

Friday 21st December 2018

Weren't all the shows this week fantastic? I hope that you enjoyed them as much as I did – a true new Headteacher highlight of 2018! Thank you for all your support with your child's education and our school. Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful holiday and look forward to welcoming you back for 2019 on Monday 7th January!

Miss Kondo

Music lessons for Years 3 -6

We have one space left for Clarinet or Saxophone lessons! Please see Miss Marie in the office.
The cost is £50.00 per term.

Sayonara, au revoir...

Miss Hosking is returning to New Zealand at the end of the year. We are very sad to see her go and wish her well. **Miss Young** will be finishing her studies and working in another primary school – good luck. Finally, **Maria our lollipop lady** is leaving due family commitments. A huge thank you to them all for their commitment and hard work at West Acton.

What is SOLO?

SOLO (Structure of Observed Learning Outcome) is a model of learning that we use at West Acton. It shows how your child's learning can progress from beginning skills through to deep levels of understanding. Using SOLO helps develop a shared understanding and a language of and for learning that enables the teachers and the children to understand and to talk about the learning process. The key aim of SOLO is to help the children develop an awareness and understanding of how learning works and to develop particular strategies for learning and for problem solving. The most important aspect is that it allows the children time to reflect on the progress they have made using our SOLO language for learning. **It allows them to think about thinking and to know about knowing.**

There are 5 different levels of learning. In KS1 we use the terms and pictures for seed, 1 flower, 3 flowers, bunch of flowers and gardener to describe the different levels. In KS2 we use the terms and symbols for pre-structural, unistructural, multi-structural, relational and extended abstract to describe the different levels

- **Seed/ pre-structural** – where the children are at the beginning of learning a skill and need a lot help.
- **1 flower / unistructural** – where the children have one idea or know one thing
- **3 flowers/multi-structural**- where the children have many ideas and know several things
- **Bunch of flowers/ relational** – where the children can relate the things they know to each other
- **Gardener / extended abstract** – where the children are experts and can apply their knowledge in a new way



Using SOLO

				
Seed	One Flower	Many Flowers	A Bunch of Flowers	The Gardener
I need help	I know one thing	I know several things	I can relate the things I know to each other	I am an expert and can apply my knowledge in a new way
				
Prestructural	Unistructural	Multistructural	Relational	Extended Abstract

Top tip from Lia – school Counsellor - The greatest gift of all: playing with you!

All children need to play. It is their way of learning skills and also helps them to release their emotions. Regularly playing with your child will help you to feel closer. It will also encourage her to cooperate more and you will feel more energised!

How can parents help?

I know most of you might feel exhausted at the end of the day. However, all you need is 10mins of play, which will help both you and your child to let out some of the stress accumulated from your day. Can you try any of these over the break?

- If your child is feeling over-excited and needs to let off some energy, how about taking him to a quiet, safe space and letting him spin around while you spot him?
- If she is having difficulty falling asleep at night, you could say goodnight to each part of her body, massaging it gently with lotion.
- If he needs some help calming down, perhaps you could blow bubbles together and see how long you can keep them in the air before popping.
- Play football together by blowing a cotton ball around through straws.
- If she is finding a situation difficult, use stuffed animals to act it out.
- Finally, I always suggest following your child's lead and joining them in their favourite game: let him teach you how to play!

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 appointment, you can call/text Lia on 07469 701 260 or email her at younl206.307@lgflmail.net.



Merry Christmas to all our families who are celebrating next week!

Science Update

This term we have been busy across the school developing lots of exciting science experiments to inspire the children's enthusiasm and build on their natural inquisitiveness. These have included melting ice penguins, exploring the properties of fake snow, investigating evaporation rates and testing different magnets to see which is the strongest.

If you are looking for something to do on a rainy afternoon during the holidays, please check out the link below which contains 50 easy science experiments to do at home. Ideas include growing rock candy in a glass, making elephant toothpaste and creating a tornado in a bottle.

However, please only attempt with adult assistance.

<https://mommypoppins.com/kids/50-easy-science-experiments-for-kids-fun-educational-activities-using-household-stuff>

Safety on Noel Road

I have been in contact with the Highways agency who have been along to check Noel Road, this is their feedback:

The Tic-Tacs (flashing warning lights) are being reprogrammed and should be working before the new school term starts. The road is well traffic calmed and the signage does meet all requirements, however, we will be looking to see if any of the school and crossing signs can be repositioned to be more noticeable, and we will put in additional school crossing signs for the zebra crossing. This will be done in the New Year.

Our local councilor Daniel Crawford has given his full support for any changes that need to be made.

However, it has to be said that some of the problems are caused by a lack of care and consideration by a very small minority of parents. Please let safety be your consideration when dropping your children.