

# West Grove Gazette

Autumn 2



## Merry Christmas!

What a fantastic term we've had and what better way to end it than with our Christmas shows. The children did such an incredible job and we are very proud of them.

Our Christmas pantomime was also a huge success, the children enjoyed every moment. Additional experiences really help to enrich the curriculum and provide such diverse learning opportunities. Please do remember to make your educational visits payments on MagicBooking so we can keep offering these extra curricular experiences.

I would like to wish all our families a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year. School returns on Tuesday 9th January.

Sophie Yaseen, Headteacher



## Music Teacher

A very warm welcome to Hannah Malhotra who is joining the West Grove team after the Christmas break. She will be our specialist music teacher and has so many exciting plans for music across the school. All children will have a weekly whole-class music lesson and there will be opportunities for children to be involved in extra clubs such as choir and orchestra. We can't wait!

## Year 6 SATs Meeting

On Thursday 18th January we will be holding two SATs meetings at 9.00am and 3.00pm. These meetings will explain the SATs process and guide parents on how best to support their child through the assessments. [Assessment](#)

## Educational Visits

We still have many families who have not made any payments towards the yearly educational visits. I know some parents have questioned the cost so I would like to address any concerns.

The cost of coaches has increased significantly over the last few years and although we limit the use of coaches they cost approx. £15 per child. Trips to free galleries or museums often include a paid workshop. The summer term visits are all to exciting paid attractions.

We cannot afford to subsidise these visits and therefore if we don't get any more payments we will have to cancel the summer visits which must be booked in advance. This would be such a shame.



## Attendance

The Department of Education dictate that attendance **below 90% is classified as persistent absence**. Good attendance is vital for the success of pupils and their wellbeing. Our own school data, as well as that issued nationally, makes clear that poor attendance results in poorer outcomes for children.

Children must attend school under the Education Act and term time absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Persistent unauthorised absence will result in fixed penalty fines.

### [Attendance Policy](#)

## Behaviour Rewards

We are moving away from Golden Time in the spring term and using the session on a Friday afternoon to focus on enrichment activities instead.

These enrichment sessions will include opportunities to develop teamwork, teach life skills, increase oracy and address friendship issues. We are confident this will provide a calm and positive end to the week.

Our behaviour policy has been adjusted to remove the consequence of losing golden time and children have been told about the changes.

## Child Measurement

In the spring term children in Reception and Year 6 will participate in the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

Every year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight checked at school as part of this programme. We will be in touch with parents to provide all the dates and details.

## Farewell

We are saying goodbye to Ms Smith, Higher Level Teaching Assistant and to Ms Dede, Teaching Assistant. They have been at West Grove for many years and will be greatly missed. We wish them all the best.

### Diary Dates

9th January	First day back at school
18th January	Year 6 SATs meetings
30th January	Year 3 Iskcon Temple
30th January	Child measure programme
2nd February	Year 4 Science Museum
12th – 16th February	Half term week
20th February	Year 2 Natural History Museum
7th March	World book day

## Trend of the Term

The children have been really enjoying our trend this term and we are looking forward to launching a new one in January. It really does help to give children new ideas for the playground, have fun games to engage with their friends and to keep learning new skills, even at playtime. The video can now be found on the website so you can enjoy these trends at home too!

### [Trend of the Term](#)

# Book Review Competition

We are holding an exciting competition for all children in Key Stage 2. To enter, children must write a review of a book they have read and loved, to recommend it to others. The review should be no more than one side of A4 and they can write their first draft over the Christmas break. They can then bring their draft to Ms West and request a template to write it up in neat and enter the competition.

The deadline for entries is Friday 2nd February and the reviews will be judged by our librarians. Winners will have their review displayed in school and receive a token to use at the book fair in March. Good luck!

West Grove Primary School



# BOOK REVIEW COMPETITION



Have you read a book and wanted to tell everyone about it? Well, now's your chance! Write a review of your must-read book and you could win our exciting competition...

- Choose a book you love and write a review
- Complete your first draft over the holiday
- Your review should be no more than one A4 side
- Ask for a template to write your review in neat
- Submit your completed review to Ms West by:



**FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY**



The reviews will be judged by our librarians and winners will get a book token to spend on their next read and have their review on display!

