



# West Ham Church Primary School

## Newsletter No.3, 3rd February



Dear Parents and Carers,

Have you noticed your children talking more about the books we are reading together in school? We have! We believe all children should learn to love reading and need to develop an understanding of what they are reading as well as the skills to decode words. Because of this, all staff have received training to deliver a fresh approach to whole class phonics called **StoryTime Phonics**.

StoryTime Phonics is a fully immersive classroom experience for Early Years & KS1 children that teaches phonics following the Letters & Sounds Framework. It encourages the parallel development of comprehension and phonics skills, by placing the sounds that children are learning in context. Packed with 60 beautifully illustrated books from best loved authors, it is the antidote to dry phonics learning. Children are immersed in an interactive, multi-sensory experience through the use of storytelling and props. We are already seeing the impact of our new approach with children more engaged and genuinely looking forward to their phonics sessions. Please come along to see our phonics teaching in action on **Tuesday 11th February** and find out how you can support your child learning to read at home. Kindly report to the reception at 9:00am and we will escort you to the demonstration lesson.



Warm regards,

Mrs James,  
Headteacher



### Children's Mental Health Week 'Find Your Brave'

Set up by children's mental health charity Place2Be, the week shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. During school this week, teachers have planned assemblies and activities to explore this year's theme 'Find your Brave'.

Life is all about taking small brave steps every day. Bravery could be about sharing worries and asking for help when you need it, trying something new or making the right choices.

### Headteacher Award Tea Party

The highlight of the week - Friday's Celebration Assembly when we get to hear why each child has been chosen to attend the Headteacher Award Tea Party.

**Congratulations to:  
Dunmi, Toni, Chloe, Suhail  
and Manish from KS2.**



**Parent View** is an online questionnaire for you to give your views about the school at any time of the year.

We really value your views and it would be very useful for us to know what you think of our school given the changes in leadership and school improvements taking place.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

### Lost Property

To give parents easy access to search for lost items, we have moved the lost property cupboard outside under the awning near the entrance to the hall.

To make this easier still, please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's full name, thank you.



## Dress Up as an Animal Day and Art Competition

Children from Class 4 have been so concerned about the devastating fires in Australia that they have suggested a non-uniform day in aid of the World Wildlife Fund's emergency Bushfire appeal:

'The fires in Australia are devastating - and the crisis is still ongoing.

More than 10 million hectares have been burnt, and this number continues to climb. That's the equivalent of 40% of the entire UK. Lives, homes, and an estimated 1.25 billion animals have been affected, including 30% of the entire koala population in mid-north coast of New South Wales. These catastrophic megafires are worsening the extinction crisis we're already facing.

With the money raised, the WWF Australia teams along with local organisations will carry out work including:

- ◆ Providing emergency funds to care for injured wildlife
- ◆ After the fires clear, helping restore homes for koalas and other wildlife, planting the first 10,000 trees urgently needed in koala habitats
- ◆ Supporting the response, recovery and restoration teams in any other way we can
- ◆ Helping pressure governments to strengthen laws that prevent excessive tree-clearing, before it's too late'

We are inviting all our children to come to school dressed as an animal on **Friday 14th February** for a donation of £1.00 for the WWF's appeal. We will use some of the money to become a Koala Protector <https://support.wwf.org.uk/australia-bushfires>

We will be spending the day learning about endangered wildlife in Australia. There will be face painting and fun craft activities for the children. We hope you will support us and this worthy cause, thank you. *Note: kindly let us know if you prefer your child not to have their face painted*

Children are also invited to take part in an **art competition** ~ to paint or draw an animal from Australia. Entries need to be handed in to class teachers on Thursday 13th February for the winners to be announced the next day. Winners will receive a book and book mark. *Note: no cartoon pictures please.*

Happy drawing and painting!

### School Governors

Thank you to our school Governor, Steve, who came into school last week to lead our assembly on Holocaust Memorial Day. He also met with Mrs Lord-Attivor to learn more about the work of the school specifically in maths and special educational needs provision.

### Parent Governor Vacancy

Kindly note, Mr Ray has been appointed our new Parent Governor. If you wish to contact him please do so through the school office.

### Attendance and Punctuality

There is a link between good school attendance and high level attainment. Regardless of the reason, if your child is absent from school it will impact on their learning.



Please get your child to school on time every day.