

Western Primary School Newsletter – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Please see some updates below on various aspects of school.

### School operations

As I am sure you are all aware, Step 4 of the government's roadmap out of the pandemic restrictions will begin on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Earlier this week, the DfE released new guidance for schools which outline changes to the way we will respond to the pandemic from 19<sup>th</sup> July and moving into the new term in September.

We are currently assessing what this will mean in terms of our day to day operations and also taking into account the feedback we received from parents in our recent survey of which aspects of recent practice we can learn from and potentially incorporate in future plans. Before the end of next week, we will share detailed information with parents on all of these points.

### Staffing, classes and end of year reports

We have spent a great deal of time in recent weeks, organising the class groups for the next academic year and these will be shared with parents/carers on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July ahead of the end of year reports which will be emailed on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. There will also be some staffing changes for September as several of our existing staff are moving on to new challenges. Again, details will be shared with parents/carers on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### The Hive

Planning for our extended before and after-school provision is going well and we are delighted with the level of interest from parents and carers. We are determined to build this provision into the best that it can be, offering a range of interesting and enjoyable activities for children to take part in. One thing I am keen to do is offer the children in the Hive the opportunity to grow vegetables to be used at home and also in school. I want to construct a large, wooden planter in the area outside the school office – it would be a great experience also (with due regard to health & safety of course!) to get the children involved in this construction too. **If any parents have a connection in the timber industry** and could help to source some pressure-treated, rough-sawn timber at a reasonable price, please get in touch and let us know.

Have a great weekend everyone and good luck to England on Sunday.



## Nursery

The children in nursery have been continuing their learning about Under the Sea. They have enjoyed painting, constructing and some yoga this week!

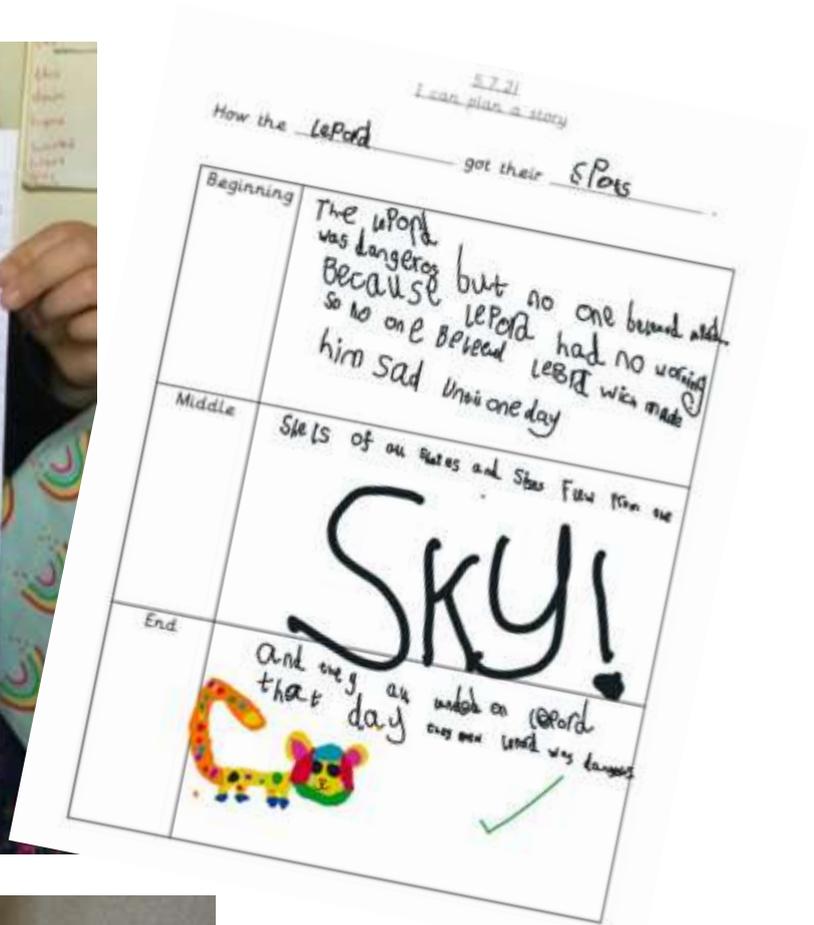
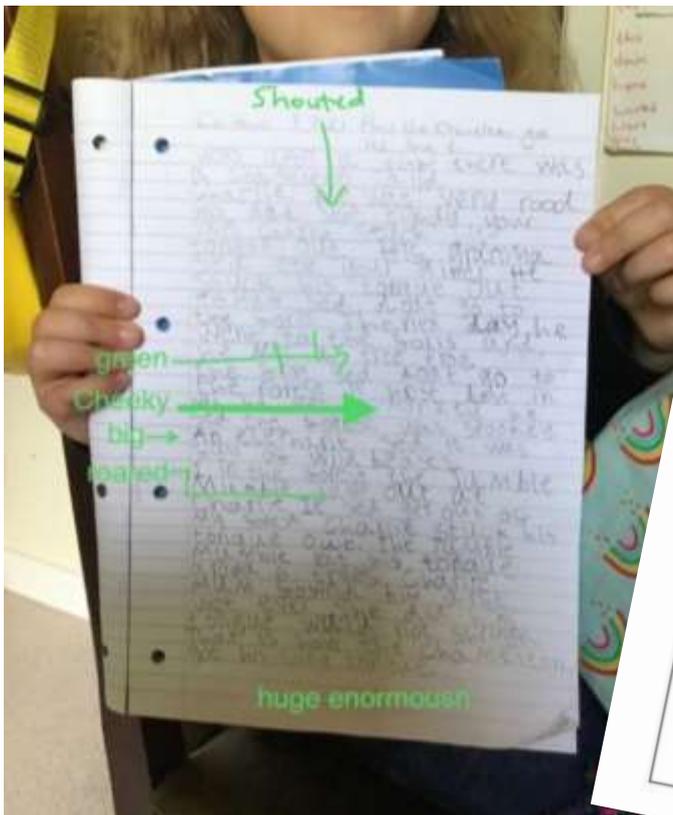


## Reception

The children have enjoyed lots of fun outdoors this week and have enjoyed developing their hockey skills, building on a large scale and looking after our babies. We have continued to learn about under the sea and know lots of interesting facts about sea creatures.







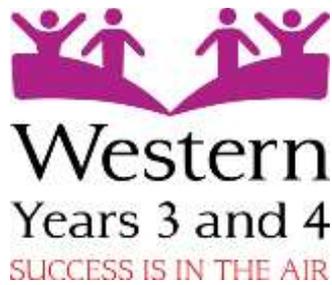
## Year 2

In Y2, we have been looking at 'Dreamtime' artwork. The children produced some creative and thoughtful designs using their hands as a template. The premise behind the artwork is that the hands and artwork tell a unique story about family. The children used cotton buds to build their pictures using a variety of bright and colourful dots.

We have also been studying the history of Australia and we put significant dates and events into a timeline. The children were very curious and questioned why there were not many events before 1522. We had a discussion about history and how we find out about the past and where our information comes from. The children were fascinated to hear that it is only relatively recently that European people have explored Australia and started to discover its history.







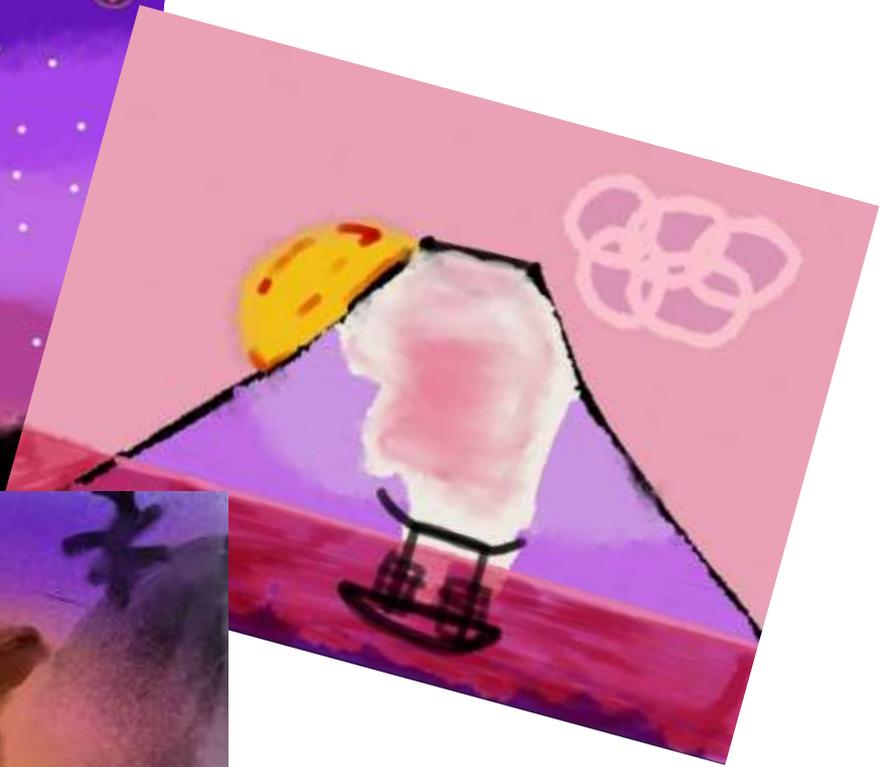
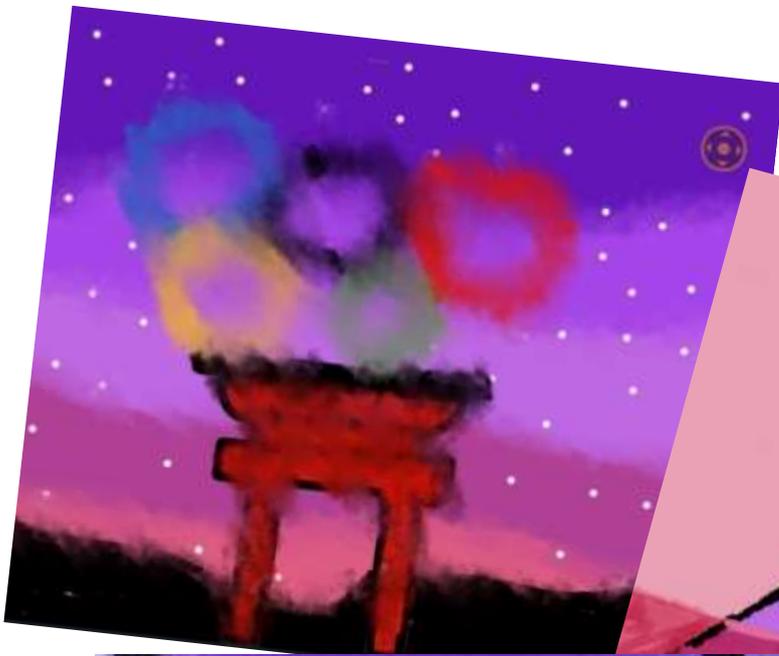
Western  
Years 3 and 4  
SUCCESS IS IN THE AIR

We have had great fun pretending to interview Olympic athletes and footballers from The Euros. We thought of five questions that an interviewer might ask. Then, we paired up and role-played being the sportsperson and the interviewer. We recorded the interview using our iPads against a blue or green background then, using iMovie, we were able to add a virtual background to the interview. It was very effective and looked like we were actually in a real sports stadium!



We also produced some amazing Olympic-themed artwork this week, using the Sketches School app on our iPads:





We have continued with our Olympics-style bench-ball tournaments. This week, Germany were the winning team!



This week, the Y5/6 children have been lucky enough to experience virtual reality. This is thanks to Heart Research UK who kindly loaned us their VR equipment. Hear all about the experience first-hand from Zach and Joseph:

The screen showed us four different tasks we could do. We played the basketball game where it shows you a picture of the heart and you had to shoot the ball depending on how many beats per minute the picture was showing. It was really informative. There was also one where you could go through the heart; it really felt like you were a blood cell. We really enjoyed it because we loved feeling like we were inside the heart and it was an unusual experience.





## Get Moving with Western

Create a treasure hunt! This week, I am challenging you to set up a treasure hunt for your grown-ups (or anyone really). It could be in your house, garden or out and about! All you need is some things to hide and to remember where they are! You could draw a map to help, write some clues or even go along with them to tell them how they're doing. Let us know if you give it a go! Enjoy!





## Technology

### Vodafone Digital Parenting Magazine

links to the latest edition of the Vodafone Digital Parenting magazine.

This is the link to the Digital parenting Page:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>

This links to the magazine:

[https://assets.vodafone.co.uk/cs/groups/public/documents/document/vodafone\\_digital\\_parenting.pdf](https://assets.vodafone.co.uk/cs/groups/public/documents/document/vodafone_digital_parenting.pdf)



### Ditto – Online Safety Magazine Stay Safe, Have Fun, Repeat

- Redressing screen time balance
- Survive to Thrive Report
- Sexting and Sextortion
- UKCIS Digital Passport
- TikTok Updates
- NCA Strategic Assessment



