



May 2022

Message from Mr Pawson

What a fantastic Summer term we have had in school so far! Our decoration programme has continued over the Easter holidays and classes 3 and 5 have returned to newly decorated rooms to add to the newly decorated corridors and dining room from February half term.

As you will have seen, the installation of our new fencing, visitor entrance CCTV and lighting is well under way and we hope this will be completed shortly after our return from the Spring Bank holidays. We are continuing to work with the contractors to ensure that the site remains safe and secure whilst this essential work is carried out. Thank you for your patience whilst we undergo our transformation.

We have welcomed Mrs Emily Burgin as our new Learning Support and Wellbeing Mentor. I know that many of you have already met her in the playground in the morning and she has been getting to know the staff, children and families ready to support with attendance and wellbeing, ensuring children are happy and ready to learn.

In the office Jane Woodcock has now returned to her role working for the Multi Academy Trust having been in the school office since November. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and look forward to continuing working with her in her role at the Trust.

In final staffing news it is with best wishes that we will be saying goodbye and good luck to Miss Townend as she leaves us on Thursday 19th May. Miss Townend has worked at West Vale for 13 years and has taught many siblings of families and has been at the heart of the West Vale School community during this time. Her passion for sport and continued support of our children will be sorely missed. We wish her well as she moves into one of our other Trust schools in a role which will allow her to focus on her family. Thank You Miss Townend.

Meet Mrs Burgin

Hi there! I am Emily Burgin and I am very pleased to starting as Learning Support and Wellbeing Mentor here at West Vale Academy. As well as having 2 children of my own, I have 15 years experiences working in children and family services across Calderdale ranging from play development and youth services to early years and family support work. For the last 10 years, I have worked in the local children's centres, so some of you may recognise me from there.



I will be in the playground every morning welcoming the children into school, so please do come and say hi. I will be working with families and children to support with attendance, punctuality, wellbeing and ensuring that children are happy and ready to learn. Over the last 2 weeks, I have enjoyed getting to know many of the children in school at breaks and lunchtimes and in lessons too. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and being a part of your children's journey through West Vale.

Dates for your Diary

From 9/5/22 Year 6 SAT's week

13/5/22 Bikeability —Class 4

From 16/5/22 Year 2 SATs week

17/5/22 Phonics information session

27/5/22 Party Day—Queens Jubilee

27/5/22 Last day of Summer Term 1

TUESDAY 7th June Return to School

Parents Survey

We will shortly be sending home a link to our Parents Survey. We value feedback from all stakeholders and would be grateful if you could take the time to complete it. Thank you.

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Mrs J Firth
Chief Finance Officer:
Mrs A Rawson

Class 1



The children had a very exciting first day back at school. In PE, the children completed Bush Craft. They all walked sensibly to the woods and learnt how to collect and dry sticks to use for a fire. In Literacy, the children have looked at their new class books and created story boards based on the sequence of the story. Well done Class 1.

Class 2



In Class 2, the children have been enjoying their PE lessons over in North Dean Woods

as part of Bush Craft. The children have enjoyed exploring the woodland and this week they made their own bow and arrows. A big thanks to Oliver, our PE coach for organising these wonderful activities for our children.

Class 3



Class 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their Bushcraft sessions in P.E. They particularly enjoyed making bow and arrows out of the resources they found in the woods and making birds' nests. They have also looked at how they would make a fire. They are developing their resilience throughout these sessions.



Class 4



Class 4 have had an exciting start back to the new term. Before the holidays, they were finishing looking at the Romans in history and practising some of the Roman fighting formations, to investigate why the Roman army was so effective. Since coming back after Easter, they have been enjoying an art workshop, where they learnt all about Claude

Monet and the inspirations for his artwork. They learnt about

colour mixing and created nature inspired pieces of artwork. They are now focusing on developing their computer skills to create edited images and flyers linked to our new book. We can't wait to see the finished publications!



Class 5



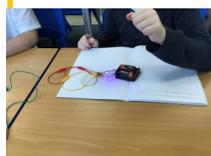
Class 5 had a fantastic afternoon in a gospel singing workshop with the fabulous Sharon Stacey. What amazing singers we have in year 5. We have also been busy holding interviews in role for positions on Ernest Shackleton's famous expedition to Antarctica.



Class 6



In year 6 as part of our Science lessons we have been learning about electricity. We have built our own circuits, identified faults in circuits and learnt how to make a bulb brighter and dimmer.



In DT we have built our own steady hand games. We began by designing the box and base of the games, we then built the base and circuit before putting it all together.

Need Support? - Numbers you may find useful

Women's Domestic Violence – 0808 2000 247 Men's Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 801 0327 Childline - 0800 1111
NSPCC 24 hour free phone service - 0808 800 5000 Police (if not urgent)- 101 Women's refuge – 0845 155 1485 Social Services – 01422 393336
Safeguarding Children—If you are ever concerned about any child please speak to Mr Pawson or Mrs Scott