



West End Academy

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Headteacher: Chris Johnson

Friday 24th November 2017

Parents' Meeting

Thank you to all the parents who came to the meeting last Friday for children in our Lower Foundation Stage. I hope you found the information useful and you can already see the progress that your child has made in nursery this term.

Pupil Premium Funding

Each year, the government gives the academy extra funding to support those of our children who are eligible for free school meals. At a recent governors' meeting, the governors have reviewed how the money was spent last year and looked at the impact it had on the performance of this group of children. Last year, more of our pupil premium children reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 than all children did nationally. We are hoping to ensure these high standards are maintained through how we use the extra funding this year. Information about how we will spend the money can be found on the school website under the "Our Academy" section. Throughout the year, I will be monitoring the impact this spending has had on the progress of our pupil premium children in the classroom.

Special Visitor

Last week, the children in Year 6 had a special visitor from the Sinai Synagogue in Leeds. The children learnt more about Judaism and what it means to be Jewish. The visitor shared lots of artefacts, including a Hebrew text, and showed pictures of how Jewish people prepare for different festivals. Afterwards, Reuben said, "We learnt why the pomegranate was important in Jewish traditions. It was believed that there were 613 seeds in a pomegranate and these represented the 613 commandments, or rules, of the Torah. This is why pomegranates are eaten during Rosh Hashanah."

Egyptian Workshop

Recently, the children in Year 4 had a visit from the Discovery Centre in Leeds and they took part in an Egyptian workshop. The children were able to look at artefacts that dated back more than 3,000 years. They could also ask the expert from the Discovery Centre lots of questions about them. Afterwards, Coen said, "We saw lots of artefacts from ancient Egyptian times. I liked looking at the good luck charms which were decorated with a scarab beetle. Amazingly, these bracelets would have been made by children a long time ago. We also saw some models of canopic jars. They weren't real though as the originals got robbed from graves!"

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported our charity event last Friday. The teachers found it very hard to choose a winner of the crazy hair competition in each class! Altogether, the school raised £250 and we will split this money between Children in Need and the NSPCC.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Johnson
Headteacher