

# The WHPS Weekly

Friday 7th November 2025



## GOVERNORS ELECTION SPECIAL

Dear WHPS Families,

I am pleased to announce that, following the election last term, Vanessa Lee has become our new parent governor. Congratulations Vanessa!

Vanessa's involvement will be a great asset as we continue to strive for excellence at WHPS. For those of you that don't know Vanessa, she has children in both upper Key Stage 2 and EYFS.



As some of you may have seen, we also sent out a letter earlier this week seeking another parent governor. The role of a governor is incredibly important as it directly impacts the quality of education and experiences that our children receive. Governors play a vital role in setting the strategic direction of the school, challenging and supporting our leadership team, and ensuring that we are doing everything possible to meet the needs of our students.

The responsibilities of a governor include:

- attending a full governor meeting three times a term, which allows for open discussions about school progress and challenges.
- participating in one of our specialist committees—Curriculum & Standards, Resources, or Pay—ensuring that there are focused and informed decisions made in these areas.
- attending a governor day at the school, which provides an invaluable opportunity for governors to engage with staff and students whilst gaining insight into the daily operations of WHPS.

I encourage all parents to consider becoming part of our governing body, as the perspectives and skills you bring can make a meaningful difference to our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to making WHPS a wonderful place for our children to learn and grow. If you have any questions or would like further information about the role of a parent governor, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Sam Drake, Headteacher

### EVENTS AFTER HALF TERM Anti-Bullying Week

<b>MONDAY:</b>	<b>Odd Socks Day</b> <b>Yr4 Danube Class Swimming PM</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>9:15 Prospective parent tour</b> <b>3:45-6:30 Parents Evening</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>Yr3 Thames Class Swimming PM</b> <b>3:45-5:30 Parents Evening</b>
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	<b>Coffee Morning—PINS Project (Parent/Carer engagement)</b>
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>Royal Academy of Music visit Nursery PM</b> <b>2:45 PM Golden Time</b>

## Welcome to the Phonics and Early Reading edition of our newsletter.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring that all of our children develop the knowledge and skills they need to become confident, fluent readers. Here is an outline of the approach that we take at WHPS along with what has been happening in school so far this year.

At WHPS we follow ***Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised as our Systematic, Synthetic Phonics programme (SSP) to teach early reading and spelling.*** Children from Nursery to the beginning of Year 2 follow a structured daily programme which enables new learning to solidly embed.

In **Nursery**, the children are beginning their journey to becoming readers by taking part in activities to develop their phonological awareness which is a crucial element in applying phonic skills successfully. They have been tuning into sounds around using instruments and this half term will begin to focus on listening for initial sounds in words and clapping out the syllables in words. They have also been enjoying daily story times, learning to retell stories and reading together indoors and outdoors.



## Supporting at Home

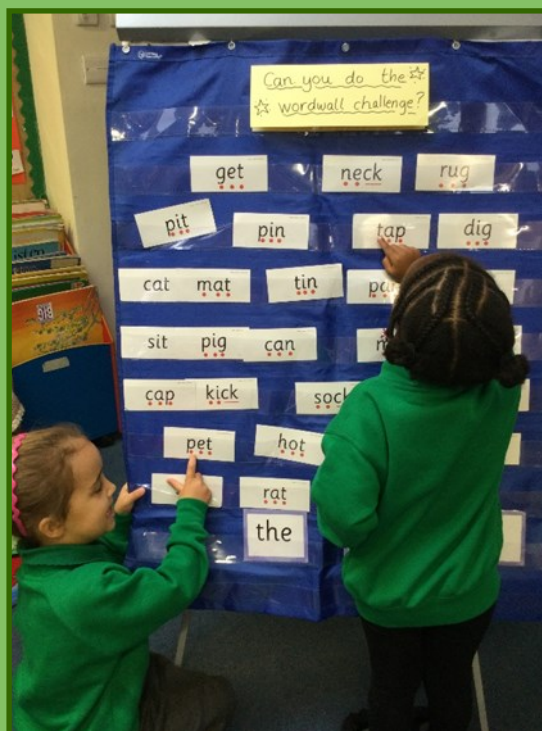
I spy games with a contained focus are easy to fit into everyday routines e.g. at mealtimes, "I spy something on my plate beginning with...p." (saying the letter sound **not** its name).

Oral blending games are also really beneficial e.g. "Who can see a d-o-g?" "Can you h-o-p?"

In **Reception**, the children have made a fantastic start to learning Little Wandle Phase 2. We are so impressed with how they are engaging in the lessons which include more phonological awareness activities, the introduction of GPCs (the letters which represent different sounds) and how to blend sounds together for reading, "c-a-t cat" and segment the individual sounds in words for spelling, "dog d-o-g".



The children also have plenty of opportunities to practise and apply their phonic skills outside of the phonics lessons during literacy activities and through play in their continuous provision sessions.



### Supporting at Home

You can support at home by providing lots of practise for the children to develop speedy recall of all taught GPCs and to practise blending and spelling using their new skills as outlined in their homework.

Videos modelling how to say phonemes correctly and how we teach blending for reading can be found on the Little Wandle website (see link below).

In **Year 1**, the children have now embarked on phase 5 of Little Wandle which builds on their learning in Reception and will teach the children an even wider range of GPCs as well as how to apply them in reading and writing. At the end of the year, the children will be assessed using the statutory DFE Phonics Screening Check. Last year our results were above the national average and above Camden's also.



Facilitating quality **Guided Reading** at WHPS is a priority. Many adults from across the school are made available to support with these three timetabled sessions each week in Reception and Year 1. This three-part approach focusing on the same book for one week enables the children to develop their decoding skills, fluency as readers and to explore their comprehension of the text in a way which would not be sufficient with a once only read.



In **Year 2** the children have been completing the Little Wandle Phase 5 unit and reviewing key learning. They also have guided reading sessions across the week.



As the children progress through the school, whole class reading sessions and story times are a daily feature to ensure that all of our children are developing the fluency, vocabulary and comprehension required to become independent readers.

Children are regularly assessed in their phonics and reading skills and we provide targeted and timely intervention 'Keep up' and 'Catch-up' groups for those who need it across the whole school.

### **Supporting at Home**

In the early stages, parents can support at home by hearing their children read their home reader books several times to develop fluency and check for understanding. Reading engaging picture story books to your child is crucial also so they can hear fluent reading of story language modelled for them and can join in with key phrases or repeated refrains.

It is generally found that parents tend to read less often to their children as they move through KS2 but older children still benefit hugely from hearing adults read to them. Taking turns to read sections of their home reader books is an enjoyable and extremely valuable habit to build.

If you have any concerns about your child's reading progress or would like to find out more about how to support your child as they learn to read, please speak to your child's teacher at next week's Parent Meetings.

### **For more information visit:**

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

As a school we have subscribed to Phonics Play which has some simple decoding activities

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/parents>

Username: **westhampstead**

Password: **greenriver**

We will be holding a phonics focused coffee morning on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February** at the start of the day.



**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025**

# **ODD SOCKS DAY**

**MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**COME TO SCHOOL IN  
ODD SOCKS AND SAY  
NO TO BULLYING**

**POWER FOR GOOD**

**ANTI-BULLYING  
ALLIANCE**



WEST HAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL PSA'S



WEST HAMPSTEAD

**PSA**



# WINTER FAIR

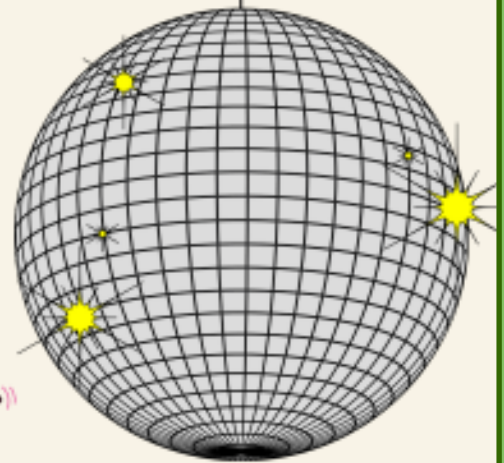


**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**  
**12-3PM**

**HOT FOOD CAKES MULLED WINE GAMES**  
**RAFFLE CRAFTS BY ART-K & MORE!**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND....**

**SILENT DISCO!**



**Free Entry**

**Everyone Welcome!**



**SCAN  
HERE TO  
DONATE**

West Hampstead Primary School  
Dornfell Street, NW6 1QL

Charity No. 1087315

Sponsored by :



**RAINBOW  
PROPERTIES**