



Western House Academy

where every opportunity shapes a life



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand new school year at WHA. I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful summer holiday and that the children are looking forward to returning. Our staff have been busy preparing classrooms and planning engaging learning opportunities, and we are excited to begin another successful year together.

Over the summer we have made a number of exciting changes within the school. We are proud to share that, at the end of last term, we achieved our **Eco Schools Award**. This is a wonderful recognition of the commitment of pupils and staff to sustainability and environmental awareness, and we will continue to build on this success as we work towards the next level of the award this year.

In addition, we have carried out some internal improvements. New carpets have been fitted throughout the Year 5 and 6 block, and we have installed new fencing and bins across the site. We have also invested in technology: each year group now has its own set of Chromebooks, which means our old computer suite can be repurposed into much-needed teaching spaces. As the suite's computers were due for updating, this was an excellent opportunity to modernise our provision and make better use of our facilities.

We are also delighted to introduce a very special new member of our school community: **Jessie**, our school dog. Jessie is a cross between a St Bernard and a Poodle, a breed chosen for its calm temperament, intelligence, and hypoallergenic coat. After much research, we are confident Jessie will be a valuable addition to our school, supporting children's wellbeing. She will be undertaking twelve to eighteen months of therapy dog training, and will be introduced gradually to the children. Pupils will learn that Jessie is a working dog, and when she is wearing her vest and on her lead she must not be approached. A team of trained staff will handle her at all times. We are certain Jessie will quickly become a much-loved member of our community. You will see her on the school gates in the coming weeks.

This year we are also welcoming new staff members: Mr Bavington, Mr Bains, Mrs Khan, Miss Farah and Mrs Badr. They bring with them experience and enthusiasm, and we look forward to you meeting them during our upcoming parent workshops or on the playground. Below are the timings for parent workshops where key information about your child's year group will be shared. All workshops will be held in the **hall**:



Western House Academy
Richards Way
Cippenham
Slough
SL1 5TJ

T: 01753526326
E: whaoffice@theparkfederation.org

A Multi-Academy Trust

The Park Federation Academy Trust
Trust c/o James Elliman Academy
Elliman Avenue
Slough Berkshire
SL2 5BA

T: 0203 096 9754
E: tpfoffice@theparkfederation.org

Mrs Coral Snowden
Principal, Western House Academy
principalwha@theparkfederation.org

Dr. Martin Young
Chief Executive & Federation Principal
myoung@theparkfederation.org

www.theparkfederation.co.uk

Reception: Wednesday 10th September @ 3:30pm – 4:15pm
Year 1: Monday 8th September @ 3:30pm – 4:15pm
Year 2: Thursday 11th September @ 3:45pm – 4:30pm
Year 3: Tuesday 9th September @ 3:45pm – 4:30pm
Year 4: Tuesday 9th September @ 4:45pm – 5:15pm
Year 5: Thursday 11th September @ 4:45pm – 5:15pm
Year 6: Monday 8th September @ 4:30pm – 5:30pm

I'm also thrilled to announce that Mrs. Skinner, our Year 5 teacher, is expecting a baby! She will begin her maternity leave in January, and we know you'll all join us in wishing her and her family the very best. Miss Wilson, who taught Year 4 last year, will be returning to cover the class.

I would also like to remind families that we celebrate birthdays in a way that includes all students. As an inclusive school, we ask that cakes, sweets, and other edible treats are not brought in to celebrate birthdays. If such items are sent in, we will return them unopened to parents and carers. Instead, we encourage alternative ways of marking the day, such as donating a book to the class library or contributing something small for the classroom that everyone can enjoy.

You will have received communication about our 'no phones on the playground' initiative. We are asking that parents and carers refrain from using mobile phones on the playground during drop-off and collection. This initiative is designed to ensure a safe and positive environment for every child by fostering valuable face-to-face connections, promoting a sense of security, and modelling focused attention. Your cooperation helps us create a more connected and engaging school community for everyone.

Alongside these exciting changes, the day-to-day routines remain the same. The gates open at 8:30am and registration begins for Reception and Year 1 at 8:45am and for Years 2-6 at 8:55am. It is important that children are in class promptly so that learning can begin smoothly. Please remember that in the morning only parents of children in Reception and Year 1 will be permitted onto the playground.

The school day ends at 3:15pm for Reception and Year 1 and 3:25pm for Years 2-6. All parents are welcome onto the playground to collect their children at the end of the school day. Please remember that there is a late charge for any children who are collected late. Breakfast club and after-school care will continue as usual, with details available from the office.

We continue to maintain high expectations around school uniform, and we thank you for supporting us in ensuring that pupils look smart and ready for learning. PE kits should be worn to school on the appropriate days.

Please also remember that any absences should be reported to the office each day. If your contact details or your child's medical information have changed over the summer, please update us as soon as possible. The weekly update, sent on Monday, will continue to share key information and upcoming events.

We are greatly looking forward to the year ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that this will be a happy and successful year for every child at WHA.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Snowden', written in black ink.

Mrs C Snowden