

Wood End Park Academy

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November 2022

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

We approach the end of a school term—it is hard to believe your child is due to complete a third of their school year! A reminder that the last day of the term is Friday 16th December. It is important we have your child attend school up to this day as we have low attendance in the school. Every day counts for your child!

Thank you to those who have completed your online parent meeting with your child's teacher. You should have received the targets for your child too. We expect most pupils to be working the 'EXS' which is the expected standard for the year group.

After school on Tuesday 29th November was our session for parents to view their child's work.

School Uniform

With the rise in the cost of living we are looking to provide second hand uniform to any family who would like this. If you have any items to donate, please do leave those at the front office.

Rock Steady

We have a new tutor in the school who teaches an instrument to pupils for 30 minutes at week. If you are interested in this, please look at www.rocksteadymusicschool.com or call 0330 113 0330 for more details.

Be Bright Be Seen

A reminder that the days are getting shorter and darker earlier. If your child does go out after school, it is advisable for your child to wear an item of bright clothing so they are easily seen. Thank you to those who took part in our campaign to promote this on Friday 25th November.

Please note holidays during school time are not allowed. If anyone is planning to book a holiday, please note the Autumn Term will end on Friday 16th December at 2.30pm and the Spring Term will start on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

All term time holidays would be unauthorised and you may be issued a penalty notice (fine).

Please also try to arrange Doctor's, Dentist and Optician appointments out of school hours. Children being absent from schools means they are missing important learning time.

Year 5 Gurdwara Trip

Year 5 were lucky to have the opportunity to visit a Gurdwara in Southall this half term. This trip was linked to year 5's RE unit - Sikhism. Pupils of year 5 have been learning about Sikhism and it was only right that WEPA organised this trip to help the pupils consolidate their learning. Visiting the Gurdwara was a great experience for both the pupils and teachers - making it a memorable moment in year 5! Below are some comments from both teachers and pupils.

'On our trip, we learned many traditions and rules you have to follow as a Sikh. When we entered the Gurdwara, we had to take off our shoes and cover our heads to show respect to God. We were able to answer the guides questions easily as we learned about the 5Ks in school'

Pupil from 5AG

'The building was great and huge. It had big golden lettering. I was amazed at how many people volunteered to make food- this is called Seva. I loved our trip to the Gurdwara'

Pupil from 5AG

'The building was absolutely beautiful. I loved how calm and peaceful the Gurdwara was'.

Miss Thomas



Year 6 Trip to Buddhapadipa Temple



On 24th November, Year 6 visited the Buddhapadipa Temple as part of their study of Buddhism. This beautiful temple is situated in Wimbledon on a peaceful plot of approximately 4 acres. The white exterior of the temple is decorated with gold and the interior is red and gold.

We were given a talk by one of the Buddhist monks in the Buddhapadipa (which means 'the light of wisdom') temple. He explained that the temple had been on this site since 1966. The temple holds three statues of Buddha: in black, gold and emerald green. The walls are painted with colourful depictions of the life of Buddha, together with some more contemporary additions such as Big Ben and Mother Teresa! The altar was full of ornate objects and flowers, which represent the different backgrounds of the monks who come together here to form beauty - just like a bouquet of flowers! The incense and candles surrounding the altar represent the wisdom, compassion and purity of Buddha.

The daily routine of the monks at Buddhapadipa was explained to us - from an early start at 6am to fasting from midday onwards. The three main principles of Buddhism are: to do good, not to do bad and to purify the mind. Much of a monk's day is spent in meditation as a means to clean and purify the mind. Year 6 joined in with meditation! In order to follow the core principles, Buddhists follow a 5-point moral code: don't kill, don't steal, don't lie, show respect and don't drink alcohol.

After our talk, we walked through the gardens before returning to school.

Year 6 enjoyed their day, with many of them commenting on what they found most interesting:

"I was surprised that monks have to wear their long robes all the time!" (Ekam)

"I loved that the name of the temple means light of wisdom." (Fatima)

"I was amazed that Buddhist monks dedicate their entire lives to follow Buddha." (Ashwath)



Tree Planting in Hayes

This year, Wood End Park Academy's School Council (from years 3 to 5) joined up with Trees for Cities to plant trees in Rosedale Park. This is part of our School Council's mission to help support our environment for a better and cleaner future. Children were able to showcase their knowledge on how trees help the environment and the importance of trees in our world today. They worked up a sweat digging deep to plant a range of trees from maple to cherry. Thank you to the School Council for providing Hayes with a chance of having fresh air and beautiful scenery around us. Watch this space for more from the School Council.

Mrs Gill



Events

Music at WEPA

Some exciting things have been happening in music this half term.
Reception: Playing percussion in a variety of ways

Year 1: Telling stories using sound and changing duration and pitch

Year 2: Singing folk songs from New Zealand

Year 3: Composing music about weather

Year 4: Composing their own African drum rhythms

Year 5: Composing Hip Hop raps inspired by global/local issues

Year 6: Composing an accompaniment to an Australian Aboriginal tale

Children have been enjoying their lessons:

“I love playing the African drum beats”

“We got to learn about music we hadn’t heard before; we get to play together in a group”

We have also had a company called Rock Steady in school who are going to help us form some bands- playing and tutoring guitar, keyboard, singing and drums. Even our teachers got involved. There is still time to sign up. Please see the link on the app if you are interested.



Music in Early Years



Rock Steady came into demonstrate .

Children had a great day .

Events

Year 4 Spelling Bee Competition

On Wednesday 2nd November 2022, three of WEPA's finest Year 4 spellers took part in a federation wide Spelling Bee. Held at Godolphin Junior Academy in Slough, each school within the Park Federation presented three of the best spellers within their Year 4 classes to take part for the ultimate championship of spelling!

Harveen Malhi, Zainab Durrani and Akshayan Pathmanathan represented Wood End Park Academy after competing in rounds to be found as our top spellers. These children practised extremely hard and spent hours at home and school in preparation for the event. Preparing for words within their year group's spellings as well as extension words with patterns and assessing root words, prefixes and suffixes, our pupils were prepared for the ultimate challenge.



At the beginning of the event the pupils were each given a number which clarified their position in taking part. Judges included the Vice Principal of Godolphin Junior Academy as well as our Federation's CEO - Dr Martin Young. It was not an easy feat to stand in front of these distinguished judges, other candidates and an audience to then spell out demanding terms however our students did this with grace and confidence. Akshayan was the first out of all the federation children to begin the competition - a difficult place that he held strongly! Harveen was fifth on the rota and Zainab was seventh so all our children were the first to meet each round.

After having to spell words such as 'occasionally' and 'sustenance', it was easy to say that the challenge was on and the words were getting tougher. As each round passed, the number of competitors dwindled and our children held the fort well. Many schools were out of the competition and from 24 pupils altogether, we were down to the final 10.

When the word 'separately' was announced, Akshayan took 10th place and was eliminated. This 10th place was not easy to reach so well done to Akshayan for making it to this position! Zainab made 7th place with the tricky word of 'substantial'. Harveen managed to lock in 5th position after being eliminated with the word 'conscience' - a difficult word but one we will not forget!



Ultimately, Montem Academy took 1st place and worked hard to get this. Akshayan, Zainab and Harveen made Wood End Park seem a strong competitor and made us extremely proud. We look forward to next year's Park Federation Spelling Bee and are thrilled with the outcome we achieved. Well done to all our finalists who showed the strength of Wood End Park Academy!

We want the best spellers at WEPA! 4 Tips to Improve Spelling

1. Mnemonic Devices:

A mnemonic device is a memory technique that can help you remember information.

Let's consider the spelling of *island*. This word has a silent *s* and children often forget to add it. How to solve this? What is an island? It is *land* surrounded by *water*. If you remember this spelling trick, you will never misspell the word again.

Physical, for example, confuses a lot of people as they are not sure whether to use *f* or *ph* here. You can use this sentence — *Pat Had Yummy Strawberry Ice Cream And Lollipops*. If you take a look at the initial letters, you'll get the word *physical*.



2. Find the Pattern

Study the common spelling rules and categorise words that follow the same spelling rules in groups.

For example, think of this well-known spelling rule. *The singular nouns that have y in the end, replace the y with ies in the plural form. That means, fry becomes fries, party becomes parties, etc.*

Now, try to collect all words that follow the same spelling rule into one list and try to create as many lists as possible.

3. Break Them Up!

Mostly, we misspell longer words. Because we need to remember longer sequences of letters. If that's the case for you, you can always chunk them down into smaller parts. The knowledge of syllables helps A LOT too.

Think of the word *disappearing* in this case. You can break it up in groups like this — *dis-ap-pear-ing*.

Suddenly, the spelling became much easier!

disappearing is

dis-ap-pear-ing



4. Pronunciations Help with Funny Spelling Tricks

The way that a word is spoken can help you out with the spelling.

Think of this spelling rule for example. *The silent e, in the end, makes the vowel say its name. So, that e in the end in kite, makes the i sound like /ai/ rather than creating the /ee/ sound.*

All of these words follow the same spelling rule — *cube, tube, bite, dive, fine, code, bode, etc.*

A very common spelling trick joke goes like this — *“When two vowels walk together, the first one does the talking!”*

Read has two vowels, *e* and *a* walking together where *e* is the first one. So, *read* has an *-ee* sound rather than having the *-ay* sound. *Coat, boat, team* — all of these words follow the same rule.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM ADVICE

Some tips for using Google Classroom at home

Positive Posts

When commenting on a post or communicating with your teacher or peers online be positive and appropriate.

- Avoid negative or inappropriate words.
- Use constructive criticism - No PUT DOWNS!

Be Relevant

All posts and comments should relate to the work or task you have been given.

- Post with purpose!
- Don't post 'just to post'
- Ask yourself: 'Is my post useful to others?'

Keep in touch with teachers

Use Google Classroom to keep in touch with your teacher and ask any questions if you are unsure about something.

- REMEMBER it's OK to ask questions!

Proofreading

Before you submit your work:

- Double check your spelling and punctuation.
- Avoid slang, texting language or emojis.

Things to Remember



If you are posting a picture or video of your work please make sure you are fully dressed

When learning online make sure your parent or carer is supervising your use of technology and internet



If you breach the guidelines or rules of acceptable usage your teacher will message you to remind you. If it continues you will be muted and unable to comment.

Attendance Autumn Term 2022

As you already know, at Wood End Park Academy we are committed to providing a broad, balanced and effective education for all of our children. I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to the 262 children who have managed to achieve 100% attendance so far this year. You are amazing! As a school we aim for 96% attendance which would bring us in line with the National average.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is important that they are in school, on time, every day that school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. We believe that regular attendance is of the greatest importance so that children:

- Have full access to the curriculum and are more likely to achieve well and leave school with the vital skills and knowledge they need for their future lives
- Are able to build positive relationships and develop social skills which prepare them for the next phase in their education
- Are able to develop their self-esteem, their sense of worth and sense of belonging
- Are able to develop a positive attitude to school and the world of work, understanding how important it is to be punctual and reliable

As a school we have extensive rewards and incentives to celebrate and promote children's attendance with individual, class and whole school rewards based on 97% and 100% attendance. Every half term children who attend school every day receive a prize from Ms Johra. In addition, we have special pizza parties for children who show excellent attendance at the end of each half term. Class teachers will be celebrating individual children's attendance achievements and personal improvements daily. Each week children will be given their class attendance and if they are 100% on any day they will receive their 100% a non school uniform day. The classes which have achieved 100% attendance so far are: 5TF and 4SK.

This represents a significant investment for the school, however, we see this as being a really important part of our work; every day matters! We do consider the circumstances of individuals and take them into account when rewarding children's attendance, for example, absences that are as a result of medical issues, to ensure that all children are rewarded fairly. As a parent, however, I would urge you to think about the 'real prize' of maintaining excellent attendance as I have explained above; these reasons need to remain at the centre of our thinking. Please could I ask for your full support in ensuring your child / children maintain excellent attendance and punctuality? Thank you for your support with this.

We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time at 8.45am.

Attendance matters! It is important that your child gets to school on time and aims for 100% attendance!

Mrs Stacey Gamble: Deputy Principal and lead for Attendance at WEPA

Events



Attendance Autumn Term 2022

Lost Learning due to Poor Attendance

The chart below identifies the possible amount of lost learning due to poor attendance. How does your child compare?

Attendance during the school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approx this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

Nationally primary pupil attendance is around 96%. This means that a child needs to attend school for at least 177 out of 190 days to meet national expectations.

We believe that working together with parents is the best way to result in positive attendance outcomes for our children. We have lots of high profile rewards and systems in school to promote good attendance and punctuality with the children.

Our Deputy Principal (Mrs Gamble) and Attendance Lead (Miss Williams) are happy to work with both children and families to improve attendance and punctuality. Come and talk to us if you are having problems.

Children coming late to school in the morning and being collected late at the end of the day

It has been noted that many children are arriving for school late and are also being collected late after

school has finished. This is monitored and could result in a member of the Senior Leadership Team

meeting with parents. Children need to be in school before the gate closes promptly at 9.00am and be collected at 3.20pm at the end of the day unless they are attending boosters or clubs.

Information



Please note all payments must be made on parent pay. If you pay for your child's school meals, please check their accounts regularly to ensure funds are available for the meal.

Money should be on their parent pay account, before they order their lunch in the morning



Please provide your child with a named water bottle for school. No metal bottle allowed.

Proper hydration allows pupils to focus better and stay productive longer.



WEPA APP FOR SCHOOL UPDATES

We are aware some parents have still not downloaded the school app. We will be communicating important information throughout the Year via our app, so it is imperative all parents and carers download this at your earliest convenience by following the steps below:

Step One:

For Apple devices please use

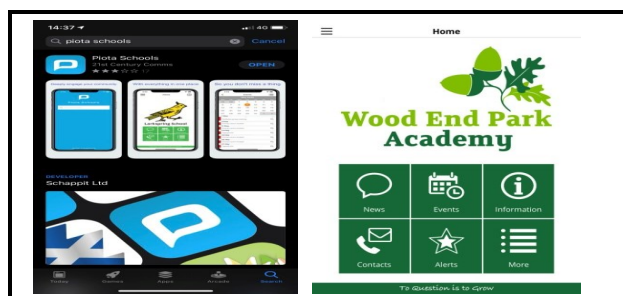
<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/piota-schools/id1333103848?mt=8>

For Android devices please use

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.piota.schools&hl=en_GB

Step Two:

Type in 'Wood End Park Academy'



Autumn Term 2022

Term Ends Friday 16th December 2022 at 2:30pm

Spring Term 2023

Term Starts Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Half Term Monday 13th – Friday 17th February 2023

End of Term Friday 31st March 2023 at 2:30pm

Summer Term 2023

Term Starts Monday 17th April 2023

Half Term Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

Term Ends Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 2:30pm
For children

*Staff Development Day - Thursday 20th July 2023

*Staff Development Day - Friday 21st July 2023

*Pupils do not attend on these days

Please note holidays taken during term time will not be authorised.

You will be liable to submit a payment (fine) to the local authority.