

West Park Post

Updates

Our **Visible Learning** journey continues – where pupils are becoming drivers of their own learning. In the next few weeks, each child will have a one to one learning conference with their teacher. They talk about strengths and key targets to move learning forward. The focus this term is on children seeking feedback about their learning. Look out for maths workshops in the next few weeks and come along to support your child's progress.

Lost property

Please make sure you label your child's clothing – there is far too much uncollected lost property including new PE kits, jumpers, trousers, skirts and coats. Large bags are also causing problems in cloakrooms – PE kits in small bags only please. Buy these in the office.

Important dates for the diary

Winter Fair – Wednesday 11.12.19 @ 2-4pm

Friday 20th December @ 9.30am carol concert and nativity, performed by reception

School closes for Christmas on 20.12.19 at 3pm and reopens on Monday 6th January 2020

School is closed for staff training on 11.05.20 and 20.07.20

Please look at the school website and Twitter feed for other information, including the class pages and newsletter for dates specific to each year group.



The School Council is meeting regularly with Mr Fletcher and is busy planning which charities that the school will support. This term, this will be a dementia charity (details will be coming out soon) and a School of Sanctuary Shoebox Appeal.

This week, the council announced the shoe box appeal in assembly.

Each class has been given two shoe boxes, one for a girl and one for a boy.

Our aim is to fill the shoe boxes with items to give to newly arrived children in the city, who often have travelled with very few items. As the city's first School of Sanctuary, this is a cause very close to our hearts.

We need your help! Please donate gifts for children – suitable for the age your child(ren) – **by November 27th**. The gifts can include:

- * pens, coloured pencils, notebooks etc.
- * socks, hats and scarfs
- * sweets/chocolates
- * small toys (new)
- * soap, toothbrush or other toiletries

Your children have been shown an example box, filled with items that cost no more than £1 each. Together we can make a difference. Of course, we do have extra boxes if we fill them up.

The boxes will then be distributed over Christmas to the children who need them.



Attendance news

Here is a summary of attendance last

Class	attendance	
YR	96.1%	😊
Y1	97%	😊😊😊
Y2	96.3%	😊
Y3SA	96.9%	😊😊
Y3PJ	96.2%	😊
Y4FP	98.6%	😊😊😊😊
Y4RD	97.7%	😊😊😊
Y5	98.1%	😊😊😊😊
Y6	97.7%	😊😊😊
School total	97.2%	



Target for school is 97%

We are **really, really** pleased with attendance this term so far. Well done to you all and thank you for your support with this. We have lots of healthy children at the moment - let's hope it lasts as winter approaches.

Well done to **Year 4FP** for topping the attendance charts for this half term and to Year 5 who are not far behind!

We realise that setting a **97% target** for attendance is really ambitious, but at West Park we really do believe attendance and achievement are closely linked and that for a child to make their best possible progress they must be here unless they are really poorly.



Please remember that if your child is unwell and not coming to school then you must ring (558238) before 9am to let us know why they will not be in. School take this very seriously as if we do not know where children are, and why they are not here, it alerts us to the fact that they may be a safeguarding risk. You may find that you have Mrs. Dovydaitis or the Education Welfare Officer knocking on your door if we do not know why your child is not in school. A last resort is that we can ask the police to do a safe and well check at your home.



At the end of term in December we will be awarding certificates to all children with 100% attendance for the Autumn term and there will be prize draw which all children with attendance over 97% and no more than 2 late marks will be entered into.



The Government consider any child with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee (unless there is a genuine long term documented illness). Our Education Welfare Officer is monitoring all children who fall below 95% attendance closely to try and avoid persistent absence – she may write to parents, do home visits or invite you in for a meeting



If your child takes unauthorised leave the Local Authority could fine you – £60 per parent per child. Leave of absence must be requested 4 weeks in advance.



If your child is late they miss valuable learning time. Also, if your child arrives after registers close they will be given a U mark and this counts as an absence.

EXCITING PLAYGROUND CHANGES!

Work is finished on the playground ☺ The old mound and trim trails had to be removed due to the age and condition of the wood – repairs had been made but it was costing the school too much money. Thankfully, we have installed a new feature which children can enjoy on a rota system at lunchtime.

Please do not let your children, including younger ones, use this before or after school – school accepts no responsibility if your child hurts themselves at these times.



Re: Harvest Festival Donations 2019

Thank you so much for your generous support during this year's Harvest Festival season. The amount of food/toiletries donated by the school totalled **126.9kg**.

The need for food and toiletry parcels is greater than ever. Last year (2018/19) proved to be our busiest since we started in 2006. We dealt with **4270** requests for parcels and provided food/toiletry parcels to **9475** individuals.

Here is just one of countless stories of genuine and desperate need in our local communities:

'I am hoping you can help. I am absolutely desperate. I can't get anywhere to access food. I lost my job two months ago and am still waiting for a benefit payment as my last wage payment went completely on debts and arrears. I really don't know what to do. I wish I was joking, but I have survived the past 4 days on one loaf of bread. I know it is not your problem, but I am desperate and you are my last hope. Please, I am absolutely begging for your help.'
 After receiving the parcel we received this response: *'I just can't thank you enough. I know how valuable each item is... Thank you so much again.'*



**We're working
towards Artsmark**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



We are currently nearing half way through our exciting Artsmark project and hoping to gain our "Artsmark" school award by 2021. We are working hard to improve the quality of the arts for all children at our school. This includes within the curriculum; trips and experiences for the children as well as extra-curricular activities. We are aiming to give children the opportunity to perform and show case the work they do as well as trying to enhance our curriculum using the arts. This programme provides funding to help us achieve this.

Here is an update of some of the interesting and creative projects some of the year groups have participated in already:

- ◆ Last year, the current y5 and y6 Classes watched two performances at the Newhampton Arts Centre. The children then took part in workshops where they were able to practice some of the skills they watched the actors perform. Y5 then performed an amazing play using these skills based on their history topic of WW2 to an audience of over 100 people- they were fantastic!
- ◆ A visiting artist worked with a selection of children from each year group to create a stunning piece of art linked to refugee week.
- ◆ Children in y5 visited a local allotment to discover more about the fabulous world of fungi! As well learning more about science, a visiting artist then worked with the children to create some clay sculptures and tree bark art which were then used in a local exhibition
- ◆ Y4 and Y6 have recently been to see an amazing performance of Emily Rising. We were able to see puppetry at its finest and then used the experience to help us learn how to write a critical play review
- Y2 recently went to the Grand theatre to watch a performance of "A place to call home". They each received a copy of the book and then the children had a brilliant morning when the illustrator, Alexis Deacon, visited them at school and ran a drawing session.
- ◆ Later this term, Y5 will have a visiting musician to explore different styles of music in a fun morning of melodies!



- Y2 will be taking part in an exciting new project where they will work with a local artist to take part in some creative sculpture activities
- The choir and dance club also took the performance they have been working hard on to the city's diversity celebration this week.

We are always on the look out for new ideas and activities for the children to enjoy involving all of the arts. We would like to discover what skills our school community have which may benefit this programme.

If you feel you have any particular skills that could either:

- Support staff with their continued professional development (CPD). This could be sharing ideas with staff or teaching us some new skills that we could use in our curriculum
- Provide a fun experience day for the children
- Know of any community groups or artists who could support this process in or outside of school

Please fill in the table and send it back to Mrs Pinson in 4FP

Please give us any additional information/ contact details here....



Visual Art	✓	Performing Arts	✓	General Arts	✓
Drawing/ sketching		Dance- any type!		Photography	
Painting		Singing		Computing Skills animation green screen robotics...	
Printing		Musical instruments			
3D sculpture		Drama and performance			

Please give us any additional information/ contact details here....

We believe that the arts can have a positive impact on our children. They can help to develop self-esteem, confidence, talent and ability in a great range of activities. We hope that this programme will help us to develop an enjoyable broad and balanced curriculum as well as fun and engaging experiences for all year groups.

Thank you with your support with this process.

Jayne Pinson



**Canal &
River Trust**
Making life better by water



WHITMORE REANS



Community Litter Pick

Thursday 14th November

10.30am – 12 noon



Whitmore Reans Connect & Wildside are tidying up the canal and Smestow Valley Nature Reserve!

Please come & join us - all equipment provided.

Refreshments available after the event.

FIND OUT MORE

01902 572240

info@wildsideac.co.uk

www.wildsideac.co.uk

[@wildsideactivitycentre](https://www.facebook.com/wildsideactivitycentre)

Wildside Activity Centre

Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans,
Wolverhampton WV6 0HA

