



West Leigh Weekly News

Wednesday 21st July 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 2nd

Children return to school

Friday 3rd

Year 4 'Hook Day'

Week beginning Monday 13th

Swimming starts

OCTOBER

Monday 25th – Friday 29th

Half term break

NOVEMBER

Monday 1st

Staff training day

DECEMBER – JANUARY

Monday 20th Dec – Monday 3rd Jan

Christmas holidays

Tuesday 4th Jan

Children return

FEBRUARY

Friday 11th

Staff training day

Monday 14th – Friday 18th

Half term break

APRIL

Monday 4th – Monday 18th

Spring/Easter holidays

Tuesday 19th

Children return

MAY

Monday 2nd

Bank holiday

Friday 27th

Staff training day

PLEASE NOTE – NEW DATE

Monday 30th – Friday 3rd June

Half term break

JUNE

Monday 6th

School closed – Queen's Platinum

Jubilee

JULY

Friday 22nd

Staff training day

Year Three

To say this has been a rollercoaster of a year would be an understatement. The Year 3 staff have been impressed by the children's approach to learning, their flexibility and adaptability throughout the year as we have endured Home Learning, and working in Covid-secure classrooms. Despite the differences to the 'norm', the children have made excellent progress and enjoyed all of our topics with great enthusiasm and engagement. We are all incredibly proud of what they have achieved and know that they will continue to thrive as they enter Year 4. From the teaching team in Year 3, we would like to thank you for supporting us this year, particularly during Home Learning, and we wish all of you a safe and healthy full of fun and a well-deserved rest.

Year Four

It has been an absolute delight to see the children of Year 4 enjoy their time together as we reach the end of a very peculiar year. Whilst at school, the children have always shown a fantastic approach to their learning and this also echoed in the times spent at home during the remote learning period. The children have demonstrated unparalleled resilience and adaptability and they have been a genuine pleasure to teach this year. All of the Year 4 team will remember this year for a long time to come - we wish all of the children and their families a very well-deserved and restful break before the journey into Upper School begins.

Year Five

Well what a year that was!! Looking back over this very strange year, we must all agree that our Year 5 children have been absolutely marvellous. They have shown amazing levels of resilience and positivity despite the interruptions to their time in school. We have seen amazing levels of progress, personal growth and adaptability, which will enable them to face the challenges of Year 6 and beyond with confidence and success. We will miss each and every one and send our best wishes with them and you, their parents and carers, for a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Year Six

The journey from Year 3 to Year 6 has now come to an end and, although it has not been a traditional route, and has been filled with challenges and unexpected situations, the Year 6 cohort have coped remarkably and should be very proud of their achievements along the way. In spite of everything that has been thrown at them, the pupils have shown great resilience, determination and enthusiasm to continue to progress as learners. Hopefully, their final few days at West Leigh Have been filled with fun and great memories have been made. We certainly are proud of everything that they have done and know that whatever comes, they have the potential for great success. Year 6 leavers, let no one steal your dreams!

ATTENDANCE

Today we gave out our individual attendance awards for this term. There were **116** gold certificates for 100% attendance, **167** silver (98-99%) and **141** bronze (96-97%). Our overall attendance for this term was **97.2%** which is magnificent achievement in current circumstances given that the national average is 96%. Thank for all your efforts in getting your children to school regularly.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Over the summer break, we will be having a complete revamp of the school website. We appreciate that the current one can be rather 'clunky' and hope the new one will be more user-friendly with a much brighter, 'jazzier' (yet classy) appearance. The old website is being taken down today (Wednesday 21st) and the new one will be launched on **Friday 30th July**. We hope you will like it.

'SCHOOL STREET' MARSHALS

We are sure that you will agree that the 'School Street' initiative on Ronald Hill Grove has been a great success in terms of road and child safety and also in tackling air pollution. As the scheme re-starts in September when the children return, we will be looking for volunteers to be marshals at our barrier (the Westleigh Avenue end of the road) to free up our staff from those duties. The timings are currently 8.30 – 9.00 each morning and 3.00 – 3.30 of an afternoon. Please contact the school office if you are interested and think you may be able to supervise for one session each week. Thank you.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

As well as this being the final newsletter of this academic year, it is also the final one in this particular format. In September, we will be launching a new online version. Parents and carers will be given a link to click and the newsletter will be able to be viewed from there.



West Leigh is part of the Portico Academy Trust

Awards

At this time of year we always present special awards to those Year 6 children (who are leaving us today) who have never had a day's absence in their entire time at the West Leigh schools. This year, there is one such pupil. **Alethea Bathurst (6F)** has not missed one day at school since joining West Leigh Infant School. 100% - that's an amazing achievement. Congratulations, Alethea!

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHILDREN'S RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

Understandably, quite a few parents have had questions about the arrangements for September, particularly 'drop off' and collection times. We have recently been issued the new operational guidance for schools from the DfE following the move to Step 4 of the government's roadmap and will be studying this closely before making any firm decisions. We will be sending out full guidance to all parents and carers about the organisation for the new academic year in mid-August, so please look out for that. The children return to school on **Thursday 2nd September**.

GOODBYES AND HELLOS

As we come to the end of this year we say goodbye to a few members of staff who we are going to miss. Miss Marden is leaving to take up her university course at Chichester, Miss Moore is moving on to work at a different school, Mrs Mapson has taken the decision to retire as has Mrs Ferguson who will be leaving us after 19 years of working at the school. We wish them all the very best as they move on. In September, we will be welcoming Miss Emma Poysden who will be joining the Year 6 teaching team.

END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM MRS WOOLF AND MR LEAR

This is obviously the final newsletter of what has been an extraordinary (and sometimes very challenging), yet unforgettable year in so many ways. Staggered starts, lockdowns, remote learning, lateral flow tests – just a few examples of the new vocabulary we have had to get used to as being part of school life. We have to say that the children throughout this unique period have been magnificent; resourceful, understanding, stoic and extremely upbeat in these often difficult and unusual circumstances. As we wrote in our preface to the Year 6 Leavers Yearbook, this current cohort of children will always be remembered as the "Children of the Pandemic" and they have been a credit to themselves and to you as their parents and carers.

We are sure that you will want to join us in saying a massive thank you to all our staff who have worked so tirelessly to support, encourage and guide the children in all their endeavours inside and out of the classroom. They have certainly earned a well deserved break and a significant period of rest.

We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the incredible response to our recent sponsorship events to raise money for playground improvements. So far you have raised around **£12,000!** We cannot thank you enough for your generosity! The competition for the class that raised the most money was won by **3N**, who raised a whopping **£1,100**. A fantastic achievement!

It only remains to say thank you, once again, for the continued support you show for the school. This year, more than any other due to the implementation of remote learning, we have had to engage with parents and children in their home environment and, although this was a major challenge, we truly believe this showed how a genuine and successful partnership between school and home works. Your wonderfully supportive comments from that period are certainly testament to that.

We wish you and your families a lovely summer break, be it at home, somewhere in the UK or abroad, and we look forward to seeing those of you that are returning to us on **Thursday September 2nd**.