

New School Year

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you all to a new school year at West Vale Academy! Welcome, particularly, to our new families joining our great community. During our INSET training day yesterday, I thanked all staff for their hard work over the summer holidays. West Vale looks *fantastic* – classrooms are purposeful, calm and inviting, as are displays around school, and the atmosphere today has been great. Children – despite maybe an earlier start than they are used to! – have clearly enjoyed being back in school.

I wanted to inform you early in September about our improvement priorities for this academic year, a process which all schools follow annually. As well as constant school improvement, this year we are focusing a heightened amount of attention on:

1. Further developing our children's spelling and handwriting skills. We want our children to be able to form letters correctly, consistently join their letters and create their own style for their script as well as focusing on application of spelling rules.
2. Continuing to develop our Maths curriculum, by following a consistent approach to Maths lessons through school.
3. Further **embedding our curriculum** with a particular focus on Music, Art and D&T, including developing children's memories to recall knowledge and understanding across a range of different subjects and units

Due to the success of our parent showcases last year, we will continue to welcome families into school for class showcases over the year for children to share their learning with their nearest and dearest and these dates will be sent out on a parent event overview for the year. Furthermore, we will be opening our doors on Thursday 7th September from 3.20pm - 4.00pm for parents to drop in during these times to meet their child's new teacher and see their new classroom. We would love to see as many of you as possible during these times. We will also continue to share West Vale news and updates on Seesaw and our Facebook page, sending out our weekly update and also our end-of-term newsletters.

As ever, thank you for your continued support for everything at West Vale. Here's to a phenomenal year for our school!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Horsfall, Mrs Akroyd and Miss Vincent

Senior Leadership team

West Vale Academy
Stainland Road
Greetland
HX4 8LS

01422 327804 - admin@westvaleacademy.org.uk

Principal: Miss L Horsfall
Vice-Principal: Mrs C Akroyd

Part of
Great Heights Academy Trust
Riverside Mills
Saddleworth Road, Elland
HX5 0RY
MAT@greatheightstrust.org.uk

MAT CEO:
Mrs A Bennett
Chief Operations Officer:
Mrs J Firth
Chief Finance Officer:
Mrs A Rawson