**Westcott Primary School News** 

**Friday 26th October 2018**

Well, we have reached the end of yet another long, busy and productive half term. The children have all worked incredibly hard and you’ll be pleased to hear that the staff have worked even harder!

**School Improvement:**

Our focus for this term has been introducing the **‘Mastery Approach’ to maths.** Teaching maths for mastery is a transformational approach to maths teaching which stems from high performing Asian nations such as Singapore. When taught to master maths, children develop their mathematical fluency without resorting to rote learning and are able to solve non-routine maths problems without having to memorise procedures. Many of the methods and approaches can be confusing to parents so we are going to be holding some information sessions after half term. Hopefully these will enlighten you as parents as to our approach to maths. Dates will be sent out the first week back.

We have been delighted with the success of our **Times Table Rock Stars** programme. We have seen some excellent progress already with the children’s accuracy and speed in retrieving times tables.

**Reading:** We have awarded our first reading award today. A year 5 pupil has read for 20 hours since we launched the approach in September. Well done Jack.

We are also having a massive push on presentation and handwriting. Not only because it is an expectation in the National Curriculum, but also, we want the children at Westcott to take pride in their work. We will be sending home the expectations for each year group after half term to enable you to support your child’s handwriting in line with our school policy.

**Our PTA** has been working hard behind the scenes, on behalf of the school, writing a variety of bids to enhance the curriculum and education we can offer the children. They have also been busy in school, implementing and supporting many activities. The Bonfire event was a great success and the children enjoyed creating a variety of Halloween and Bonfire inspired crafts. A big thank you for the Bonfire Display that was created in the hall.

The PTA are already working hard on our **Christmas Fair which is going to be held on 30th November 3.30-5.30.**

**Parental feedback:**

Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire at the last Parent Consultation Evening. Your views are important to us and I was particularly pleased that we had 75 responses. The vast majority of the responses were overwhelmingly positive. Areas you thought we could improve on were: communication between home and school and the notice you are provided with school events; the range of clubs on offer to the children; and, school lunch provision.

We have improved the range of clubs available to the children already this year and a list can be found on our website. The school pays for the catering service we use in school. I have passed on concerns to the management of the company and they assure me they are looking into concerns raised by parents.

I am going to suggest that parents come and join us for lunch, over a week in November, to provide us with more specific feedback. I will write to you separately after half term with more details of this offer.

We are very excited to be the first primary school in Hull to be working in close **partnership with Hull Truck**. As a partner we will be working with two Creative Learning Officers over the year. The officers will be working with children in year 5, 4 and our 3/4 mixed class. They are able to enhance and enrich our curriculum by linking drama to our themes. For example, our WW2 topic after half term.

This partnership also provides the whole school with backstage access and discounted tickets. We are planning on taking the whole school on a theatre trip before Christmas to see The Ugly Duckling (EYFS and KS1) and Oliver Twist (KS2) – as soon as we have a date and rough costings we will let you know.

**Anti-bullying Week:**

The week beginning 12th November is this year’s Anti-bullying week. The theme this year is **Choose Respect**. As you know the effects of bullying can have a massive impact on all individuals, whether that is at school, work, college or socially. Anti-bullying week is a great way to get involved, take a stand against bullying and raise awareness. Bullying doesn't just affect children but adults too.

At Westcott we have a STAR approach to bullying Stand Together Act Responsibly. It is important that we all take responsibility for stamping out bullying and ensure that we have a bully-free school where it will not be tolerated. I have included our school poster for your information, as I feel it helps to be clear about the definition of bullying. During that week we will be working with both staff and children, raising awareness of the impact bullying has but also signing up to the Westcott STAR Pledge.

We managed to raise a staggering £454.33 during our Macmillan coffee morning. Thank you.

**Key dates for your diary:**

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| **Date**  | **Event**  |
| **5.11.18** | **School re-opens** |
| **9.11.18** | **EYFS phonics and reading workshop for parents** |
| **12.11.18** | **Anti-bullying week** |
| **16.11.18** | **Children In Need**  |
| **30.11.18** | **Christmas Fair**  |
| **13.12.18** | **EYFS nativity**  |
| **14.12.18** | **Christmas Jumper Day**  |
| **17.12.18** | **Art Exhibition for parents after school**  |
| **19.12.18** | **Christmas Carol Service at St Columba**  |
| **20.12.18** | **School Christmas Dinner**  |
| **21.12.18** | **Christmas Party and disco day** |
| **21.12.18** | **School closes for Christmas**  |

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| **Date**  | **Event**  |
| **7.1.19** | **Teacher training day**  |
| **8.1.19** | **Pupils return for the spring term** |
| **14.2.19** | **School closes for half term** |
| **15.2.19** | **Teacher training day** |
| **25.2.19** | **School re-opens**  |
| **4.4.19** | **School closes for Easter**  |
| **23.4.19** | **School re-opens**  |
| **6.5.19** | **May Day school closed**  |
| **24.5.19** | **School closes for half term**  |
| **3.6.19** | **School re-opens**  |
| **28.6.19** | **School closed to pupils – teacher training day** |
| **19.7.19** | **School closes for summer**  |

On behalf of all the staff at Westcott, we thank you for your continued support and partnership.

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable half term and look forward to seeing you all **back on Monday 5th November 2018**

Deborah Tague and the Westcott team.