

22 December 2023

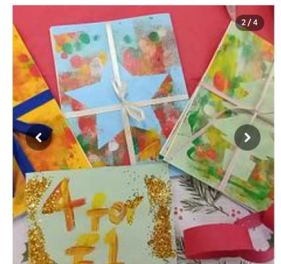
Dear parent/carers

Autumn Update

At the end of a busy Autumn Term, please find below details of some of the events and developments at Windmill Hill over the past few months, along with some plans for the rest of the academic year ahead.

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to all of you who came to support our Christmas Fair this week. Students worked really hard planning, designing and creating items to sell and were delighted at how quickly things sold! Enterprise is an important part of our Preparation for Adulthood Curriculum and fairs and events will become a regular part of the Windmill Hill calendar, providing our students with lots of opportunities to develop a wide range of skills. Classes made different amounts of money and will be planning how to re-invest or spend their profits but overall we raised over £200 which is fantastic so thank you again for your support.



Curriculum Development

We are continuing to develop our curriculum to ensure that we provide a high quality provision that meets the holistic individual needs of our students. We are developing a total communication approach to develop the functional, receptive and expressive language of our students. Our curriculum revolves around Preparation for Adulthood and more recently includes elements of the Equals curriculum which focuses on engagement and learning through play. Some of our students also access more formal learning in core skills such as functional maths and English. Class teachers are able to provide more information about the personalised provision offered in each class so do get in touch if you would like any more information.

Safeguarding

Over the Christmas break, our Safeguarding Team will be available on a rota for support and advice if needed. Contact details are available on the website.

<https://www.windmillhillschool.org.uk/contact-us>

Online Safety – some families may be getting new devices or games and apps over Christmas and students may also be spending more time online through the break. The 2 links below provide advice around setting up parental controls on new devices to support keeping students safe when they are online. We are also developing our Online Safety curriculum and will be in touch in the New Year with further support and guidance for families. Do also remember to sign up to the free resource, National Online Safety – details were sent in a letter earlier in the term but please do get in touch if you would like it sending again.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://www.askaboutgames.com/category/set-up-devices>

Staffing Update

We have welcomed a number of new permanent staff to our team this term including teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors and we have some new staff joining us next term as we continue to expand and grow as a school. Unfortunately, we are also saying goodbye to some staff who will be leaving Windmill Hill and taking up new opportunities. Kerri Stenhouse has been at Windmill Hill for 2 ½ years as Assistant Head and has been a much-valued class teacher as well as being a member of the leadership team. Kerri will be taking up a role in a special primary school as SENCo and will be keeping in touch with Windmill Hill in this capacity. Sana Ali has been the voice of the school in her frontline role as School Administrator. As well as being an amazing administrator, Sana has also really enjoyed time spent with our students and will be taking up a role as a Learning Mentor in another school closer to home. Both Kerri & Sana will be truly missed but we wish them all the best in their new roles.

Spring & Summer Terms

See below key dates for the Spring & Summer Terms:-

Monday 8 th January	First day of Spring 1
Friday 16 th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 26 th February	First day of Spring 2
Thursday 28 th March	Break up for Easter
Monday 15 th April	First day of Summer 1
Friday 24 th May	Break up for Half Term
Monday 3 rd June	First day of Summer 2
Tuesday 23 rd July	Break up for Summer

We have lots of great plans for the Spring & Summer terms including swimming, more enterprise events and parent workshops. Look out for further information. We also look forward to introducing the new members of the Windmill Hill team to you all.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 8th January.

Thank you for your continued support.



Michelle Brett
Head of School