

West Rise Community Infant School

RISE AND SHINE



March 2021

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KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Holidays
Last day of school 1/4/21
Start of school 20/4/21
Inset day 19/4/21
Parent Consultations -
20/4/21, 21/4/21, 22/4/21



A WARM WELCOME BACK



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of the Spring Term 1, I am writing to welcome you back to school after lockdown—how ‘Topsy Turvey’ is that?!

The children have returned to school beautifully—a few weeks ago now, and they have been simply amazing, so happy to be back with their friends. I hope this newsletter gives you a taste of the learning which has taken place—we are so proud of the West Rise children and fully expect that they will bounce back happily to Summer term learning after the Easter break. As always, thank you for working with us to support your child at school.



Welcome back from Reception



We have been so excited to have welcomed you all back. You have all achieved so much at home and we are so proud of you. We have missed you all so much and it has been so lovely to hear the laughter and chatting filling the classrooms once again.



We started back to school by beginning the day with lots of circle times to gently ease the children back to school. We talked about the experiences that children had in Lockdown, how they are feeling and what they are looking forward to now they are back. For our feelings work, we used The Colour Monster story book, also found online here: <https://youtu.be/IY6d1jyvumVg> From this we then made a feelings check in station for the children to use each day. The children have been amazing at being able to express how they have felt and why.

The topic of ‘This is Me’ has been flowing through everything we have done this term. The children made self portraits to show how much they have grown and changed, with lots of opportunities for children to talk about themselves and their families. The observations made are have been gathered for our ‘This is Me’ display board in each class, to further their interests and inform our planning.

There has been lots of outdoor learning fun this term for all subject areas and we continue to use the outdoor areas to explore and play, with the children gardening, watering plants and using the Honey- Bee Garden to find mini beasts and first signs of Spring. The new ‘storytellers log circle’ has also been a hit and children have enjoyed listening to a range of new stories, talking as a group and enjoying lots of Mindfulness sessions. The story of ‘The Gingerbread Man’ has been loved by the children and they have learnt lots from cooking experiences to making up a new phrase... ‘Run Run as fast as you can, you are going to get in my belly.’

Finally, we have loved getting lots of physical exercise everyday, playing and pushing the tyres in the Reception playground area, playing in the new Fort and enjoying the Daily Mile. Thank you all very much for your continued support.



Welcome back from Year One



After another long lockdown and so much time away from our lovely classrooms, we have enjoyed returning to school with a strong focus on our wellbeing and emotions. We have been learning about different parts of our brains. We have learnt that the Hippocampus stores all our memories, including the things we have learnt at school (You may have seen the Hippocampus bag come home filled with some of our memories and the things we have learnt). We have also been learning about our feelings—recognising when we feel different emotions is important so we are able to regulate them. We have learnt that the Amygdala in our brains needs to listen and talk to the thinker to make good choices, to be kind and to be ready to be the best learners.

We have had fun acting these parts of the brain out and making lots of things to show us how they work. We have really enjoyed doing yoga and taking time to listen to each other and share our feelings.



Welcome back from Year Two

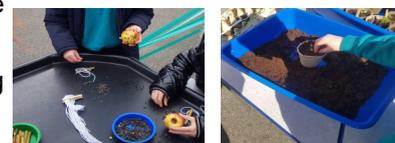


It is such a joy to be back with your wonderful children. It has been really lovely to have everyone return to school and to see children enjoying catching-up with their friends.

Our main focus since returning has been to ensure our wellbeing, and of course to settling back into routine after the long lockdown. We have been using different media to help us identify different feelings too. Making clay hearts was particularly therapeutic! We have also created a heart space with hanging hearts in our shared area and have been learning that our emotions are so important. We have been creating our own versions of the story "In my heart," describing what it feels like when we are happy, sad, lonely, mad and calm. It has been very special to explore 'How do you feel?' Can you describe it as a picture? We described happiness as feeling like a trophy, a shooting star and angelic!



This week we are learning about Spring and have started planting seeds and watching them grow!



Easter Spring Excitement!



After what feels like a long lockdown hibernation, the children are breathing life back into West Rise as they fully immerse themselves in the joy of Easter and Spring time!



Teachers have planned a really creative approach to teaching most children about the meaning of Easter and why we have Easter eggs!

From printing and making chicks and Easter bunnies, to making Easter Egg biscuits and creating an Easter themed garden with daffodils made from clay, the children are really throwing themselves into all things Spring!



IT'S GOOD TO BE ME BY YEAR ONE

