



Spring Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

We have had a very busy start to the Spring Term. Nothing new there! We are sending you this newsletter in one of our new folders which would be handy to keep your trip letters or any other school correspondence tidy and in one place. Thank you to the companies who made these possible by sponsoring us.

Cancer Research

Thank you to our Year 2 parents and to everyone who attended the Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church for their donations for Cancer Research. I am pleased to let you know that we have raised £381.47 for the charity.

Well done to all the children and staff who took part in the Christmas Concert which was a wonderful event.

Facebook and Social Media

Westerton Primary Academy is not involved in any way with the Facebook groups that parents/carers are part of. We would like to remind parents/carers about the implications of posting items that name the academy or any person/pupil involved with Westerton. Some content may be subject to police involvement. Please be careful when writing or commenting on such social media platforms. 'News' as opposed to 'Views' is a mantra worth remembering.

Keep Us Updated

It is extremely important that you keep us up-to-date with any alterations to your child's circumstances, e.g. house move, contact telephone numbers, medical conditions or a family split. If any of these apply to you, please contact the school office. It is also essential that we have at least two contacts on your child's record in case we are unable to contact the first in an emergency. You can do this by emailing office@westerton.org.uk.

Pantomime Visit

Our Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed a visit to the Leeds Central Library, just before the Christmas break, where they watched a wonderful performance of Hansel and Gretel.

Year 5 and 6 Disco

The Year 5 and 6 Disco was a brilliant success with paparazzi, life-sized Oscar statues and a red carpet welcoming our children to their fun-filled evening. A huge well done goes to our talented Year 6 Council who organised the event, from booking the DJ, keeping tabs on the budget and researching the best value sweets and chocolates. Special thanks to Mrs Smith for the creative props!

Bring Your Books to School Week

Thanks to all parents and children for the generous donations to our Accelerated Reader scheme. There is now a huge pile of books in Mr Pool's office which will be added to our library in the coming weeks. If you still have books to send in, please send them in with your child in a carrier bag / box. (If anybody can find Mr Pool in there please let us know!)



Mr Horne - Sad News

For those of you who remember Mr Horne, our previous Site Manager, we were saddened to hear that he passed away suddenly recently. Our thoughts are with his partner Glynis and his family at this sad time.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs Lane to our Learning Support Assistant team who is working in Year 6. Mrs Sampson, who was one of our Lunchtime Supervisors and Cleaning staff, has also started as a Learning Support Assistant in Nursery. Mrs Rhodes and Miss Ahmed have also joined our Casual Learning Support Assistant pool.

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Parking

Please can we remind parents, carers and colleagues to park considerately around school and to travel at the speed limit of 20 mph. We have had a number of complaints recently about parking and 'near misses' of pedestrians during drop off and collection times. We would also ask that you switch your car engines off while waiting to avoid any unnecessary pollution. For those of us who live within a reasonable distance to school, maybe we could walk, scoot or ride to school to lessen the congestion, to be healthier and help the environment.

Uniform

As stated in our brochure, I would like to remind parents/carers of the following in regard to school uniform. Skirts should be of knee-length and shoes should be a **full shoe of plain black design with low heels** (no more than two inches); **boots or trainers are unsuitable**. In keeping with our belief that children who come to Westerton should be of smart appearance **we ask that you do not encourage children to follow extremes of fashion. This applies in particular to hairstyles and the wearing of jewellery**. Outlandish or extreme hairstyles are unacceptable. This includes bleached or dyed hair, highlights, exaggerated spiky styles, patterned cuts or shaved heads. Wearing of jewellery of any kind is discouraged. Rings, earrings and bracelets can easily be damaged or lost, causing distress; they are also a potential cause of accidents. We are unable to accept responsibility for the care of jewellery or for any personal damage caused by the wearing of jewellery items. **We do not believe that nose studs or other fashion body jewellery/piercing have a place at Westerton** and strongly request that parents support us in this policy. Hair accessories should be modest and in tune with the uniform. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Lost Property

We are accumulating lost property in the year groups so if you have misplaced any items of clothing, please check with your year group. To make it easier for your child to find their lost items, please ensure that you name all their clothing.

Inclement Weather



If the weather is particularly wet or when it becomes freezing conditions, our staff in year groups will open the doors early to allow the children to enter the building. I would like to thank the staff for their kindness as this helps everyone enormously but due to the greater supervision ratios required for the younger children it may mean that doors for our Foundation Stage cannot open until enough staff are on the premises.

In conditions of snow and ice, our Site Manager, Mr Canning will try to clear and grit paths on the premises from the gates to the main doors of the Nursery, Key Stage 1, Year 3 and the main office. If possible and if time allows, with sufficient volunteers, paths will be cleared to Reception and other Key Stage 2 entrances. Parents will be guided on arrival about this.

We will always aim to keep the school open and all our staff know this and make every effort to get in, setting off earlier and preparing for hazardous journeys. A decision to close will only be made when insufficient numbers of staff can get in safely, to fulfil Health and Safety supervision requirements. In that unlikely event, we aim to make the decision as early as possible, by 8.15 am, informing parents using the following methods:

- **A text will be sent using ParentPay to the registered contacts only** so please ensure that you have kept your details up-to-date. If you've not already registered on ParentPay please contact the office for an activation letter.
- Information will be on the Leeds City Council website: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-closures>
- The school answering message and website will be updated as soon as possible.

Parent Well-Being Workshops

As part of our package of support for Children and Families at Westerton, the Well-Being Team are offering **FREE** access to a series of informative and supportive workshops in the 2019-20 academic year. Each workshop will run twice at 9.00 am - 10.30 am and 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm, offering a chance to access a morning or evening session. Please email Sam Eustace, our Emotional, Health and Well-Being Leader, via office@westerton.org.uk or ring the school office to book a place.

Tuesday 11th February - Workshop 3: The Impact of Video Games in the Classroom

Tuesday 12th May - Workshop 4: Supporting Anger

Tuesday 7th July - Workshop 5: Sleep

Further information to support **Parenting** and to engender wider understanding of **Hidden Disabilities** in children can also be found on our website under the 'Parent' tab.

This is also supported by an information video showing the impact of **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** on the life chances of a child. The video can be found by using the following pathway link: 'Key Info', 'SEND/Inclusion', 'Attachment Disorder and Resilience'.

As a mainstream academy, we are very grateful for your support, interest and understanding of colleagues and parents/carers prioritising the **balancing of inclusion and performativity** for all.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Nursery Admissions

The deadline for accepting Nursery applications for September 2020 and January 2021 will remain as 31st March with the new deadline, of 31st December, coming into effect for September 2021 and January 2022 applications. Letters for pupils who will be offered a place for September 2020 will be posted out in April.

Could A Career In Teaching Be For You?

Westerton Partnership provides high quality Initial Teacher Training. You can apply for your opportunity to train to be a teacher NOW! Apply today on UCAS by searching for the following course codes:

328W – Primary 3-7 Programme

328X – Primary 5-11 Programme



School Lottery

A ticket costs £1 per week and **all** funds raised go directly to **our** school. Each ticket will also enter you in **TWO** draws:

- A jackpot prize draw for **£25,000.00**.
- A local draw with a **guaranteed** prize for one of the supporters of our school. The size of the prize will depend on the number of tickets bought for the school that week.

The lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to improve our school. But we need your help to make the lottery the best it can be, so please support the lottery today - and who knows maybe you'll be the next £25,000 winner! To enter, please follow the link at : <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/westerton-primary-academy>

Community News

Groundwork Learning Centre, based in Morley, provide a variety of creative courses, e.g. Arts and Crafts, Fabric and Fibre Craft and Family History for adults. They "promote a positive learning environment that encourages growth and development of skills and confidence". For further information their website is www.groundworklearningcentre.com, telephone 01132380601 (option 5) or email skills@groundwork.org.uk

Sheffield Theatres Lyceum are showing Billionaire Boy by David Walliams from 26th September to 5th December. For more information, visit <http://www.birminghamstage.com/shows/billionaire-boy/about-the-show>

Morley Allstars Majorettes are recruiting male and female dancers from the age of 2 upwards, especially between the ages of 4 and 9. For further information, contact Shannon on 07740 574232 or visit their website, www.morleyallstarsmajorettes.com

Leeds Camps are holding holiday workshops for Reception to Year 7 in Garforth and Horsforth during February half term. Some of the activities include robotics, app design, Minecraft and lots more. To book a place, visit www.leedscamps.co.uk, telephone 0113 2249331 or email hello@leedscamps.co.uk

Dates For Your Diaries

Friday 31st January	9.15 am Reception Assembly
Friday 7th February	9.15 am Year 5 and 6 Assembly
Monday 10th February	Deadline for Year 3 Skelton Grange Payments
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day 4AH to Skelton Grange
Wednesday 12th February	4JW to Skelton Grange
Thursday 13th February	4AT to Skelton Grange
Friday 14th February	Non-Uniform Day - please make your donations on ParentPay 9.15 am Year 4 Assembly End of Half Term
Monday 24th February	Back to School
Tuesday 25th February	Individual Photographs (pm)
Wednesday 26th February	Individual Photographs (all day)
Thursday 27th February	Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening - bookings via School Jotter from Friday 7th February
Friday 28th February	Deadline for Cannon Hall Farm (Reception) Payments 9.15 am Year 3 Assembly
Tuesday 3rd March	Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening - bookings via School Jotter from Friday 7th February

As usual, there has been plenty to report on and we look forward to many exciting forthcoming events.

Thank you all, as always, for your support and interest.

Yours faithfully

S R Makin
Principal

Please remember to let us know if you change your email address or if you would like to subscribe to electronic newsletters please send an email to office@westerton.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

Newsletter for Primary Schools

January 2020 – Issue 3

Hello friends,

I hope you all return to a new term, and a new decade, feeling hopeful and positive about the future, both in your personal and work lives. I wish a Happy 2020 to you all.



Cannabis Edibles

This pack of 'sweets' was found at a high school in West Yorkshire. They are likely to contain cannabis (THC) which is a Class B drug.

If you find a child with these, please report this to our drugs coordinator, [Jess Clayton](#), (07719418068) for further advice.

- Remove the sweets and save them for testing by WYP, and establish where they were purchased, if possible
- Educate children that there may be dangerous substances in them which could make them feel unwell.



Engaging with school children across
West Yorkshire

Christmas themed Safety Talk given to children at the ECHO project – Dec 2019

PCSO's Newell and Riley had the pleasure of attending at the ECHO (Every Child Has Options) community group in Knottingley, after being asked to attend to give the children a talk on safety.

During their visit Aaron and Claire spoke about their role within the police and the great variety that their job as a PCSO has to offer. They then played an interactive game of, 'Police Safety Picture Bingo', before allowing the children to explore inside the police van and operate the lights & siren. At the end of the talk the children were given some goodies that had been kindly donated to them following on from the 'Knottingley Christmas Walk' event. They were also each given a very special police bear as a Christmas present which had been lovingly knitted by Claire's Grandma. A very big Thank You to her for taking the time to do that!





YOUNGMINDS

Young Minds 360 - Resources, Lesson Plans and Tips for Building a Culture of Positivity

If you're not familiar with Young Minds 360, their website is well worth a look. There are lots of free resources to support positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

I have attached the activity below, and one other, to this email, as an example of what's available.

How many positives

Instructions:

1. **Introduce** the idea of looking for positives, e.g. ask children to think of one good thing that happened the day before. Explain that thinking positively or negatively (being optimistic/pessimistic), can become a habit and can affect your mood and levels of happiness.
2. **Describe** how sometimes we can all get in the habit of noticing the negative stuff more than the positive, and this activity helps to rebalance this.
3. **Give out** the template and explain that they need to write some words in each shape, e.g. I have people around me I trust and who love me, I am a good friend, I can ask for help when I need it. They can write 2 or 3 per shape and think about how each one makes them feel.
4. **Share** some of your own features with the group, explaining how each one makes you feel. If anyone volunteers to share one of theirs, allow them to. Ask the children to keep their sheets safe and to remind themselves of their assets regularly.
5. **Revisit** this activity after some time so that children can add to their list of assets.



**If you wish to be removed from this circulation list, just let me know, or equally, if you would like to receive it directly, I'd be happy to add you!*

Sarah Whitehead - Education Liaison Officer – Local Policing

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