

Weston Hills CofE Primary School

Start of Term 1 Newsletter 5th September 2017



Dear Weston Hills Families

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year and a very warm welcome to the new families that have joined us this September. We hope you will soon feel part of the Weston Hills School community and we are looking forward to getting to know you all. I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer holidays and had an opportunity to spend quality time together as a family whether at home or further afield. I had a lovely break in Scotland, enjoying wonderful scenery and braving the midges!



We had some exceptional results in the KS2 Year 6 SAT's this year, exceeding the National and Lincolnshire percentages in Reading, Writing and Maths, and we are very proud that the children achieved so well in these increasingly demanding tests. However, we know that with such small cohorts SAT data fluctuates widely from year to year and is only a tiny fragment of what we aim to achieve for every child at Weston Hills. Our aim is for all the children to leave us as confident learners and kind responsible young people who have achieved all they are capable of through a wide ranging, stimulating education. This is why we don't just focus on SAT results and continue to provide art, music, drama, sport, competitions and educational visits etc. throughout the year for all age groups.

A new academic year is always exciting but can also be a little daunting for families, children (and staff!) after quite a long break. All the staff are here to help make the return to school as easy as possible and we do a lot of work in the first few weeks helping your children settle in. As always, please do come and speak to someone if there is anything you are unsure of, worried about or if you need support with any aspect of your child's education.

Your child's class teacher is always the best person to speak to first and, if it's just a brief word that you need, they do try to be available at the beginning or end of the day. Teachers are very busy people though, particularly in the mornings when the children are arriving and lessons are due to start, and often it's better to arrange a mutually convenient time so that you can have an uninterrupted chat. If the teacher feels that more pastoral support is needed, Mrs Alexander as Head of Pastoral Care, will be informed so that she can arrange time to talk to your child. We love having your children in school but they are your children and you know them best so only by working together can we do the very best for them.



Staffing

We have a few staffing changes to announce for this academic year.

I am very pleased to tell you that the Governors have appointed Mrs Barnes as Assistant Head at Weston Hills from this September; I am very much looking forward to working closely with her on the strategic development of the school. It will be a seamless transition as she has already been part of the senior leadership team this past year in her role as Head of KS1 and she will continue to be Class Teacher in Oak Class. Mrs Barnes' additional management time out of class will be covered by Mrs Nicholls who already covers for PPA across the school.

We welcome Mr Jonathan Mulhern who will be with us this year completing his School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) based in Holly Class. Mr Mulhern has been gaining experience in a local primary school as a TA for the past year. He will be in school from Monday to Thursday and on Fridays will attend training at The Deepings School in conjunction with Hull University.

We are also pleased to tell you that we have taken advantage of the Government Apprenticeship programme and are delighted to welcome Miss Amy Wantling who is completing her PE and School Sport Apprenticeship with us this year. She will support teachers as they deliver PE lessons, organise additional lunchtime/after-school sporting activities, and accompany staff and children to sports events. She will also gain experience working with children in the classrooms and will be helping out at breakfast club.

Sadly, we have had to say a few goodbyes over the summer holidays. Mrs Weightman has decided to take a break after many years working at Weston Hills in a wide range of different roles. Mrs Millard has moved to a new school to gain additional experience as a TA in a different setting – this is the next step towards her ambition to become a qualified teacher. Mrs Robson-Truman has left us to set up a new business with her husband. We wish all of them the very best in their new ventures and thank them for their hard work whilst at Weston Hills. We have covered their roles for the short term but are interviewing for replacements this week.

Collective Worship

Weston Hills is proud to be a Church of England School and we know that many families choose us because of this. Our daily Collective Worship is an important part of the church school character and brings the school community and its values together. The Church of England sums it up beautifully:

In a Church school worship should be invitational, there should be space for all to stand back to listen reflect and engage with integrity. Collective worship is predominately educational and makes a major contribution to pupils' personal development. We follow a principle of 'Warm fires and Open Doors'. We hope that all will be drawn by the warmth of collective worship, but they sit only as near to the fire as they feel comfortable with..... it provides pupils with the opportunity to express thankfulness and joy, to quietly reflect upon the big questions of life and their own thoughts and beliefs, and engage in an act of community. (www.churchofengland.org/education/church-schools-academies/collective-worship.aspx)

We would like to help our families become more aware and feel more involved in the Christian values we discuss in school. From this term onwards we will be taking a different value each half term as a focus for Collective Worship and for discussion in circle times in class. At the beginning of each half term we would like to invite families to join us for our collective worship where we will introduce that term's value. We will also be sending home an activity sheet linked to the value which we hope you will enjoy reading and discussing with your child.

Our first open family Collective Worship will be in the school hall on **Monday 11th September** from **9:05am – 9:30am** when we will introduce this term's value of **Generosity**. We really hope you can join us and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Pop-Ins

Towards the end of last year we started family 'pop-ins' where we offered short meetings in your child's class on different aspects of the curriculum. We will be continuing these this year and the first one this term will be a general information session about your child's class routines, how you can support their learning at home, homework etc. The dates for these are in the Diary Dates attached.

School PE

We are delighted to tell you that for the second year running we have achieved the School Games Silver Mark. This award reflects the variety of PE and sport we offer in school, but also any competitions or sporting activities we are involved in outside school. Thanks must go to all the staff for their contribution towards this award but in particular to Mrs Farrell who as PE Coordinator has done a huge amount of work organising tournaments and events for the children.

I am sure everyone now recognises how important it is for us all to be healthy and active and at Weston Hills we place great importance on this aspect of the curriculum. We appreciate families support with this by ensuring the children have the correct PE kit in school every day.

Indoors	Outdoors
Black or Navy shorts and a Team colour T-Shirt	Black or Navy shorts and Team colour T-shirt in warmer weather
No shoes will be worn for lessons inside	Long trousers and a warm top in the colder weather – Black or Navy tracksuit (plain)
Black or White Plimsolls – no laces	Trainers suitable for outside.

We are making a small change in the school sports kit this year. From this mid-September onwards we are going to gradually replace the current white PE T-shirt with Team coloured ones. We will let you know when the new T-shirts will be available through School Trends, but this will probably be in 2-3 weeks time. By using the team colours it will give the children a greater awareness of and pride in their team when we do sports events in school. Any new school PE T-shirts that you order from this term onwards should be in the Team colour that your child is in (red, blue, yellow or green). However, we don't want to create any unnecessary expense and so there is no need to replace existing school PE T-shirts until this would normally be done as children grow out of them. Please check with the office if you are unsure which Team colour your child needs.

Attendance

Please ensure your child arrives in school by 8:55am so that they do not miss out on the important start of the school day. We ask for your support in not taking children out of school for family holidays during term time as this is very disruptive for their learning.

If your child is ill, please notify the office by 9:30am so that we can account for them in the register. Children who have had sickness or diarrhoea should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout—this is very important so that germs are not spread around school. If your child has been absent from school, the law requires a note of explanation on return. If a note or a telephone call is not received the absence has to be recorded as unauthorised absence. Please inform the school in writing if

- your child has a contagious disease,
- you prefer your child to remain in school at playtimes for medical reasons.
- your child cannot take part in games/swimming for medical reasons.

Kind regards

Mrs Fitzgerald

Diary Dates

(Events in blue text are for parents/carers)

Back to School—Term 1	Tuesday 5th September 2017
Parent pop-in for Holly Class (Year 3/4)	Monday 11th September 9.00-9.20am
Parent pop-in for Willow Class (Year 4/5)	Tuesday 12th September 9.00-9.20am
Roald Dahl Dressing Up Day—dress as your favourite character in support of Roald Dahl's Charity for seriously ill children	Wednesday 13th September
Parent pop-in for Elm Class (Year 5/6)	Thursday 14th September 9.00-9.20am
Parent pop-in for Oak Class (Year 1/2)	Friday 15th September 9.00-9.20am
Swimming for Year 3 starts	Friday 15th September a.m
11+ Verbal Reasoning Tests at Grammar Schools	Saturday 16th September am
Parent pop-in for Cherry Class (Reception/Year 1)	Wednesday 20th September 9.00-9.20am
Knex Challenge for Willow & Elm Classes	Thursday 21st September
11+ Non Verbal Reasoning Tests at Grammar Schools	Saturday 23rd September am
Class of 2017—Reception children photograph - Spalding Guardian	Wednesday 27th September am
Aylmerton trip departs (Year 5&6 children)	Friday 29th September am
Aylmerton trip returns (Year 5&6 children)	Monday 2nd October pm
Start Programme Workshop 1 for Holly Class	Wednesday 4th October
Willow Class trip to National Space Centre	Thursday 5th October
Pre-Reception Open Morning for Sept 2018 starter parents	Tuesday 10th October 9.30am
Parents Evening	Tuesday 10th October 3.30-6pm
Tales of Birbal SHC trip for Holly and Willow Classes	Wednesday 11th October pm
Parents Evening	Thursday 12th October 3.30-6pm
Harvest Collective Worship	Friday 13th October 9.15am
Bikeability for Year 6	Monday 16th October (for 4 days)
Tempest individual photographs	Monday 16th October pm (Mums & Toddlers 3pm)
Holly Class trip to Peterborough Museum	Wednesday 18th October
School Discos (KS1 3.20-4.45pm, KS2 5.00-6.30pm)	Thursday 19th October
Break up—Term 1	Friday 20th October
Back to School—Term 2	Tuesday 31st October

Term 1 2017/18	Tuesday 5th September 2017	Friday 20th October 2017
Term 2 2017/18	Tuesday 31st October 2017	Tuesday 19th December 2017
Term 3 2017/18	Wednesday 3rd January 2018	Friday 9th February 2018
Term 4 2017/18	Monday 19th February 2018	Wednesday 28th March 2018
Term 5 2016/17	Monday 16th April 2018	Friday 25th May 2018
Term 6 2016/17	Monday 4th June 2018	Friday 20th July 2018