

25th September 2013

Dear Parents

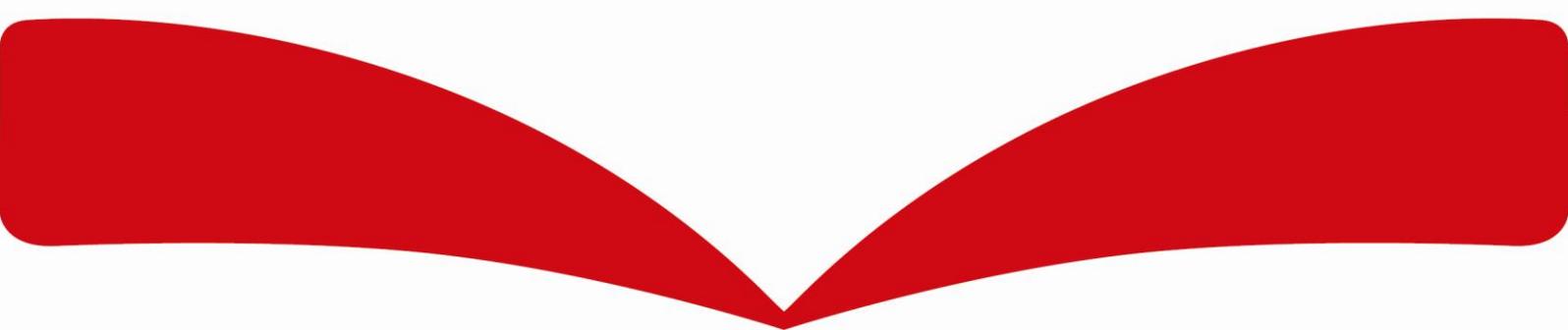
Your children may already have told you about some exciting changes taking place in our PE provision within school. We have been concerned for some time that, due to pressures on space within school, PE lessons are being missed or rearranged too frequently. Our only large indoor space for PE has been the upstairs hall, which is also used for the presentations and assemblies the children make to parents and that we know from your feedback are very popular. We do use the playground for PE when possible but there are often occasions when the weather prevents us.

Schools have been allocated additional funding for PE from central government and this has coincided with our wish to develop this area. We have invested some of the school's budget in the purchase of mobile tables and seating for the canteen area that can be easily cleared away to produce a further indoor space for PE. We have also made changes to the IT suite, which was always designed as a multipurpose area, so that this room can be used as a dance studio and for other contained PE activities.

For Years 2 – 6, we have used the additional funding to bring in professional PE coaches. Total Sports work with other schools in the area and have come to us highly recommended. With the coaches working alongside our teaching staff, we are able to split the classes into smaller groups that rotate around different sports within their PE lessons. The coaches are also coming in for three lunchtimes each week to offer sports coaching for the children as an additional lunchtime activity.

For the Year 5/6 children, who need a lower adult:child ratio to be taken out of school, we are using the Valley Gardens for PE while weather permits. We have done this in conjunction with Harrogate Borough Council in a move that allows the children to enjoy a larger open space for their sports activity.

Year 3/4 children are now swimming on Tuesday mornings; we have managed to book a longer slot for these lessons at the Hydro, enabling the children to develop a range of swimming skills across the three pools.



Throughout the year groups we have combined the two weekly PE sessions into one longer lesson, to give the children more time to get involved in the activities and less time getting changed. We have timetabled the PE lessons for each week into the usage of the hall, as well as keeping slots free for other activities, so PE will not be cancelled or rearranged.

We hope you will agree that this investment in PE will provide more exciting and rewarding lessons for the children at Western and encourage a love of sport in all our pupils. If you would like any further information about our PE provision, please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Smith

Headteacher



