

13 March 2024

Dear parents & carers

Mid-term update

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through this term! It has been another busy one for the Windmill Hill School team and I wanted to share some of the great things that have been happening.

We Need You!

At the Curriculum Information events last week we shared with parents & carers our plan to get families more involved in the school journey. We need you to help us shape our development and there are lots of ways you can get involved from being a parent governor, to being involved in a parent forum to coming into school to volunteer to support or share a skill or story with our students. Please see the information and form for further details.



Reading development

We have been developing the way in which we teach reading over the past few months and this has included some whole staff training on the phonics programme Read, Write Inc. As well as the precise and targeted teaching of sounds and the building blocks of reading, our curriculum also includes reading for meaning and understanding and listening to and engaging with stories for enjoyment. There will be a Reading Information Event after Easter where staff will explain what we do and students will showcase their learning – look out for details.

Electric Umbrella

We were delighted to welcome Electric Umbrella into school last week and hope you enjoyed seeing the photographs of the amazing time our students had. Electric



Umbrella are an inspirational local company and they provided a fantastic learning opportunities for your students. We will be continuing our partnership with Electric Umbrella next term and also next year so we can offer the experience to a wider group of students.

Social Media

Hopefully you have noticed that we are back on Social Media and have been adding images and updates to our Facebook account! Please do have a look and follow the page – it's a great way for us to be able to share everything that is happening in school.

World Book Day

As well as having a lot of fun dressing up and sharing books and stories, our students also got the opportunity to work with students from other classes. This peer learning is going

to become a regular feature and students will be sharing learning for Red Nose Day this Friday. Sharing with other classes gives students the chance to work with students they may not normally meet with and also gives teachers an opportunity to teach, discuss and model communication and discussion skills and also skills around turn taking and asking questions.

Therapies and Staff Training

This week we had our regular visit from our Occupational Therapist and she is supporting our individualised support for students. To support the needs of our students even further, staff will be engaging with training in Intensive Interaction, Drawing & Talking and SoSafe over the coming months.

Votes for Schools

We have just started using a programme called Votes for Schools which provides our students with a way to engage with news and topical discussions to extend and enrich our existing PSHE curriculum. Students think about and discuss a question each week and then have an opportunity to vote and compare their opinion with that of students across the country. We will be sharing the questions each week on Class Dojo so you can join in discussions at home.

Future events

We have a range of events and activities planned for the Summer Term, some of which are detailed below.

w/c 22nd & 29th April Open Classrooms – over this 2 week period, classes will be inviting parents in to come and share activities and find out a little more about the learning happening in the classroom. Dates and times for each class will be confirmed as soon as possible.

7th – 9th June The Big Help Out

w/c 17th June Windmill Olympics

There will be a range of events going on this week with opportunities for parents and carers to come in and share learning with classes.

26th June Parents Evening

There are lots of things happening at Windmill Hill School at the moment and we really want families to be our partners in our journey so please do take some time to read the attached and get involved if you can. Please do also get in touch if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support

Michelle Brett
Head of School