

# Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter



Issue Number 9

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you and your families well. Following Mr Thomas's letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021, I am writing to confirm that I am working from home for the moment. I was hit off my bike in Camberley on the way to our INSET and spent a few days in hospital, before returning home with some fractures. I am pleased to say that I am healing well and am on the road to recovery. I would like to thank all those parents and carers who have sent me messages, and the Year 1 families for the lovely card. I was delighted also to receive a wonderful card designed and signed by every child in the school.

Everything is normal at school – 'business as usual' as we like to say. I am in daily contact with leaders and teachers from both Wildmoor Heath and the Greenshaw Learning Trust. We started the term with an INSET focusing on Memory Skills and the further development of writing skills across the school. Our end of March assessments have now been analysed and teachers, alongside the senior leadership team, have identified the next steps for each individual.

Our focus for this term is on maintaining pupil well-being and accelerating their academic progress. There is clearly some catch-up required for most learners; our teaching and learning staff have put in place rigorous programmes to address this by actively reviewing prior learning and prioritising skills development across reading, writing and mathematics. All year groups are continuing to receive teaching across the full curriculum, including French, music, etc. as we believe that children need this breadth of learning and experience. We are also acutely aware that some children have suffered socially and emotionally, and we are keen to rebuild their confidence and self-esteem. The school received a small amount of 'Catch-Up' funding from the government which has enabled us to put in place some extra academic, social and emotional support. Our Catch-Up Premium Strategy can be found on the school website under Statutory Information. In reality, the key to helping pupils make accelerated progress will be through our 'Quality First Teaching' approach whereby the learning needs of every child are clearly understood and catered for in class, with focused interventions where necessary. We appreciate the support of parent, carers and grandparents with this journey and I discuss this further below. We all firmly believe that when families and schools work together children make the best possible progress and learning gaps can be addressed most quickly.

## Reading at Home

I want to stress the importance of parents/carers reading at home with their children daily and to ask for your support in this regard. Children make most progress when families support the work of schools by reading daily at home. Whilst the majority of Wildmoor children are reading daily at home, we are aware that some are not, and we would appreciate your earliest support to ensure this happens.

Reading is a vital life skill which gives access to the whole curriculum and a whole world of knowledge. I am sure that most parents and carers are aware of the huge priority we place as a school behind reading skills development. Our mission is to ensure that all of our children can decode phonics well by the end of Year 2 and have passed their Phonics Awareness Check with most passing by the end of Year

1. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, plus some from other year groups, receive daily phonics lessons at 9:00am which link to their spelling and writing skills. Strong phonological awareness and decoding enables children to make rapid progress and develop, over their primary years, into confident readers and writers. Every Wildmoor Heath child reads aloud in class, and individually, with an adult frequently. Those who require extra support, with phonics or reading fluency, receive additional daily sessions. As a result, our phonics and reading results are extremely high when compared with national averages and we are proud of this achievement.

This is a joint mission and sadly we see less progress for those children who do not read at home. Each child takes home their reading record for you to sign and is proud of it, as are we. I would ask that each parent /carer takes the time and effort every day to read with your child and to record this with a signature in their reading records. The children will benefit and love your praise. Thank you for your support with this.

## Homework Completion

Again, I would ask for your encouragement and support with your child's home learning to help them make accelerated progress.

We are continuing to set home learning for the children as usual. In Key Stage 1, children are, on a regular basis, expected to read their Bug Club book, practise phonic sounds and letter formations, practise spellings, number bonds and times tables. In Years 3 and 4, children are, on a regular basis, expected to read their Bug Club Books, practise spellings and times tables. Finally, in Years 5 and 6, the children will need to do the same as Year 3 and 4 with an additional Maths or English homework task. The homework expectations for each year group can be found on the school website.

Homework at primary school often supports and consolidates the learning in classes and is an essential tool to develop knowledge, skills and independence. Homework also sets up good habits and routines for secondary school, where homework is set weekly across all subjects.

## Year 4 Undertake the National 'Dirt is Good' Project

Our Year 4 class has been accepted to take part in the national 'Dirt is Good' Project. 'Dirt Is Good' aims to inspire children to work together to make a positive social or environmental change in the world and become lifelong change makers! It began with a fun live launch event with each of the schools taking part and then the Year 4 class discussed the things we are passionate about and formed our groups.

We are hoping to develop several ideas and to grow a greater awareness of the power and benefits of recycling in the school. If any Year 4 parents would be willing to support Mr Phelps in class with this work, please get in touch with him through the class e-mail. We are especially looking for any recycling containers.

# The Year 4 'Animal Rescuers' Share Their Goals



Year 4's Launch Wave for Dirt is Good!! 🌀



## Year 3 Curriculum – ‘The Lost Words’



Year 3 are studying language in nature this term as part of their ‘Lost Words’ curriculum theme. The Lost Words represents a fabulously artistic book which introduces children to words we have forgotten in childhood, such as acorn, which used to be such a fundamental part of our education.

On Monday, the Year 3 planted sunflower seeds donated by the Co-Op. This fits in very well with our termly theme, The Lost Words, where we are looking at the nature of Wildmoor Heath.



## Reminder - Please Take One Minute to Complete Wildmoor Heath's ParentView

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have logged on to complete the ParentView survey!

The purpose of this Ofsted questionnaire is external – it allows prospective parents to view your opinions about our school, and Ofsted will consult it when they inspect the school. The high level of responses in recent years has certainly helped to boost the numbers of new pupils entering our school, which in turn helps us to receive more funding from the government.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to do so, please log on and complete this short survey – this would be a great support to us. When logging on, both parents can register, under separate e-mail addresses, and answer the questions, so potentially two responses per family. You will also be able to look at last year's responses, which were very positive indeed. Therefore, could I ask you all to log onto ParentView again, even if you completed it last year, in order that we can obtain a healthy number of responses again this year.

If you have anything you wish to discuss concerning your child's education, please contact the class teacher. For anything else, please ask at the school office and leaders will get back to you as soon as possible. I can assure you of my full attention, albeit remotely, for the moment.

Have a great Bank Holiday.

Kind regards,



Leslie Semper  
Headteacher

Wildmoor Heath School, Lower Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne RG45 7HD  
Tel: 01344 772034 E-mail: [secretary @wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk)

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