



West End Academy

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Headteacher: Chris Johnson

Friday 15th October 2021

INSPIRE Morning

Thank you to all the parents who came to our INSPIRE mornings last week. We had a fantastic turnout and the children enjoyed seeing you in class. I am glad you found the session helpful in supporting your child with their reading, writing or maths at home. The feedback we received was also very positive. One parent said, "I now have lots of great ideas to make reading more fun at home." Lots of other parents said they would now be able to support their child better at home. Your support will match how we teach your child at school. We look forward to holding more INSPIRE sessions in the spring term.

Mental Health

Last week, we held special assemblies to celebrate World Mental Health Day. I was impressed by how much the children had remembered about mental health from their relationships and health lessons. The children talked very maturely about how to take care of themselves and others. They also know which trusted adults they can speak to about their mental health. We will continue to do more work on this topic in our relationship and health lessons.

Reading Update

This year, our focus will still be to improve our children's reading ability so that they can read fluently. At the end of Key Stage 1, a child who can read at 90 words a minute is considered to be a fluent reader. In Year 2, the children are having daily lessons to improve their reading fluency with Miss Ogle. The children have been taking part in an activity called "echo reading" to help them read more fluently. In "echo reading", the child listens as the adult reads the text aloud and then the child reads it themselves. This helps the child to recognise any unfamiliar words and to develop their expression. Over time, this should help the child to read more words in one minute. Some of our children in Key Stage 2 are not yet reading at 90 words a minute. Therefore, they are also taking part in "echo reading". If you want to help your child to read fluently at home and you need more information about "echo reading", please speak to your child's class teacher.

Attendance

The table below shows the attendance for each class last week. Well done to year 1 for having an attendance of more than 97% last week! Each week, our whole-school attendance should be at least 96%.

Upper Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
88.67%	97.04%	92.4%	84.44%	96.67%	95%	93.33%	92.37%

Library

I am pleased to see that all our children have now visited the school library at least once and taken a book out to read at home. I was impressed with how year 1 used the library for the first time. Afterwards, Bradley said, "I have enjoyed reading about dinosaurs and we have been learning about them in class." We must encourage our children to enjoy reading books and listening to someone read a book to them. Please remember that children must bring their library book back to school on their specified day so that they can change it for another one.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Johnson
Headteacher