



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 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Improvement Update-September 2021

In the Summer Term we continued to improve as a school. **We achieved the following:**

- From Wednesday 1st September, class sizes at The West Park Academy will be just 14. This is due to our commitment in providing the lowest possible class sizes to ensure your children receive personalised learning. The most recent figures show that the average class size in England is 27 – almost double The West Park Academy average. **By providing the lowest class sizes possible, your child will be provided with a personalised education that will allow them to make the best possible progress during their time at The West Park Academy**
- Following a review of our school site, a number of planned improvements are in place over the course of the academic year. A new Trim Trail has been ordered and will be installed at October Half Term. Many of the large trees that surround our site are being cut back and the garden area has been cleared in preparation for renovation over the coming months. **Improving the environment makes The West Park Academy a school that our children and community can be proud of.**
- We have continued to prioritise Reading at the West Park Academy. During the Summer Term, Mrs Sansom agreed to take on the role of 'Reading Champion'. This role involves Mrs Sansom ensuring that our new school library runs efficiently, that children are reading books that are appropriate for them and also promoting reading around school. **Reading is undoubtedly the passport that children need to allow them to achieve their life goals. By putting a large emphasis on reading, particularly early reading, we are doing everything that we can to help children achieve in later life.**
- Despite the disruption over the past 18 months, we are incredibly proud of the achievements of our Year 6 pupils. Whilst the usual SATs assessments did not take place due to the pandemic, we used previous SATs papers to assess our children before they moved onto Secondary School. The table below shows our end of KS2 data:

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving National Expectations
Reading	83%
Writing	83%
Maths	80%
Combined Read, Wri & Maths	80% (National average in 2019 was 65%)

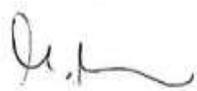
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- Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, we were able to use part of the Summer Term to plan a wide range of after-school clubs by utilising outside providers, and through the goodwill of our staff team. We have once again been able to secure money within our school budget to ensure that all of our after-school clubs are free of charge for all pupils. From Monday 6th September, a free of charge after-school club will be available for all children (F2-Y6) from Monday to Friday. Additionally, we are still able to subsidise our Breakfast Club so that it remains just £1 per child. [The West Park Academy continues to provide an excellent range of extra-curricular activities for our children to enjoy.](#) Furthermore, the subsidies that are put in place support parents with childcare before and after school.
- In June, we received our final visit from an English Hub Literacy Specialist who has been working with us to help develop early reading at West Park. Our summary report identifies that significant progress has been made over the past year in terms of how phonics and early reading is taught. [Through collaboration with the DfE funded English Hub, we have refined the way that we teach phonics and early reading significantly.](#) This has given us excellent foundations to start from in September 2021.
- During the Summer Term, we used some of our Covid Catch-Up funding on 1:1 tutoring for children in various year groups. Over the course of the term, 31 children received a total of 10 hours tutoring in either Reading or Maths. Many of these children made rapid progress which will set them up for the start of the new academic year. [We are unrelenting in our mission to ensure that our children do not fall behind following the impact of the pandemic.](#)
- We were able to plan out a series of events designed to support parents with their child's learning at home. At the beginning of term, each year group will have a 'Meet the Staff' meeting with parents to demonstrate how to help their child with reading, spelling and times tables. This will then be complimented throughout the year with further events such as 'Books and Biscuits' and presentations from staff on how to help with phonics and early reading. [We are keen to capitalise on being able to invite parents into school following the lifting of restrictions.](#) It is vital that school and parents work together to support children's development.
- Due to the lack of opportunities available last year, staff in all year groups have made it a priority to arrange a visit or visitor linked to a topic they are covering this term. As a result, every year group now has a visitor or visit booked for the Autumn Term. [We understand the value of taking learning outside of the classroom environment so that children can experience their topics in a more vivid way.](#) These experiences are always memorable for children and enhance their overall learning.

Thank you for all of your ongoing support. I hope that 2021/2022 is finally the year that we can return to some form of normality. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact me via the school office.



Mark Nunn

Principal

Chris Baker

Vice Principal

Kelly Courtney

Assistant Principal

