



# West Ham Church School

*With God all things are possible*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot express how much the team here looked forward to welcoming the children back into school last week. We missed them so much and it was wonderful to hear the chatter of children throughout the school again. Our value this half term is Hope which seems wholly appropriate as new shoots of green push their way through the cold frost. We are all hoping a corner has been turned as we look forward to the future.

We owe all our parents and carers a huge thank you for supporting us with remote learning during the third lockdown. We know it hasn't been easy for some, or even most of you, but you did so well and we are grateful. The children have been amazing and many have learnt how to be independent, resilient and self-disciplined. Many children produced high quality work both at home and in school and their thirst for learning is unabated.

Of course, we know they greatly missed their friends, but understandably some were a little nervous about returning to school again. Their teachers planned activities based around team building and wellbeing to facilitate a smooth transition back to school. Our focus on outdoor learning will continue particularly as the weather continues to improve.

By the time Friday arrived, no doubt you noticed the children were tired. We had a few tears and some falling outs between friends. This is perfectly normal and to be expected. They are finding their feet again and learning how to get along. We are working to support their social, emotional and personal development. We understand that there are some children who have been traumatised by the events of the last year and some may need support to integrate back into school.

Our message is always the same - **be kind, be safe, be responsible**. We will never tolerate verbal or physical aggression nor bullying. All our teachers use the Good to be Green behaviour management programme which has clear boundaries and expectations. The emphasis on being positive with rewards for good behaviour is paramount. Children are given clear warnings to help them make the right choices and as a last resort, sanctions for inappropriate behaviour. We will be patient and understanding and work with the children to resolve conflict should it occur. Pastoral care and behaviour management at WHCS has always been recognised as a strength of the school.

The children will be very tired and possibly emotional when coming home. Sometimes, they might need to let off steam after a day at school. Change is challenging and in a world where there is so much uncertainty and anxiety, it has been tough for all. Routines both at school and home are key. They give security and control. Children respond well to consistency and clear boundaries. At school we have high expectations and we are ambitious for all. However, we also recognise that a child needs to be ready to learn and their mental health is a priority for us. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,

Mrs. James, Headteacher

March 2021

Headteacher's Newsletter

## Senior Leadership Team

Mrs. James - Headteacher  
Mrs. Lord-Attivor - Deputy HT  
Miss Holroyde - Assistant HT  
Ms Qureshi - Acting AHT & SENCo  
Miss Shaw - Senior Teacher  
Mrs. Forster - School Business Manager

Our Value this half term is  
**Hope**

Welcome to Mr. Stockdale, our new teacher in Badgers' class and to Ms. Qureshi, our new SENCo and Acting Assistant HT.

Well done to Miss Pandya, class teacher to our new year 5 Wolves class. You are doing a great job!

## Attendance = 94%

Attendance has been very good since we opened again on the March 8th.

Please be punctual - lateness disrupts both the class and means your child misses out on important learning. For example, phonics, which helps children learn how to read, starts promptly at 8:45am and children need to be settled and ready to learn.

**If your child has covid symptoms, please ensure they stay home.**



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## **‘Hopes & Dreams’**

To recognise our children’s outstanding efforts and achievements, we plan to hold an annual awards ceremony at the end of each academic year. All our children are special to us, but these awards are about recognising hard work and the children who are consistently role models for others. We aim to foster aspirational attitudes for their future; to inspire and motivate the children to set their sights high and dream big.

There will be awards presented to eight children from each year group from Year 1 to Year 6. We would like to make this a truly memorable event and hopefully one both children and parents can attend.

The awards will recognise:

**High Academic Achievement**

**Exceptional Progress**

**Outstanding Character**

**Exemplary Behaviour**

**Achievements in STEM**

**Achievements in the Creative Arts**

**Sporting Excellence**

**Proficiency in Maths**