



# West Blatch News



## Head's Corner



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! It was lovely to see all the children returning with such enthusiasm for learning, ready for what promises to be a very busy term.

Thank you to all parents, carers, friends and family who came along to enjoy the Spring Assemblies at the end of last term, as always there was a great turn out. The children had worked hard to learn their pieces, and this really showed in their performances.

Already this term we have celebrated children's achievements in the Learning Hero assembly. Well done to all of those children who were recognised as truly demonstrating one of the Learning Heroes throughout last term.

A group of 22 Year 5 children went on a residential to Bowles last week for two nights, and had a fantastic time trying out abseiling, zip-wires and skiing to name just a few of the activities. The children were a credit to the school, and showed huge bravery and resilience in trying out so many new experiences.

Children and parents have been involved in the 'Big Make' for the Children's Parade on May 7<sup>th</sup>, with the school representing the Volk's Railway, we look forward to seeing you there.

There are many more exciting events planned over the course of the term, including a visit from our partner French school this week,

Sport's Days, the Summer Fair, Withdean Athletics and a performance of Treasure Island, please ensure you check the dates at the end of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you throughout the term at many of these events.

During the summer term we will be having a particular spotlight on maths and further developing how children self assess their work and take responsibility for responding to feedback from the teacher, it would be great if you could talk to your child/ren about this.

Finally, you will have received a letter with the news about Ms Collis, our Deputy Head teacher successfully securing her first Headship, she will take up the post in September and whilst we will miss her here, I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new school.

Rachel Simmonds

## Year 2 trip to Drusilla's

A big thank you and well done to the Year 2 classes who represented the school beautifully on their trip to Drusilla's!

Year 2 had a great time exploring Drusilla's and we saw and learnt about different animals from around the world, ranging from Meerkats to Penguins. As part of the trip we had an educational talk about animal care. We learnt about what care the different animals in the zoo needed and how the keepers make sure that all of the animals have a happy home at the park. During the talk we were also lucky enough to meet and touch a Corn Snake, Fat-Tailed Gerbil and a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. The children and the adults all had a wonderful day.



## Thank you!

The school would like to say a huge thank you to the tremendous contribution that Mrs Pearce makes to our school!

Mrs Pearce teaches the infant cookery club showing us how to make delicious and healthy food. But that is not all... Through Sainsbury's, she has kindly provided the school with a significant contribution towards a new oven for cookery lessons. Thank you Mrs Pearce and thank you Sainsbury's!



## Numbers Fun Day!

On Friday 18th March, Years 2 to 6 took part in Numbers Fun Day. There were lots of activities in the hall and the children worked excellently in groups to solve practical problems. Years 5 and 6 did an amazing job of supporting the other year groups. Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined in. Good fun was had by all!



Year 2: Found fractions of amounts using sweets and making different fractions with play dough.

Year 3 & 4: Worked out different combinations of where knights could sit and found shapes within shapes.

Years 5 & 6: Used straws to create shapes and using probability to race the teachers!



## Music News

### Spring Assemblies

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Spring Assemblies at the end of last term. With a number of performances from the whole school, year groups, Junior Choir, Funky Monkeys and orchestra, I think you would agree that the children really showed off their musical talents. A huge well done to every single child - you worked so incredibly hard to produce fantastic performances and made sure that everybody ended the term with at least one catchy song in their head!

### Leopard Class Soundmakers Concert

Congratulations to Leopard Class who delivered a marvellous cello concert at the end of last term. They worked tirelessly over 10 weeks - learning the cello from scratch and learning an impressive number of pieces. They demonstrated superb ensemble skills - both through singing and playing cello and came across as very professional indeed. Well done Leopard Class!

## Children's Parade

The Children's Parade takes place on Saturday 7th May in Brighton and this year's theme is 'Brighton Celebrates'.

It is Brighton Festival's 50th year and so the theme celebrates the people, places, ideas and innovations that shape our wonderful city.

We will be taking our inspiration from the Volk's Railway.

We hope to see many of you cheering us on!



## Token Count

Pupils have continued to work very hard on their behaviour and learning hero attributes, winning lots of tokens for their teams! The results of the final token count of the Spring term were as follows:

### **Infants**

**Red - 688**

**Green - 685**

**Yellow - 611**

**Blue - 608**

### **Juniors**

**Green - 788**

**Blue - 681**

**Yellow - 648**

**Red - 628**

### **Whole School Total**

**Green - 1473**

**Red - 1316**

**Blue - 1289**

**Yellow - 1259**

Well done to all the children that have been earning team tokens this term!



## News from the Garden



It's been an exciting few weeks in the garden!

Gardening club have planted leeks, tomatoes, radishes, potatoes, peas, edible flowers and lots of wild flower seeds. Everything is starting to grow with some beautiful bright red tulips appearing this week. The pond is full of happy newts (and two rescued fish!).

Thank you to everyone who attends gardening club for their hard work and enthusiasm.



## BBC 500 Words

Ella in Year 5 entered the BBC 500 Words competition in February with a story called 'An Elf's Catastrophe' and has made it through to the second round of the competition!

Ella's story was one of 4,500 stories chosen from 123,400 entries and it will now be passed to a reading agency as part of the next stage of judging. She will find out in May if she has made it through to the final 50. Well done Ella and good luck!

## Owls about Town

Last term Lion Class were lucky enough to meet some fantastic owls from Owls About Town. The children were able to watch the owls fly near them and also learnt how owls live in the wild. This really helped them to write some amazing owl facts.



## Cross Country

On 13<sup>th</sup> April children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a cross country competition at Hove Park. The course was 2 miles long and everybody did fantastically, with all competitors completing the course. Everyone showed true team spirit by supporting the rest of the team whilst they were completing the course, with some children even completing the course again to support and encourage their team mates!

## Watch this space...

In order to celebrate excellent attendance, in the coming weeks a new recognition system will be introduced for those pupils achieving 100% attendance over a 4 week period. More details to follow soon!!

## Hello from Extratime

Extratime is passionate about inclusive play for children and we are thrilled to provide the after school club here at West Blatchington Primary & Nursery School. Thank you to everybody who has given us such a warm welcome. We are delighted to be working alongside parents and teachers to support children in a safe, happy and nurturing environment.

The club has had a busy first two weeks. Children (and the staff) have had lots of fun getting to know each other and getting stuck into all sorts of activities. It's not all new faces though as we are very pleased that Libby and George have stayed on to join the

Extratime team.

This week we've made delicious cupcakes, produced music/art and played lots of games. We've also made the most of the lovely sunny weather with obstacle courses and football on the field.

Each child's individual interests and needs are at the heart of everything we do, so we are looking forward to getting to know them all better. We have lots of plans for the coming months including visits from special guests. We are hoping for a visit from the Fire Service soon and some furry and feathered friends.

We also take seriously the trust that

parents place in us so your feedback is important. If you have any comments or if you would like to know more about the club please get in touch. We would love to hear from you and welcome your children to join the club.

Best wishes,

Sam, Zoe, Dave and the team.

[info@extratimebrighton.org.uk](mailto:info@extratimebrighton.org.uk)

01273 420580





## What's Coming Up

- Thurs 5th May: Giraffes class assembly (09:00)
- Wed 18th May: Lions Class Assembly (09:00)
- Fri 27th May: School class photos
- Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June 2016: Half term
- Fri 17th June: School Summer Fair (15:15-17:00)
- Fri 24th June: Teddy bears picnic for pupils joining Reception Sept 16 (13:30-14:45)
- Mon 27th - Wed 29th June: Year 6 French residential trip
- Mon 27th June: Nursery open day for prospective parents (15:30 - 16:30)
- Tues 28th June: Storytelling session for pupils joining Reception Sept 16 (14:00-14:45)
- Thur 30th June: Nursery open day for prospective parents (09:30 - 10:30)
- Fri 1st July: INSET day
- Tues 5th July: Nursery sports day - pm (Nursery will advise which day to attend)
- Wed 6th July: KS1 sports day - pm
- Fri 8th July: Nursery sports day - am (Nursery will advise which day to attend)
- Fri 8th July: Secondary school transfer day
- Mon 11th July: New Reception Sept 16 parents information session (13:45 - 14:45)
- Thur 14th July: Treasure Island performance (19:00 - Junior Hall)
- Fri 15th July: KS2 sports day - pm
- Fri 15th July: Treasure Island performance (19:00 - Junior Hall)
- Mon 18th July: Reserve day for sports days (if required due to bad weather)
- Tues 19th July: Parents invited into school to view their child's school report

## SATs

The Year 2 and Year 6 children have been working hard all year and the teachers have ensured that they are well equipped to do their best in the National Curriculum tests. In Year 2 the tests take place in small groups and reflect the normal classroom practice. In Year 6, the tests are timed but the teachers ensure that the children are well prepared and ready for the tests.

w/c 9th May: Year 6 SATs (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar / Reading / Maths)

w/c 23rd May: Year 2 SATs (Maths)

**Well done to Evie, Owen, Emily, George, Ella, Alfie and all the others who ran in the Mini Mile!!**

 **West Blatchington Primary School**

**has a love for learning**

**is proud to be part of the community**

**has ambition**

**believe everyone has a part to play**

**work together in a safe, happy and nurturing environment**

**embrace every opportunity**

**recognise & respect individual needs**

**value, trust and support one another**

Hangleton Way, Hove, BN3 8BN — Tel: 01273 770777

## Safe and Well at School Survey

West Blatchington Primary School has been praised by the Local Authority for having the lowest rates of bullying in the recent Safe and Well at School survey:

'This is testament to the school's ongoing and tenacious approach to preventing and responding to bullying. Well Done!'

The school ensures that there is a clear message across the school community, that bullying will not be tolerated. We place a high priority on educating pupils about bullying and the harm it can cause, which is delivered through lessons, assemblies the school council and an Anti-Bullying week.

Time is taken to resolve friendship issues as they may occur using a restorative approach and this supports children to become more capable of resolving their own issues.

## Developing a love of reading

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Research has shown that the single most important thing that you can do for your child, is to encourage them to become a regular reader. This will help them to do better at school and in their future beyond school.

Well done to all of the children who have taken on the new reading challenge of reading regularly at home. Children who read at home at least 3 times a week will have their name put into a prize draw. Each week a child in the Infants and in the Juniors will win a book of their choice to take home. So pupils get to read some great books and have a chance to win their very own new book!

