas songs.

Merry Christmas everyone!



Final Message to our Children

It has been a long and exciting first term for me at Western Springs and I have loved every minute. Thank you all for your kindness and hard work. You have all been amazing and I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2021 when we start our exciting journey as Forest Hills Primary School.

Love from Mrs Powell xx

Here is a message from a friend of mine ... <https://youtu.be/yUagzDh5AxE>