

# The WHPS Weekly

Friday 3rd November 2023



## Welcome Back!

Dear parents and carers,

We are pleased to welcome the children back to school and hope that you had a restful half term break. As children begin the second half of the Autumn term, we can see that they are now settled into the routines of their new classroom, familiar with the expectations of their year group and ready to learn! As well as exciting units of learning, the end of the Autumn term has many winter and Christmas celebrations in store which we know the children enjoy.

It was particularly pleasing to see how many children returned after the half term break having read everyday. As you know, at West Hampstead we love and value reading and place huge value on the effective teaching of phonics, early reading and beyond. Fluent, confident readers are able to thrive because they can access and enjoy all of the curriculum areas on offer to them. This week's WHPS Weekly is a Phonics special where Ms Armson, our Phonics & Early Reading lead, shares lots of information about how reading is taught and how you can support at home. There is also information about an upcoming phonics coffee morning.

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for parents evening. This is an important opportunity for us to build a home-school relationship and to discuss your child's successes, areas for development and things to focus on at home. These meetings are limited to 10 minutes to please arrive promptly with any key questions/discussion points in mind should you have them.

Have a lovely weekend. Let's hope for some sunshine amongst the rainy forecast!

Alex Efford, Assistant Head Teacher

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Danube Class Swimming PM
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9:15-10:15 Prospective Parent Tour
	3:00-6:00pm Yr 5&6 Football Tournament @ Talacre
	3:40-6:30 pm Parents Evening
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9:30-12:30 Yr6 Camden Junior Citizenship Trip
	10:00-12:00 Royal Academy of Music visit Nursery
	Thames Class Swimming PM
	3:40-5:30 Parents Evening
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	2:45-3:15 Golden Time

# Phonics at WHPS

Welcome to the Phonics edition of WHPS weekly. This week we are zooming in on how phonics and early reading are taught at West Hampstead.

Read on to find out more about how we teach reading and why it is so important.



As a school, our aim is to unlock the **fun, joy and learning** that comes with reading.

Our curriculum is designed to enable the children to progress as quickly as possible from learning to read to reading to learn.

On the journey to becoming a successful reader, there are five essential components that the children need to develop.

①	②	③	④	⑤
Phonological Awareness	Phonics	Fluency	Vocabulary	Comprehension

Strong **Phonological Awareness** predicts reading success.

We begin work on this in Nursery by providing activities that develop phonological skills. These include:

- Detecting **rhyme** e.g. through sounds and nursery rhymes
- Detecting **syllables** in words by clapping them
- Identifying **initial letter sounds** by orally blending and segmenting words e.g. "Can you h-o-p?"

**The more children have opportunities to develop these skills at home and at school, the better they will become!**



I spy games with a focus are easy to fit into everyday routines.

e.g. at mealtimes, you could play... "I spy something on my plate beginning with...p" (saying the letter sound not its name)

## Phonological Awareness

continues to be crucial as the children enter reception and they need to tackle more complex words.



**Phonics** involves teaching which letters represent the sounds that make a word. Once children know these individual phonemes they are able to blend them to **read and spell**.

At West Hampstead, we follow the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our Systematic, Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme to teach phonics, early reading and spelling.

From Reception to the first term in Year 2, the children receive daily phonics lessons which are fun, engaging, interactive and are designed to build over time.



A key element of the sessions is constant revisiting of previously taught sounds and skills so that learning is embedded in the long-term memory and can be applied instantly when reading and writing.

**Practice makes permanent!**

*This is why daily home reading is so important.*

You can support at home by providing lots of practise for the children to develop quick recall of all taught sounds and to practise blending and spelling using the new sounds in their homework.

**Fluency** is the ability to read accurately, at an appropriate pace and with attention to expression. This impacts directly on comprehension.

*If children are struggling to sound out words, reading can become exhausting, children can lose motivation and find it harder to comprehend what they are reading.*

**This is why phonic decoding needs to become automatic and children still need plenty of opportunities to practise reading aloud as they get older and to hear others reading aloud with appropriate phrasing and expression.**

At school, children in the younger years read the same book three times a week:

- Session 1—Focus on **decoding**
- Session 2—Using **expression**
- Session 3—The children are more fluent and able to discuss **comprehension** questions



Adults from all around the school support with small group reading provision.

This ensures that we can target each child's reading level and **every** child is heard reading **every** day.



**Higher up the school**, children have daily whole class reading sessions which includes opportunities to read aloud and to learn more about phrasing and using expression.

You can support at home by encouraging your child to read their early reader books several times to develop fluency *and* by sharing picture storybooks so that they hear fluent reading modelled.

**It is generally found that parents tend to read less often to their children as they go through KS2 but older children still benefit hugely from hearing you read to them.**

**You could take turns to read sections of their home reader books.**

## Vocabulary

Developing a strong **vocabulary** enables children to think and understand more deeply -  
*the more they understand word meanings, the deeper their comprehension.*

Vocabulary development comes from:

- Having quality conversation with others from birth
- Exposure to rich and interesting texts
- Opportunities to discuss the texts they are reading



At school, the children are exposed to new words daily across all areas of the curriculum with lots of opportunities to revisit and use them.

**Comprehension** is the ultimate goal and the sum of good **phonological awareness**, automaticity in **phonics**, reading **fluency** and a strong **vocabulary**. If we can extract meaning from a text and think critically about it, then we comprehend.

**Learning to read → accessing the curriculum → reading to learn**

**We are excited at West Hampstead to be going on the journey to reading with your children.**

*It is important to us that parents are on board with the journey too!*

Please speak to your child's teacher at next week's parents evenings if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's reading progress.

Resources for parents linked to the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme can be found on their website.

[www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents](http://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents)

### **Parent Phonics Coffee Morning**

**Tuesday 14th November**

Find out more about what phonics is, how we teach it and how you can support at home.

An opportunity for you to ask questions and explore the resources we use.





# WEAR WHAT YOU LIKE DAY

We raised  
£180



## Costume Sale

We raised ~£150



Please leave any donations with the office.

Quiz  
Night

Thank you for coming!  
We raised ~£900!!



The quiz master



The concentration



The trophy!



Delicious food



Winners!

### Follow us

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/westhampsteadpsa>

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/WestHampsteadPSA](http://www.Facebook.com/WestHampsteadPSA)

Easyfundraising: <https://www.Easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/YX3SS5/>

Email: [WestHampsteadPSA@gmail.com](mailto:WestHampsteadPSA@gmail.com)

Website: [www.westhampstead.camden.sch.uk/psa](http://www.westhampstead.camden.sch.uk/psa)

West Hampstead PSA,  
Dornfell Street, NW6 1QL  
Registered Charity No. 1087315

# COMMUNITY VACCINATION SERVICE

Winter Flu and  
Covid vaccines



Open 11am to 4pm in the following locations

📍 Sidings Community Centre - 150 Brassey Road, NW6 2BA	Monday 23 October
📍 Swiss Cottage Market - Eton Avenue, NW3 3EU	Friday 27 October
📍 St Pancras Community Association - 67 Plender Street, London NW1 0LB	Saturday 28 October
📍 SHAK - Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate, NW8 0SN	Monday 30 October

Need some support? We're here for you

☎ 020 7974 4444 🌐 [camden.gov.uk/costofliving](https://camden.gov.uk/costofliving)

This service is provided by University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



## COMMUNITY VACCINATION SERVICE

You can get the NHS flu and Covid-19 vaccines on our vaccine bus if you:

- are aged 65 or over
- have certain health conditions or a learning disability
- are pregnant
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system
- are a carer
- are a frontline health or social care worker.

Booked and walk-in vaccination appointments are available at the following pharmacy clinics:

**Aqua Pharmacy, 59 Mill Lane, West Hampstead, NW6 1NB**  
Monday to Friday, 9am-7pm, Saturday 9am-2pm

**JP Pharmacy, 139 Camden High Street, NW1 2JR**  
Monday to Fridays 9am-6.30pm, Saturdays 9am-6pm, Sundays 11am-5pm

**Macey Chemist, 68 Mansfield Road, NW3 2HU** (access at the rear of pharmacy, off Courthope Road. Monday to Wednesday 9am-2.15pm, Friday 9am-5.30pm

**University College Hospital, Clinic K (outpatients) 235 Euston Road, NW1 2BU** Saturday and Sunday 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 5pm

**Sandylight Pharmacy, 131 Queens Crescent, NW5 4EG** Monday to Thursday 9am-6.30pm, Saturday 9am-5pm

This service is provided by University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

