



# Western Springs Primary School

## Good News:

- Sporting Success! A group of our Y5/6 pupils represented our school at the Mixed Football Tournament at Rugeley Leisure Centre on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Our children won three matches and were excellent ambassadors for our school
- 'Balance-ability' workshops have been taking place this half-term, helping our Reception/Year 1 Pupils to learn basic bike-riding skills
- Progressive sports have been working with pupils across Key Stage 2 this half-term to deliver 'Wellbeing Workshops' which aim to develop resilience and problem-solving skills
- During the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> November, we held an Anti-Bullying Focus Week where children learned about bullying and how to seek help if they need it
- On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, our Y5/6 pupils attended a Remembrance Service at the local church and were a credit to our school

## Thank you

Your generous donations this term mean that we have raised £170 for 'Children In Need'.



## Christmas Tree Festival

This year we will again be taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Augustine's Church in Rugeley.

Children in Beech Class will work together to decorate our school tree and all the trees will be on display from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the church.

Proceeds collected during the Festival will go to the Pathway Project in Lichfield which supports victims of domestic abuse and towards St Augustine's work with community groups and schools.



## Punctuality

We would like to remind parents of the importance of punctuality. The school gates are open each morning between 08:45 and 08:55 and all children should make their way into school during this time.

Children who arrive into school after this time are losing out on essential learning time and also experiencing a different start to the day, which can be unsettling for pupils.

## Attendance

Our Whole School Attendance is currently **95.4%**, which is above the national average.

**Well done to Beech Class who are currently in the lead for the end of year attendance trip!**

## Parents Evenings

Parents evening are taking place this week on:

- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November between 4-6pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November between 5-7pm

You should already have received your appointment time/s. If you have any queries regarding parents evening, please speak to your child's class teacher or to the office staff.

## Christmas Dates for the Diary



- Christingle Celebration Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2pm
- Theatre Trip (Rec-Y6) Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December (PM)
- Christmas Jumper Day Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December (£1 donation)
- Nursery Stay & Play Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 10:30-11:45am
- Christmas Performance (Rec-Y6) Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm
- Christmas Dinner Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Parties Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

## Upcoming Staffing Changes

We are pleased to announce that after a competitive recruitment process, we have appointed Miss Alice Le Page as Early Years Leader from January 2020. This is a permanent appointment and Miss Le Page will join the Senior Leadership Team alongside the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. Miss Le Page will take over as Acorn Class Teacher in January as well as overseeing our Little Springs Nursery provision.

Miss Le Page brings a great deal of experience, passion and creativity to the role and we are sure that you will join us in welcoming her. Miss Le Page will be visiting the school over the next four weeks to get to know the children and staff.

Please can we take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Maymand for her hard work this term with Acorn Class. She has been a valued member of the team since she joined us at the end of September and I know that staff, parents and children have very much appreciated her efforts and her approachable nature.

## New Policies to be aware of which can be found on the school website:

- Educational Visits Policy
  - E-Safety Policy
- Relationships & Sex Education Policy
  - Health & Safety Policy
- Managing Sick Children Policy
  - Exclusions Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Charging, Remissions and Debt Collections Policy

Paper copies of the any of our policies can also be obtained on request from the school office.

## IEB News:

In addition to our formal meetings members of the IEB have continued to be regular visitors to the school, this has enabled us to conduct formal and informal monitoring to support our judgements about school improvement and inform us of next steps. We are incredibly proud of the whole staff team, the children and families - there is no doubt that there is so much to celebrate in this now happy, safe school. Mrs Willington has been a key driver in these improvements and as she comes to the end of her temporary role at Western Springs, we would like to thank her for her passion, determination and relentless energy focused on providing the very best for your children and the whole school community.

In January we will be formally welcoming Mrs Lynn Small as Interim Headteacher. We are delighted that Mrs Small has accepted this position as she is already a very successful and experienced headteacher, with extensive experience of working in similar contexts and circumstances. Mrs Small also already has a good knowledge of the school, staff and most importantly the children because she has been working alongside Mrs Willington one day a week, for several weeks and will continue to do so for the rest of the term to ensure a smooth and effective transition. You may have already seen or spoken to Mrs Small but if not please do look out for her at Parents' Evenings this week or on Mondays on the playground at the end of the day.

As you will be aware the outcome of the Ofsted inspection means that Western Springs will become a sponsored academy and along with the LA and DfE, one of the IEB's roles is to support that process to ensure that the Multi Academy Trust chosen is the right one, to best support Western Spring's continuing journey to becoming the excellent school it should be. Unfortunately, the December general election means that we are now in a period of time called 'purdah' which means that there are certain restrictions on government actions and this includes academy conversions. In real terms this means that the timeline we were working towards has been delayed. However, this will not prevent the current IEB and school leadership team from our focus on school improvement and in fact allows us more time to consider the potential academy sponsors.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to members of the IEB, we will also be available in school during the parents' evenings this week.

Thank you for your support.