



West Ham Church School

With God all things are possible

Newsletter 2
Autumn 1
September 2023



Cost-of-living support

We know that many families are going through a tough time and as a school we want to do everything we can to help you and your child. If you're struggling with your finances, please get in touch to let us know, as there may be things we can suggest which will help. Speak to Mrs Theodosiou, our School Home Support Practitioner 0208 5343904

Use one of these benefits calculators to determine whether there are any benefits you could be claiming:

[Turn2us](#)

[Policy in Practice](#)

[Support for migrant families](#) – use this calculator if you are a migrant family, or if you have no recourse to public funds (meaning you're not entitled to the majority of welfare benefits)

You may be able to get benefits paid early if you need cash urgently – this is known as 'a short-term benefit advance'. You will need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) office who is handling your claim.

The government's [cost-of-living payments](#) are available for those receiving certain benefits or tax credits. You don't need to apply for these – if you're eligible the money should go straight into your account. If you think you're due a payment but haven't received one, [report a missing payment](#) to the government.

Find out what help you can get with your energy bills: take a look at these resources from the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) and the [Money Saving Expert](#).

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) you need to get them registered. This will allow them to get a free meal at school and, as a school, we'll get extra funding (known as the pupil premium) to support your child's learning. Go to [this government website](#) to check if your child is eligible.

School Vision

Our Vision is to enable children, with God's guidance,
to know and appreciate the **wonder** of God's creation,
to live in **harmony**, embracing differences,
to always act with **compassion** inspired by the example of Jesus,
and to have the **strength** to follow their dreams and achieve their goals.

A note from the Headteacher

For the past two weeks, we have tried to facilitate a short session where we invited parents early into school at 3pm on a Friday afternoon to sit with your child, either sharing a book together in reception classes, or going through spelling and maths tests in KS1 and KS2. We wanted to help you know how your child are doing in the classroom and foster good parental engagement.

In some classes this system has worked well, particularly in KS2 with parents arriving at the start of the session and teachers modelling how to answer maths questions and parents learning the methods taught to be able to help their children. It has also been successful in the Early Years where parents have arrived early to share a book with their child before going home.

However, in Key Stage 1 the process proved difficult to manage. As a result, the sessions across the whole school have been suspended. Please support your child by going through their spellings and weekly maths assessment with them each week, making comments where necessary in their homework book.
Kind regards,
Mrs James

Key Stage 1

This week:

In KS1 we continued on our poetic journey by looking at the poem 'Wind' by Shirley Hughes. We looked at different ways to perform a poem. This inspired us to write our own poems based upon nature all around us. We would love to share our own poems with you, so please ask us at home. In Maths in Year 1, we have been focusing on grouping objects and learning to write numbers as words. In Year 2, we have been focusing on using place value charts to both draw and write numbers. We had the wonderful opportunity to have 'Faith in Schools' deliver a spirited play lesson based upon the story of Zacchaeus and looking deeper into the meaning behind the story. In art, we have been looking at 'what is colour theory' and understanding the differences between primary and secondary colours.



Next week:

It will be our last week exploring the first book of poems by Shirley Hughes with a special focus on rhythm and rhyme. Within Maths for Year 1, we will be investigating 1 more and 1 less from a given number and in Year 2, how to partition numbers. Year 2, will also be visited by the London Fire Brigade on Tuesday.

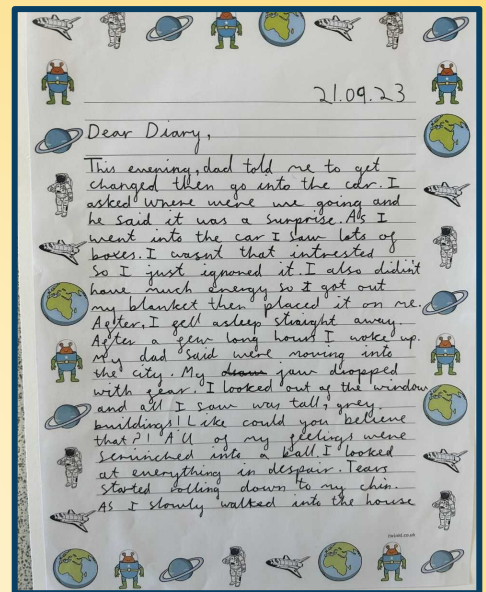
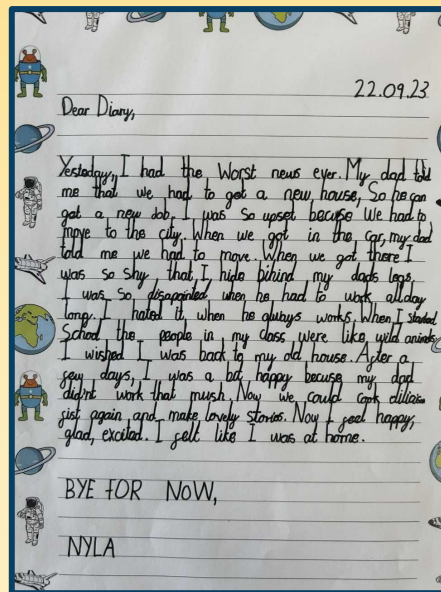
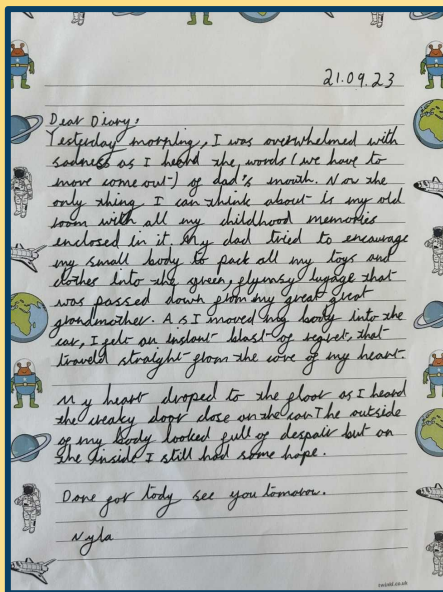
Reminders:

- Please ensure that correct PE kits are in school on Monday. As the weather grows colder, we recommend children bring in navy blue jogging bottoms and their red West Ham Church jumpers.

Lower Key Stage 2

This week:

We have been delving into our class text, 'The Comet' by Joe Todd Stanton. Children have really enjoyed taking part in roleplay and discussing the lead characters' emotions. We were really impressed with the writing that the children in the Badgers class produced. The children were able to write a diary in the role of the lead character in the text. Enjoy reading a sample of the writing below:



Next week:

Children will be ensuring they have all of their login details for Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars. We will be holding our first 'Rock Battle' of the year and we are excited to see how the children progress.

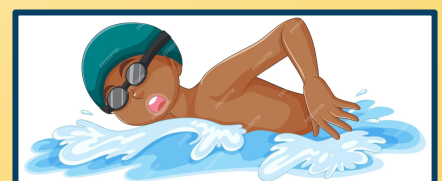
Reminders:

Swimming will continue for children in the Foxes and Badgers class every Tuesday. Please send your child into school with a swimming costume, swimming hat and a towel.

The leisure centre has some rules which we must abide by:

- No earrings are to be worn
- Any religious necklaces must be taped down or removed
- Swimming costumes only – no bikinis
- Swimming trunks must be short and not knee length

All children MUST wear a swimming hat.





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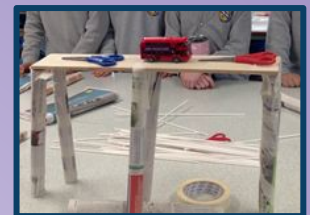
UKS2

Weekly News Page
Phase Leader & Assistant
Headteacher: Miss Shaw

Upper Key Stage 2

This week:

Some of our children had a fantastic time at Bawdsey Manor in Suffolk this week. We enjoyed spending time outside, trying new challenges and learning new skills as well as a blustery walk on the beach. The children really impressed us with their strength and compassion and have formed strong bonds and friendships that will support them through the coming year.



While half the cohort were away at the residential this week, the other half who remained at school had a fantastic time with Miss Jukes. The children took part in a range of outdoor and team building activities. They were able to create their own mini rafts using sticks and materials in forest school and designed their own bridges and towers.

We also held a special 'Cricket day' at school. Essex Cricket visited the children and delivered an assembly about the upcoming World Cup. The children also took part in a match. It was fabulous to see them learn a range of new skills and put this into practice.

Next week:

- Year 5 will be visited by the London Fire Brigade on Tuesday
- We will be taking part in 'Faith In Schools' sessions to support our RE learning

Reminders:

- Please ensure that correct PE kits are in school on Monday



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Attendance

Doves 100%
Congratulations!



Headteacher' Awards

Wonder LKS2: Shanzay for being curious about her learning and asking interesting and thoughtful questions during lessons.

Harmony UKS2: Atikah for her excellent team work and sharing great ideas amongst her peers

Compassion EYFS: Vitoria for sharing resources and working well at including others in her learning choices.

Strength KS1: Amiriah, for pushing herself within her writing.

Celebration Page

On this page, we celebrate the children's achievements in and out of school, including

- ❖ good behaviour
- ❖ excellent attitude to learning
- ❖ progress
- ❖ high quality work
- ❖ awards



Butterflies (Y1): Samaira A: for always using a big speaking voice in front of the class

Squirrels (Y1& Y2): Joseph, for being an excellent role model and showing determination within his work.

Hedgehogs (Y2): Elena, for being kind to her friends and offering support.

Otters (Y3): Ayaan for being a ray of sunshine, always trying his best and setting a brilliant example at all times.

Badgers(Y3&4): Yasin for using reasoning skills during numeracy sessions.

Foxes (Y4): Aysha for her role model behaviour and writing an excellent diary entry in English.

Swallows (Y5): Jahaziel for his outstanding effort in class and impressive work.

Doves (Y5): Amelia for showing bravery and resilience when taking part in the activities at the residential trip.

Eagles (Y6): Antonia, for her positive attitude and effort in all activities this week and not being afraid to share her opinions.

Kingfishers (Y6) : Daria for showing strength during challenges and encouraging others.