



William Ford CE Junior School

Weekly Newsletter Autumn Term 1 Week 8

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of the first post lockdown half term. I am absolutely delighted to hear that our overall school attendance has been above 95% - a phenomenal achievement considering some families have had to self-isolate and there have been a number of colds going around the school.

Research has shown the impact of regular and punctual school attendance on academic progress and future success so it is wonderful to see the effort that all families are making during these trying times.

Of course, if your child is unwell, or showing symptoms of Covid-19, it is right and necessary for you to keep your child at home. I am also extremely pleased and grateful that we have not had a single case of in-school transmission of Covid-19 nor have we had to ask any of our year group bubbles to isolate. Praise God!

As we now enter into winter, please do continue to follow all of the guidance that the UK Government and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham provide to ensure we continue to keep all families and staff safe.

You will be aware that we are in the process of installing a new entrance to the school. The picture on the right shows that the new path has now been laid but unfortunately, our gate has been delayed. As a result, **our current arrangements for drop off and collection remain**. We do hope to be able to use our new entrance week beginning 9th November and I will be in touch to explain how these new arrangements will work.

It has not been the easiest of half terms for the school. Covid-19 restrictions have needed to be regularly amended, pupils and staff have had to adjust to a 'new normal' whilst ensuring children catch up from lockdown and, on top of all that, a change of Headteacher always brings about additional changes and, a small amount of anxiety. Can I take this opportunity to say well down to all of the school's staff and families and, on a personal level, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at the end of my first half term at William Ford. I am aware that I have not had an opportunity to meet parents hence I am hoping to hold an online coffee morning to formally introduce myself. Read on for details!

Our worship this week has continued looking at the Lord's Prayer, including some sessions led by Rev. Joel Edwards (Dagenham Parish Church) and Abi Dada (Riverside Church). We have been looking at the line 'Thy kingdom come' and it has been lovely to see and hear the pupils' views and ideas about Heaven.

I pray you all have a restful, fun and safe half term break. See you in November!

Mr. David Huntingford
Headteacher



Revelation 21:1,4

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea...'He will wipe every tear from their eyes.



Meet our
TEAM

This week: Mr. Burgin

Mr. Burgin has worked at William Ford for five years and is a Year Five class teacher. Mr. Burgin is a talented musician, plays guitar and drums and leads our school choir.

Interesting fact: Mr. Burgin has hand crafted a Cajon, which is a drum. He would rather make something than buy it be it with wood or food.



Meet the Headteacher

As I am not currently able to meet you in person, I would like to offer the chance for a virtual 'coffee morning' at 10am on Friday 6th November via Zoom. This will be an opportunity for me to introduce myself, talk about my plans for the school and answer any questions you may have. If this interests you, please could you inform the office. You are also welcome to email any questions you may have for me to office@williamfordschool.co.uk. Unfortunately, due to this being a public forum, I cannot answer questions relating to individual pupils or circumstances but happy to speak about the school as a whole. I will email out the access details to all interested parents on Thursday 5th November.

CAKES: As this is a coffee morning, our fabulous catering team will be selling cakes for £1. Please inform the office if this interests you. You will be billed via ParentPay and cakes will be sent home with your child the day before! All proceeds go towards funding our school improvement work.



Kerry's Korner

Huge thanks to all of the parents who have been keeping their children's ParentPay (school lunch money) accounts in credit. However, we still have a large number of accounts in debt. All debts should be cleared and accounts in positive credit before we return on 2nd November 2020.

If you are having difficulties financially please contact the school on 0208 270 6582 and keep us updated of your situation. You may be entitled to free school meals; please make an application by clicking on this link

<https://www.lbdd.gov.uk/financial-support-for-pupils-and-students>

If you need additional financial support or advice there are a number of sources of guidance and information:

- Universal credit application advice - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>
- LBDD Homes and Money hub - <https://www.lbdd.gov.uk/money-and-debt>
- Citizens Advice Barking and Dagenham - <https://bdcab.org.uk/>
- Christians against poverty - <https://capuk.org/>

If you would like support from the Foodbank based at Riverside Church please contact me directly on family-support@williamfordschool.co.uk a referral can be made on your behalf and a member of the Riverside team will contact you.

Please remember you can join our Facebook community group for any advice and guidance too

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Williamfordschoolcommunity>

PARENTS, HELP KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN

Do not send your child to school if:

- ✗ they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- ✗ someone in their household is showing symptoms
- ✗ they should be self-isolating, because they have recently travelled to a country on the quarantine list

Barking
Dagenham

Key Term Dates

Summer Term 2020 First Half (24 days)

Tuesday 1st September - Non-pupil Day
Wednesday 2nd September - Children return to school
Friday 25th September - Non-pupil Day
Friday 23rd October - Break up school – Half Term
Monday 2nd November - Children return to school
Friday 18th December - Break up school – Christmas



Learning from Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to work diligently, act generously and live at peace with everyone.

Psalm 34:14 - Seek peace and pursue it.



Have you been wondering what your children were up to in school?

Well, wonder no more....

Year Three

I would like to give all members of Year 3 a huge round of applause for their first half term at William Ford. They continue to go from strength to strength and have amazed us in our English lessons when considering the thoughts and emotions of characters in books we have read. Our Maths focus this week has been on doubling and halving numbers up to 40. In Geography, we have used atlases to discover more about counties in England. Finally, we have been applying our knowledge of geometry in Art to complete a still life drawing of a soft drink can.



Year Four

This week has been 'test week' across the school and Year 4 have impressed us with their effort and concentration during each test. We will discuss the children's results during our parents' evening call to you after half term. This week has also been the final week that children can bring in their science projects – their home-made musical instrument. We have had a fantastic response ranging from guitars to drums to shakers, all made from an imaginative range of media. Thank you to everyone who got involved. Unfortunately, the rainy weather meant that the children were unable to go outside to have their normal P.E. lesson this week. Instead, Miss Finch helped the children learn about different food groups. The children

also got to discuss and plan a balanced diet. Within P.S.H.E. the children discussed rights and responsibilities. It was very interesting looking at the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Perhaps over half term this is something to continue to examine and discuss together. We wish all the Year 4 children a restful half term and look forward to seeing them all again afterwards



Year Five

As with the other year groups throughout the school, we have largely paused the normal curriculum this week to carry out some formal tests in Grammar and spelling, Reading and Maths. This is to help us judge pupils' progress and help us to identify any gaps in learning which we need to cover in our teaching going forward.

However, we have tried to provide some exciting activities to alleviate the pressure of the tests and the children have been very excited to have spent much of the week doing biscuit making in DT, which has included surveying other classes around the school about their biscuit preferences, and then analysing and compiling the data in tally charts, tables and graphs. They have also enjoyed tasting a range of biscuits and comparing the tastes, textures and appearances and expressing their own preferences. We are sure that they are going to really enjoy making the biscuits today (Friday) and, even more so, tasting them and evaluating their work in the afternoon. Please ask them to tell you how delicious they were (maybe some children will have been kind enough to wrap a piece up to bring home to share!).

The children have also had great fun in Science researching the planets and choosing how to present what they have learned in their own unique ways in each class. 5H chose to put together their own class book, 5P produced some very creative artwork and 5B



turned their whole class into a science museum!

Parents, please look out for the parent mail that we are sending explaining the exciting Space

project that we have set for the children (and the rest of the family if they wish to join in) over the half term holiday. We are looking forward to receiving lots of imaginative and creative contributions when we return.

Year Six

Year 6 have been learning and writing about Charles Darwin's voyage to the



Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean and his theory of evolution by natural selection. They have enjoyed learning about how he

observed reptiles and birds – in particular the finch - on the different islands and how the same species has evolved to survive depending on the different environments

and foods available. In art, the children have been working on Zentangle patterns that are unplanned, abstract, black-and-white art made up of beautiful patterns on small square tiles. In



mathematics, they have revised converting time from the 12-hour to the 24-hour clock and also used blank number lines to work out time intervals.