

Friday 5th April 2019

Thank you to those of you who took the time to come and look at your child's work this week and share your views with us at parent forum. I wish you a happy and safe holiday – see you back at school on Tuesday 23rd April.

Miss Kondo

SOLO in our classrooms

Here at West Acton we use SOLO (Structure of Observed Learning Outcomes) to help the children to reflect on their learning, the progress they have made and what they need to do to move onto the next step. This approach links in really well with our West Acton learning heroes. The children are working to develop positive learning skills and behaviours that will hopefully stay with them for the rest of their lives. To support the children in developing their learning skills all our classrooms have a SOLO display in exactly the same place so that whatever classroom the children are in they know where to look for information about SOLO

KS1 classroom SOLO display



KS2 classroom SOLO display



Polite Reminder - School Playground after school

We are lucky to have a fantastic playground facility which we need to keep clean and safe at all times for all our children during play and lunch times and throughout our busy school day. After school in the last few weeks we have had incidents of:

- Non West Acton pupils using the equipment
- Parents climbing on equipment
- Inappropriate physical gestures to staff
- An unsupervised child urinating on the play area
- Children unsupervised whilst parents talk or are on their phones

Once the school day has ended please do keep your children with you and leave promptly. Thank you.

CLASSROOM CALM BOXES We are delighted to have introduced a CALM BOX into every classroom this term! This is a special toolbox for every child to use whenever they feel their emotions are getting so big that it makes it hard for them to learn and to make positive choices. When they are about to 'flip their lids', they can find an item in this box to help them feel calm again and switch their 'thinking brain' back on: squidgy balls to squeeze, elastic toys to stretch, toys to fiddle with, lavender to smell, pencils to draw/colour with, etc. Our counsellor Lia has been meeting with every year group to explain how to use these boxes and how they help us to learn better.

Tip of the week from Lia the school counsellor

Helping your child find their CALM

When your child feels a big emotion such as anger, worry or sadness, he will find it very difficult to listen to your instructions, to think or even sometimes to find his words to let you know what he needs. This is because when our feelings get so big, our “thinking brain” goes offline. As a result, your child can act out his emotion by misbehaving, withdrawing and going quiet, becoming extra clingy to you or having a teary meltdown

How can parents help?

Your child will need your help to find her calm again so that she can listen to you, use her words instead of her body to communicate how she is feeling and choose more positive behaviour. She needs you to help her feel safe again. As always, it is essential that you find *your* calm first. It can also be helpful to have either a “calm space” or simply a “calm box” in your home for her to use when she feels in her body that she is having a big emotion (hot cheeks, knot in the tummy, tight fists, etc). In this space or box, have various simple items that can help her: a fidget toy, a squishy ball to squeeze, quiet music, a little cuddly toy, lavender scented hand lotion, a raw carrot or apple to bite on, paper and pencils to draw/colour, a calming book, a family photo, pictures of nature scenes, etc. Also encourage some deep belly breathing. Once she feels calmer, she is ready to listen and to talk: you can check in with her and think together about what happened.

Sometimes we could all do with someone to talk to. If you would like to meet Lia for a confidential and non-judgemental chat about you, your child or any other worries, she is available on Mondays 9-10am. To book an initial appointment, you can call/text Lia on 07469 701 260 or email her at younl206.307@lgflmail.net.

happy
Easter

Assembly this week was delivered by Father Timothy from St Gabriel's Church on Noel Road. He explained to the children how Christians celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

Happy Vaisakhi and Happy Easter to our families who will celebrate during the holidays.

Thank you to the PTA for donating eggs for our younger children to have a hunt with a treat! Also to all staff, pupils and Mr Hammond for the fantastic singing events this week.



Maths Masterclass

Alison Eves from The Royal Institution delivered a Maths Masterclass session on platonic solids to some of our Year 5 children. Along with some children from Berrymede Junior School, we constructed different platonic solids and proved that there are only 5 platonic solids in the universe. The children then built their own solids and were particularly resilient when making their truncated icosahedron (pictured).

RSE Booklet

Following on from the workshop, a booklet will be going out this week with: vocabulary, a planning overview and details of the upcoming NSPCC assembly. Detailed lesson plans were available to view at the Parent forum. I hope you will find the information useful and reassuring.

School Uniform

Many stakeholders have been sharing their views and suggestions on a potential new uniform – all very useful, thank you. We will keep you updated on this matter.

Assembly

Thank you 4SS - your assembly showcased how busy you have been all term and the fantastic learning that has taken place. Well done!

Healthy Snacks please

KS2 snacks should be fruit or vegetables only please.