



# West Ham Church School

*With God all things are possible*

Headteacher  
Newsletter  
Spring 1



## 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.

**Goodness, that half term just flew by!** It's been a productive time in school and we are pleased with the progress the children are making in their learning. Have you seen the gorgeous new photographs of the children in the reception area?

**May 2nd  
Elections held in main building of school**

Nursery is open as usual  
Year 6 are expected to attend school as usual  
School is closed for Reception, Year 1 - 5, home learning will be provided.

**Attendance & term dates for 2024-2025**

Kindly note, we are trialling something new next academic year: there will be a **two week half term** during the autumn term in 2024. The dates are **Monday 21st October until Friday 1st November**. We hope this will help our families who like to book a visit to their families abroad and that it will help improve attendance. Children will be expected back to school on **Monday 4th November**. School starts on **Monday 19th February** after this half term. Have a lovely break.

## **Parent Consultations**

Thank you to those parents who attended a parent consultation this half term to discuss children's progress on Individual Inclusion Plans for children on our SEND register. It is vitally important that we work together with you. Please ensure you book an appointment if you have not already seen the class teacher.

## **Annual Review Day**

We have parent consultations planned for **Monday 18th March** which you will be able to book when we come back to school after this half term holiday. All children should attend the meeting with you.

We politely request that both parents attend as we find this has a beneficial effect on the children seeing both parents interested in and supporting their education. We understand that this may be difficult for working parents and hope this advance notice will help you make plans accordingly.

Normal school lessons will not be taking place on that day. A packed lunch will be provided for collection.

Best wishes,  
Mrs James  
Headteacher



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**Celebration Page**  
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### Attendance

Congratulations! The year group with the highest attendance  
across the school last week was...



**Year 6**



Congratulations to the following children on  
their exemplary behaviour  
demonstrating our school values

Wonder: Raownaf, Matei, Sheza-Fatima, Elizabeth, Ana-Sofia

Harmony: Mohammed, Muhammad

Compassion: Bhavishka, Khadija, Yaryna, Sarah, Zakariyah,  
Elizabeth

Strength: Brigitte, Suraiya, Ahan, Oliver







*Congratulations to our  
 winning model makers*



Bhaviska,  
 EYFS



Aysha,  
 EYFS



Michael,  
 KS1



Kamal,  
 KS1



Munachismo,  
 LKS2



Krishna,  
 UKS2



Leonardo,  
 LKS2



Ilyada,  
 LKS2



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## Hellos and Farewells

**Mrs Nesbitt:** we are sorry to share with you that our much valued and long term member of staff, Mrs Mandy Nesbitt, Family Support Worker, has decided to retire from her role. Mandy is very sorry to leave us and our families, but is planning to spend time with family and do some travelling. We will be holding a summer party for families to come and say goodbye to her and if you would like to donate to a present, please let the office know.



**Mrs Jordan** left WHCS at the end of the year after a period of illness and our new teacher, **Miss Khan**, has done a fabulous job stepping into the role of Butterflies, Year 1 teacher. Miss Khan will remain with us for the rest of the academic year to provide consistency for the children, thank you. We would like to thank Mrs Jordan for all her hard work during her time at WHCS.

**Mrs Aslam**, Foxes class teacher, Year 4, began her maternity leave this half term and so we welcomed **Mrs Khan** into our midst again (having previously been placed here during her teacher training). Mrs Khan is familiar with the children and this has helped with a smooth transition.

**Mr Sawyer**, our Sporting4schools coach, left to become a behaviour mentor and **Mr Oyenuga** has taken over, establishing good relationships with the children and leading our teams at sporting events.

We are expanding our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) team due to higher numbers of children on SEND support or with an Educational Health Care plan (currently 24%). Welcome to **Mrs Murphy**, who will providing additional SENDCo support, and **Ms Houston** who is providing SEND interventions. We also welcome Specialist SEND Teaching Assistants, **Mrs Quaresma** and **Ms Akter**.

Finally, a warm welcome back to **Mrs Rogers**, Assistant Headteacher and Early Reading Lead returning after her maternity leave. Mrs Rogers is working very closely with EYFS and KSI on phonics preparing Year 1 children (and Year 2 children who didn't pass last year) for the Phonics Screening Check (PSC) in June.

**Mr Forster** will return to Badgers' class next half term after a training placement at another local school in the borough. **Ms Malik**, Swallows' teacher, will be on a training placement at a local school next half term. **Mr Dickey** will be covering her class for four weeks.



## WHCS Long term School Priorities

### Quality of Education

- To enable children to be curious and appreciate the world
- To have high expectations of what pupils can achieve in line with the school's vision and values
- To have strong subject-specific knowledge to plan learning that builds systematically on what pupils already know and can do
- To identify and adapt teaching and learning for pupils who are not achieving the standards of which they are capable
- To effectively use assessment information to plan next steps in learning
- To identify and tackle misconceptions promptly, so that pupils understand how to improve their work
- To meet the needs of pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils so that these pupils make progress that is at least good from their starting points
- To set work that challenges pupils, particularly the most able pupils

### Behaviour and attitudes

- To enable children to be kind and empathetic
- To improve the attendance of all pupils, particularly those who are persistently absent
- To sustain a relationship based approach to behaviour to maintain high standards and support children's wellbeing

### Personal development

- To enable children to work and play in collaboration with others
- To enable children to be resilient and courageous
- To develop character well to help drive equity and social mobility for pupils

### Leadership and management

- To ensure that there is a sustainable and strong leadership team that can rapidly improve the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school
- To set high expectations including those who are harder to reach
- To ensure that the curriculum enables pupils to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in a wide variety of subjects and prepares them well for life in a diverse, British society
- To promote and support the wellbeing of the whole school community

### SIAMS

- To enhance the transformative impact of the Christian foundation of the school through extending mutually beneficial partnerships with Church schools locally, nationally and globally
- To enrich the impact of the vision within WHCS, and extend the possibility of 'following dreams and achieving goals' beyond the school itself





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## Training at WHCS

We are fortunate to support the work of several teacher training providers including SCITTELS, University of East London and Goldsmiths, University of London. We offer training placements to share our good practice and help develop the next generation of teachers. This also enables us to quickly fill any vacancies with teachers who demonstrate an understanding of our ethos, a high standard of teaching and learning and up-to-date pedagogy.

Two of our teachers are currently engaged in Initial Teacher Training through the University of East London, attending university one day a week. We currently have five Early Career Teachers (ECTs), three in their first year and two completing the second year. This is balanced by the wealth of experience in the Senior Leadership team who mentor and coach those less experienced members of staff.

Most of our INSET after school recently has focussed on providing staff with training on Special Educational Needs and adapting lessons to meet the needs of all children.

## Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)

WHCS is an Associate School with the CLPE. Associate Schools are a group of carefully selected schools that have demonstrated a whole school commitment, to delivering their English Curriculum through CLPE's flagship Power of Reading training.

Every Associate School will be teaches English through the CLPE teaching sequences with quality texts. Our English Lead, Mrs Shaw, has developed a thorough understanding of how to implement the Power of Reading throughout our school as well as being able to demonstrate the impact on pupils' engagement and achievement in language, reading and writing.

We are very pleased that Miss Shaw is currently studying for the NPQ Leading Literacy qualification through CLPE which can only further benefit our school and children.

<https://clpe.org.uk/>



## Helping Children Develop Their Understanding of Key Maths Skills

We are using Number Stacks in school to boost children's key maths skills. These sessions take place first thing in the morning at 8:45 am so please ensure your child is here on time.

Number Stacks uses a unique combination of stackable place-value counters and video tutorials to enable any adult, regardless of teaching experience, to help children master the foundations of the number system. For less than the average cost of two private tuition sessions, you can get everything you need to build your child's confidence and ability in the key areas of the primary maths curriculum (age 4 to 11).

Over 60 key skills from the Primary National Curriculum have been separated into 5 different categories and aligned by year group. Each Key Skill has its own video tutorial designed to be watched by adult and child together. These videos break down the skills into simple, manageable steps and allow opportunities to practise each step before assessing the child's understanding with a final fluency activity.



<https://www.numberstacks.co.uk/>

## Trees for Cities

During the half term holiday, the Trees for Cities team will be working on the school field, planting a few larger trees in front of our SUGI 'pocket forest' that the children planted earlier this year.

They will also be planting new shrubs to fill the gaps along the fence that borders with Portway and climbing plants along the back fence. Our current forest school area will be replanted and a new 'fire pit' area installed.

This is part of an initiative to provide a natural barrier to the pollution the school is exposed to due to the traffic on the main road. The children will be measuring the air quality to see if it makes a difference.

<https://www.treesforcities.org/>