**Westcott Primary School News** 

**Thursday 4th April 2019**

**Today we finish for our Easter break which means we have completed our second term of this academic year. We have had a very busy and productive term but as always at Westcott it has been incredibly rewarding and enjoyable.**

**School Improvement**

We have made great progress with our school improvement priorities. In mathematics we have seen a complete shift in attitude from the children and many now tell us that maths is their favourite subject. Children are demonstrating their resilience in problem solving and applying this to a range of mathematical concepts. Children are now asking to carry on with maths work in their own ‘free’ time at school. We have also been so proud of the attitudes of the children at our Monday evening Maths club. In reading we continue to develop the children’s reading skills alongside a love of reading. Again excellent progress has been seen in this area.

In writing we have been focussing on basic skills and progress in this area can already be seen in recent work. The quality of writing across the school has improved rapidly.

Our Curriculum

Our spring term theme has been Think Big and the children have enjoyed learning about the world around them. Y1 have studied space in addition to their National Curriculum subjects and enjoyed a visit from the Planetarium where they had the opportunity to look at the stars in a large dome. Y2 have looked at large fish and mammals under the ocean and enjoyed a visit to The Deep.

Our children in Y3, Y3/4 and Y5 have also studied space as an additional Think Big theme. Children have recreated the Solar System and this has enabled lots of cross phase working. In Y4 the children have studied Volcanoes. Y6 pupils have studied the Tudor Period in history and linked this to a study of religion, especially the religious persecution of the time. More information can be seen on our website under the Latest News tab. Next term our whole school theme is Stand Out.

Our EYFS pupils continue to benefit from their inter-generational link with our residential homes. On World Book Day a group of children read stories with elderly residents at a local care home.

Sport at Westcott

Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils have worked with Sophie from NAPA who has choreographed three dances which the children performed to parents on Monday. The dances were fantastic and I was particularly impressed with the children’s timing. It was lovely to see our Westcott core values shining through as children were supporting each other and the teamwork was amazing. Go Westcott STARS!

Pupils in Y5 and Y6 have received training from Hull FC and have developed their skills under the coaching of a professional. Behaviour has also been exemplary – a fine example of Westcott STAR values of respect and attitude!

Our football team had the opportunity to play a competitive friendly match against Neasden Primary School. We arranged a boys and girls team. This was arranged at short notice, as the children were desperate to play against another school. Unfortunately, it clashed with our staff training evening so many staff members were unable to cheer on our Westcott STARs. However, I hear that attitudes from our children were superb and that their team spirit shone through. We were also proud of the leadership skills on show from our pupils, Alex Krygier stepped in as player/manager to support Mr Scott.

Behaviour

Behaviour in and out of school continues to make us proud. Children are taking responsibility for their actions and have a greater understanding of the affect their choices have on others. Many of the children have been rewarded on our Going for Gold system or achieved STAR of the week. Children who have been out of school on a range of visits have represented Westcott well as their behaviour has been exemplary.

Family Learning/events

It was fabulous to see so many family members join us for our celebration school lunch on Thursday 28th March, we had an amazing 85 parents joining us! Feedback was very positive so thank you. In addition to this we also had two very successful afternoon tea events, organised by our wonderful Friends of Westcott group. Our Easter craft morning and afternoon was very enjoyable, even if a little messy, and it was lovely to see so many families working together in school. The egg designs from our KS2 children were very creative. Well done to the winners.

Our reading workshop for parents was well attended and feedback was positive and we hope it has supported you as parents in understanding our approach to the teaching of reading.

We finished our Easter week with the Easter Bonnet Parade. The EYFS and KS1 pupils looked amazing… A special thanks to you all for supporting the children with their bonnets and again well done to the winners.

Fund Raising

We raised £380.60 for Children in Need. A big thank you for your generous contributions for this worthy charity.

Friends of Westcott update

Our Friends of Westcott group have been busy fund raising for our school and also organising family events. We have completed the Giggle Ninja, bag packing at Morrisons, the sponsored Readathon, tuck shop/bun sale and apron making. In addition, the Friends of Westcott have contributed to the cost of coaches for Y2 and Y4. Don’t forget the Easter Trail during the Easter holidays! The Readathon, sponsored read, raised £1000 for the school to spend on books – we wasted no time in ordering some new books for the children in school.

Warner Brothers

I responded to an email asking the school if they would like to take part in a Wizard Wand workshop – of course I jumped at the opportunity as I know how many of our children are huge Harry Potter fans. As with many of these events I had to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement and so couldn’t share any details with parents. They wanted to work with 50 children in Y4. It was a shame that we couldn’t extend this to the whole school but we did well to take part and the children really enjoyed the experience.

**Next term:**

When we return for the summer term we will be launching Marathon Kids again. It was very popular and successful and many parents, children and staff managed to run a marathon. More details to follow.

Year 3 and Year 3/4 will be attending an educational visit. Year 5 and EYFS will be working with NAPA. Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 will perform to parents during the summer term.

**Year 6 will sit their SATs tests and Year 1 will be tested on their phonics ability. In addition, Y2 will have SATs tests which are used to support teacher assessments.**

**Key dates for your diary:**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **23.4.19**  **TUESDAY** | **School reopens for the summer term** |
| **13.5.19** | **Year 6 SATs week** |
| **24.5.19** | **School closes for half term** |
| **3.6.19** | **School reopens** |
| **Week beginning 10.6.19** | **Year 1 phonics testing this week** |
| **28.6.19** | **School closed teacher training day** |
| **10.7.19** | **Year 6 performance to parents 6PM** |
| **12.7.19** | **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony 2.15 PM**  **Year 6 Leavers party 4.00PM** |
| **17.7.19-19.7.19** | **Year 5 Residential visit** |
| **19.7.19** | **School closed for summer break** |

**On behalf of the whole school team we thank you for your continued support and wish you a wonderful Easter break.**

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