

# The WHPS Weekly

Friday 26th January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

January seems to have flown by and has been a very busy month at West Hampstead. The children are well into their new units of learning and showing just how much progress they have made as we approach the mid-year point!

We have plenty of reason to celebrate our children this fortnight and are particularly proud of how they have represented West Hampstead outside of school.

Some Year 3 students took part in a dodgeball competition, with 4 children bringing home a medal. What made us particularly proud were the comments from other coaches and school staff who said our children's manners and sportsmanship were exemplary. Well done!

The school choir truly shone in their performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. It was certainly a special moment watching them perform on stage and we know that the families of those involved loved attending the event. A big thank you to Miss Woodfield and our choir teacher, Aga, who made it possible through their efforts preparing the children for the performance.

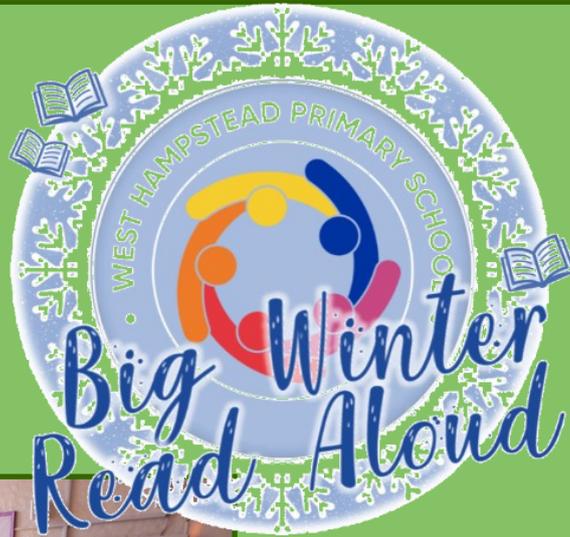
As well as these external events, music has been brought to West Hampstead with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment visiting nursery and Reception this week. We know that the early years loved their first visit and impressed the visitors with their fantastic listening and contributions.

We wish all of our families a restful, fun weekend enjoying what is hoped to be some milder weather.

Miss Efford

## EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- MONDAY:** Yr6 SAT's Breakfast for Parents/Carers  
Danube Class Swimming PM
- TUESDAY:** 9:15-10:15 Prospective Parent Tour  
9:00-14:00 Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment visit EYFS
- WEDNESDAY:** Earthwatch Visit and Workshops  
Thames Class Swimming PM
- FRIDAY:** **Number Day Dress Up Day- £1.00 Donation**  
**9:10 Number Day Assembly**  
2:45-3:15 Golden Time



Last year, we hosted our first Winter Read Aloud and this year we continued to celebrate our love of reading!



As a school we enjoyed an evening of reading and quizzes to celebrate our love of books & stories. It was lovely to feel the buzz around reading throughout the school.





We hope you and your child enjoyed listening to their class teacher read to you in a cosy classroom and that the children's discussions about books continued when you went home.

As we shared and talked about all things Fiction and Non-fiction, children and adults enjoyed some tasty treats and hot chocolate with marshmallows throughout the evening! Delicious!



As with all school events, your attendance and enthusiasm is so appreciated. We loved welcoming families in to join us and hope to see even more at upcoming events that we have planned.

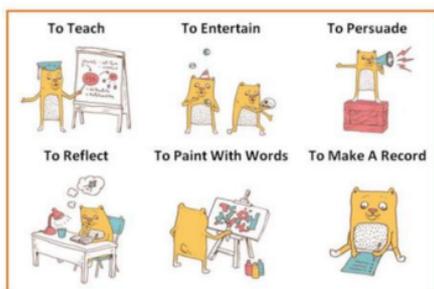
Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information about World Book Day celebrations at West Hampstead.

# Activities to get everyone writing at home

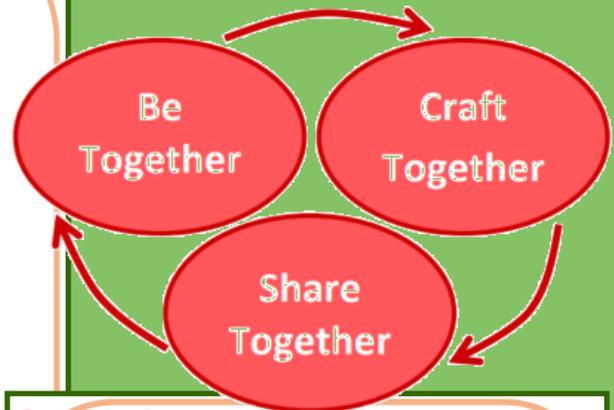
Earlier this term we unfortunately had to cancel the arranged coffee morning about supporting writing at home. Many of you expressed an interest in receiving ideas for inspiring writing at home.

Please find below some information put together by Miss Anderson, our English lead.

Writing together starts by being together. Create a shared environment in which you explore what you want to write about. Here are just some of the reasons that children want to write:



One way to motivate our children to write is to show our own motivation & pleasure. We can talk about what we plan to write alongside them, discussing our purpose and intended audience. Two prompts that work particularly well: I want to write about... (Ghostbusters!) I have an idea! (Let's write our own story!) Ideas for writing come when we spend time together exploring, talking, drawing, watching, reading and playing together. Let children guide what you're going to write about.



When children put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard, they are sometimes for the first time figuring out what it is they want to say. At this point, they are not worrying about how best to say it. That can come later. Crafting should be a playful and fun experience. Together, focus on your ideas. Read aloud to each other what you've got so far. Talk together. Advise each other. Two prompts that work particularly well:

**I love... (your ending) because... (it made me shiver.)**

**I didn't quite understand (this bit. What do you mean?)**

Once you have done a little bit of proof-reading, reviewed your spellings, and have your handwriting just right, you're ready to publish. Where's it going to go and who is going to see it?

- Put it in a frame or give it as a gift.
- Put it on your bedroom wall.
- Write it in chalk on the pavement.
- Record it on your phone and send it to someone.
- Turn it into a piece of artwork.

## Drafting Advice

### Got a sticky or a yawny bit?

- Put a line under the bit you are unsure about.
- Carry on.

### Don't know how to spell a word?

- Invent the spelling.
- Put a circle around it.
- Carry on.

### Don't know what to write next?

- Read it to someone
- Get them to ask you questions.

### Not sure of punctuation?

- Put a box where the punctuation might need to go.
- Carry on.

**Think you have finished?**  
Start writing something new!



### ***The best things you can do when helping a child write:***

- Devote time to it. Make it a quality experience. Show your own interest and pleasure.
- See yourself a fellow writer—take part in writing alongside and offer sensitive support when asked. Engage in writing yourself, too. Share your own ideas, ask your own writing questions, and, importantly, talk as you craft texts together. You don't need to be a 'good' writer but there is an increased motivation if you write with the child and share your thinking out loud.
- Allow children to choose what they would like to write.
- Remember that children can continue with some old writing or start something new.
- See talking and drawing as planning and encourage taking things from the reading, video games, play, film, or the television programmes that they like.
- Encourage using 'temporary' spellings whilst drafting, as this is a strategy used by real-life writers. Writing happily and socially is the key to success here.

### **Here are just some of things you can write together:**

Riddles, rhymes, songs, jokes, poems, signs, labels, lists, charts, booklets, games, recipes, instructions, how to guides, everything I know about... letters, anecdotes, vignettes, true stories, invented stories, comics, fairy tales, myths, experiments, letters, scripts and plays.

NSPCC

# Number Day 2024

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.



Friday 2 February 2024

#numberday



MATHS CIRCLE



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Number Day is supported by Maths Circle, Man Group and Oxford University Press, led by NSPCC.

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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# Number Day 2024

The NSPCC's Number Day takes place on **Fri 2nd Feb** this year and as the previous two years, we'll be celebrating it as a school. Teachers are planning a PSHE and Maths activity in class and we'll also hold a special assembly on the day.

- **Dressing up for Digits.** Pupils (and staff!) are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!) or get even more creative by dressing as their favourite Numberblocks character or other mathematical idea. There are some images attached to inspire you! To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking that all children who dress up bring in a donation of £1 or more if possible. Donations can now also be made via Scopay.



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