



THE WEST PARK ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

*Challenging educational orthodoxies so that every child makes good progress in core subjects;
all teachers are committed to personal improvement and fulfil their responsibilities;
all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum;
all academies strive to be outstanding.*

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Improvement Update-January 2022

In the Autumn Term we continued to improve as a school. [We achieved the following:](#)

- At the end of December, all children in Year 2 to Year 6 completed a set of assessments which allowed us to analyse their academic attainment and progress. It is clear from the assessments that the progress made by our children over the past term, and since the previous lockdown last January, has been significant. In June, our Year 2 and Year 6 children will complete some standardised assessments which we are required to report on. Below are our current projections alongside the most recent national average statistics from 2019 as a means of comparison:

	Reading		Writing		Maths		Reading, Writing + Maths combined	
	WP	National (2019)	WP	National (2019)	WP	National (2019)	WP	National (2019)
Year 6	84%	74%	84%	79%	80%	79%	80%	65%
Year 2	75%	75%	70%	69%	75%	76%		

- Following feedback from children and parents, the school decided to invest in a new Trim Trail to improve the playground area. Originally due to be installed in September, installation was delayed due to supply issues. However, in the final week before we closed for the Christmas break, our new Trim Trail was installed. [The installation of a new Trim Trail provides the children with an improved area to play in and is part of a wider development of the school grounds.](#)
- During the Autumn term, we were able to provide a full range of after-school clubs for all children in our school, free of charge. The clubs on offer range from sports clubs, art and mindfulness, Lego and homework. In many cases, these are provided by staff members who voluntarily give up their time to provide an extra-curricular activity for the children. We also listen to the views of the children and offer clubs based on their interests. As a result, there is a Cookery Club starting in January after a number of children expressed an interest in having one – some children even wrote a letter to myself to request one! [At West Park, children have access to a variety of activities that they may not otherwise experience. Furthermore, we are adapting to the children’s interests and offering clubs which they have shown enthusiasm for – all whilst providing these experiences for no extra charge.](#)
- Since September, all parents have had the opportunity to attend various events. All year groups held a ‘Meet the Staff’ meeting in September, all year groups have held ‘Books and Biscuits’ events whilst some year groups have also had showcase events to show work from particular topics that the children have been studying. Additionally, we were still able to go ahead with Nativity performances for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 which were attended by parents. [Following the restrictions that were in place for much of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, we were keen to ensure that](#)

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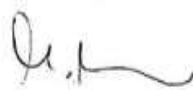
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parents were invited into school at every possible opportunity during this academic year. These events are popular with parents but also with children as they get the opportunity to show their parents what they do in school.

- A major focus for our school is reading. Over the past year we have invested significantly in new decodable reading books (these support children in the early stages of reading) and reading for pleasure books. To compliment this investment in books, we have also spent time and money renovating one of our rooms and turning it into our school library. This is now complete and is used on a daily basis. [Our investment in reading books and the library outlines how important reading is to the children.](#) It has already been noticeable that they are more enthused about reading and assessment data shows that our children are improving with their reading ability. It is our belief that helping our children become confident and active readers is one of the most important skills that we can develop.
- In addition to the parent events mentioned above, we also held a Parents' Forum in September. These forums provide parents with the opportunity to have their say on what is currently happening within the school. During this meeting, parents spoke to me about wanting to know more about how to support their children with home learning. I discussed this with the staff and we collectively decided that creating a school You Tube channel would be useful. The channel has been live since October and each year group add content onto the channel on a weekly basis. Initial feedback from parents shows that this has been well received. [We recognise the importance of working closely with parents and supporting them to help their children at home.](#) The You Tube channel is designed to be an easy to use tool which parents can access at any time to help with any work that their children find difficult.
- It has been very pleasing to see 25 new children start at The West Park Academy since the start of this academic year. This means that approximately 11% of our pupils only started at our school during the Autumn Term. This demonstrates that West Park is attracting more families to bring their children to our school. [We are proud of the quality of education that we offer and it is pleasing that a number of families recognise this.](#)
- As has previously been mentioned, we recognise some of the opportunities that children missed during the restrictions in 2020 and early 2021. Therefore, we have been very keen to ensure that our children have been able to make up for lost time. All children in school have had the opportunity to go on a visit or they have had a visitor in school. In some cases, some year groups have had both a trip outside of school and a visitor in school. Additionally, we have sought other exciting experiences for our children. For example, our Year 6 children completed a Well-Being Warrior course and, following its completion, they had the chance to meet a professional mixed martial arts boxer. During the Autumn Term, all of our children have had the opportunity to visit Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library whilst members of our choir sang at the Christmas Lights Switch-On event in the town centre. Our House Captains also attended the Remembrance Service on Remembrance Day and laid a wreath on behalf of the school. [In addition to our academic offering, we are passionate about providing a wide range of outside opportunities for our children, particularly opportunities which give the children the chance to make strong connections with their home town.](#)
- During the Autumn Term, we used some of our Covid Catch-Up funding on 1:1 tutoring for children in various year groups. Around 25 children are currently part way through a block of 10 sessions. Once these sessions are complete, we plan to offer these sessions to more children. [We are unrelenting in our mission to ensure that our children do not fall behind following the impact of the pandemic.](#)



Mark Nunn

Principal

Chris Baker

Vice Principal

Kelly Byrom

Assistant Principal

