News and Events

Friday 13th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today in our Celebration Collective Worship we celebrated Flynn (Voyagers) for the value of wisdom, Charlie (Discoverers) for the value of agape, Parker (Explorers) for the value of wisdom and Cole (Shooting Stars) for the value of wisdom.

Congratulations to them all.

Our PlayPod was officially opened this week. Our new shed is full of scrap materials such as cardboard tubes, tyres, lengths of material, netting, ropes, crates and bins. The unprescriptive nature of these loose parts in combination with the children's inventiveness has been amazing to see. The creative results are wonderful. Photos of some of the fun can be seen on the next page.

Thank you to those of you who braved the horrific weather and came to hear Kate, our Scrapstore PlayPod lead, explaining about how it works.

We will have a stay and play for families as soon as we have a drier few days.

Reminder

The library is open after school on Tuesday and Friday.

Important dates for your diary

23 Jan—7pm FOWAS meeting at the Red Admiral to discus upcoming events. All welcome to join.

7 Feb—star gazing at school

8 Feb—Voyagers performing at The Forum, Bath 6pm

13-17 Feb—half term break

21/22 Feb—parent consultation meetings 3:30pm-6pm and 3:30pm-5pm

Attendance

Highest attendance:

Voyagers 98%

Lost learning: 80 hours

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West Ashton C of E Primary School | Facebook

We are on Facebook! Please like our page.

Today, we looked back on attendance in Term 2. After an unsettling couple of years, there continues to be a strong focus on attendance from the Government and within Acorn Education Trust. We all know that the evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results, opening more doors for children to fulfil their potential. We understand that at primary stage, pupils' attendance is parent lead and therefore want to encourage pupils to develop healthy attendance habits and want to come to school every day. We want all children to understand the value of good attendance and to strive to have this through developing or maintaining healthy attendance habits which, when learnt young, will stand them in good stead for the rest of their school career and working life, maximising achievement and gaining the greatest benefit from education. This is why we are celebrating. Certificates were awarded for 100% attendance and stickers for those over 98% but under 100%. It was wonderful to see how many children there were! Let's keep this up in Term 3.

There is currently a vacancy on our Academy Council and I am writing to encourage you to put your name forward. Our Academy Council plays a key role in working as a team providing support and challenge, influencing strategies, helping us develop our Christian distinctiveness, supporting us to continue to build community relations, and asking questions and contributing ideas to help influence decision making.

The Academy Council is a team of parents, teachers and other members of the community. We meet four times a year for about an hour each meeting. All we ask is that you are committed to our vision and share our determination to continue to make West Ashton the most wonderful school for all our children.

If you would like an informal chat about the role or have any questions, please do get in touch. If you would like to put your name forward, please send an email to admin@westashton.wilts.sch.uk

WEST ASHTON SCHOOL

Thank you for buying cards, calendars, tags and mugs with your child's design on. We raised a wonderful £63 for FOWAS.

Don't forget that FOWAS are meeting on 23rd to discuss ideas for future events and everyone is welcome.

West Ashton School star gazing evening 7th February 5:30pm

Please join us for an evening looking at the night sky.

Voyagers and Shooting Stars are learning about space this term and will entertain us with a space themed song.

FOWAS will be providing hot chocolate.

Let's hope it isn't cloudy!

News from the classes:

Shooting Stars: In Shooting Stars we have been continuing our adventures in space by taking a closer look at the planet Earth. We have learnt that the Earth is a sphere and that it is the only planet that has life due to its perfect set up of water, land and sun. In maths we have started learning to subtract; we have found it much harder to take away than to add. In phonics we have been learning new diagraphs which have wonderful rhymes to help us remember them. We have brought these home to practice.

Explorers: We had the Play Pod and we built stuff. We built jets, castles, houses, cars and even got pushed in barrels. In English we talked about adjectives to describe trees. In science we have learnt about seasons and which month is in each season. We also talked about different types of weather. Luca and Fynn

Discoverers: In maths we have been looking at multiplication and division we have used resources to help divide a 2 and 3-digit number by a 1 digit number (Yr4) and Yr3s have been looking at the number of different ways we can divide/share.

In English we have used a video hook called 'Marshmallows' to help create our own monster which we are writing a non-chronological report for. Our humanities focus this term is history and we are learning about the Romans. We have explored whether we thought it was easy for the Romans to invade Britain. Lawson

Voyagers: As part of our science topic on Earth and Space, Voyagers have created diagrams to illustrate the planets in our Solar System - lots of us have been really surprised at how big some of them are compared to Earth. In English, we have been researching facts about the Amazon as we get ready to write a non-chronological report. In maths, Year 5 have been working on written methods for multiplication and division and Year 6 have been looking at problems involving ratio and scale. We also really enjoyed our first ukulele lesson this week and can't wait to learn some more songs throughout the term! Thalia and Abigail

Finally, it has been 6 months since we sought to gather your views on what you think of school life at West Ashton. It is a really important part of our self-evaluation and so please take a few minutes to answer this questionnaire. There is the opportunity to add comments and you can choose to put your name on it if you'd like me to get in touch to discuss further anything you raise—although this is entirely up to you! You can access the questionnaire here.

Best wishes,

Alex Blake-Thwaite

National Online Safety Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

Instructor Nick here - Taekwon-Do is now available for **West Ashton and Keevil students** & we are offering a Month Free! It's on **Fridays.** It's all about high performance freestyle Tae Kwon-Do & developing that Self-control and Confidence. Yes, we have the black belts, kicks and tricks, but it's all about:

T *eamwork*
I *ntegrity*
G *rowth*
E *nergy*
R *espect*
S *elf-Control*

The upcoming 4 week free trial will run at **Keevil Village Hall** starting **next week** and continue at that location going forward:

Juniors (School Yr 1-6): Fridays 4:45-5:30

Please do not enter the building on pickup, release will be outside.

Our classes are the lowest priced pro Tae Kwon-Do sessions in the South West! After the free trial, should you wish to continue, classes are just £32 a month, which includes **all training, belts, gradings, replacement uniforms, patches, licensing, insurance & VAT.** Siblings train at a huge £9 per month discount too!

To register your child via mobile or desktop, please fill out this short form: **www.tigermartialarts.club/monthfree**

Should you have any questions,feel free to contact Kat, TMA admin by email:
admin@tigermartialarts.club or by phone between 9am-3pm **07921855900**.

Once booked, we'll contact you before the start to confirm details. To find out more about us: **www.tigermartialarts.club**

Thanks as always for your support,

Instructor Nick

Head Instructor - Tiger Martial Arts