



# Westerton Primary Academy

Telephone: 0113 2533504

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The Leodis  
Academies  
Trust



**Principal:** Mrs S Makin M.A. B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH

Email: makinsr01@westerton.org.uk

**Deputy Principal:** Mrs A Lazarus B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH

**Vice Principal:** Miss A Booth B.A. (Hons) PGDE

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Colleagues

## **Covid 19 - Update**

### **Out-of-School Learning through See-Saw (Y1 – Y6)**

### **Safeguarding – Online Safety Guidance**

As we approach the end of the second week of our Emergency Provision, we would like to thank our frontline NHS parents and other crucial key workers for their work during this national crisis. We enthusiastically joined in the applause for their selflessness yesterday evening at 8.00p.m. and would like to thank them all for their appreciation of the child care we feel privileged in being able to provide for them.

Our children in the Emergency Provision also deserve a special mention. Their behaviour has been exemplary and engagement with the creative tasks has been very enthusiastic even as they observe the need to remain socially distant from each other. This is not easy when some are three years old and others are eleven. (Miss Booth and Mrs Salter have both reported that children have demonstrated a secure understanding of the need to keep apart and one child encouraged her toys to do the same. Just brilliant!)

In line with government guidance and with the help of our whole school community, we are able to keep our staffing levels down to a maximum of five adults, thus considerably reducing the risk of transferring the virus between colleagues and children in attendance. It also means that colleagues from our Therapeutic Team can focus on the welfare of our most vulnerable children and families at home. Our thanks go to all our parents who are making this possible by providing child care at home in the vast majority of cases, it really is very much appreciated.

We would also like to thank you for your patience while we have been finalising arrangements for home learning **after** the Easter holiday.

From w/c 20<sup>th</sup> April, we will be using the Seesaw app / website to set home learning which will be updated on a weekly basis. Unlike the VLE, we hope the new platform will allow more home-school interaction and allow children to quickly and easily share any successes they have had at home.

You will receive a 12-letter code via ParentPay message, email or letter from our school office in the next few days. The code is unique to each child and will automatically direct them to the correct group in the app.

Please follow these instructions when you have received your code:

- 1) Go to [app.seesaw.me](http://app.seesaw.me) or install the SeeSaw CLASS app
- 2) Choose "I'm a student"
- 3) Enter their unique home learning text code

When logging on for the first time, your child's first activity will be set up already which will hopefully familiarise them with several features of Seesaw.

Visit our School Website

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Staff will be uploading activities and ideas before the end of the Easter break. It is important to state that, while we are delighted that many children are completing lots of activities at home, it is just as important for children to remain active and helpful around the home. We will therefore be providing a mixture of activities focusing on basic skills as well as creative and active tasks that do not always rely on “screen time”.

The teaching staff would love to see anything our children have completed, so please encourage your child to share away on the app. For those parents on Twitter, you can also tag in the school by using the Westerton Twitter account for anything particularly impressive (@WestertonPS).

As in previous weeks, for any technical difficulties in accessing any aspects of home learning e.g. children’s logins, app access etc. please email [poolt01@westerton.org.uk](mailto:poolt01@westerton.org.uk) and we will aim to resolve any issues as soon as possible.

### Online Safety

The following guidance has been provided by Leeds City Council Safeguarding Team around online learning:

We recognise that modern technology offers significant opportunities for learning and socialising and ever more so in these difficult times. Responsible use of technology to learn, communicate with friends and family and access support will be really important as the opportunities for face to face communication are restricted.

We want to ensure that children and parents/carers understand how to ensure young people stay safe online.

#### Advice for Staying Safe Online.

Keep personal information private, do not share personal details like your address, school, phone number or location. Avoid posting anything that can identify you to a specific location such as your school, football club etc. That includes avoiding posting pictures in an identifiable uniform or saying where you are going online.

Make sure your security settings are in place so that you control who sees anything you share online and check these regularly. Don’t share your passwords even with friends, make them hard to guess and if you think your account has been hacked or cloned report it straight away and change your password.

Remember that people online are not always who they say they are. Never agree to meet someone in person you have only met online. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable online, log off or block them and tell a trusted adult. Use reporting buttons to report inappropriate behaviour.

Think before you post or send anything online, would you be happy for anyone to see it? Even if you send something privately, the person you are sending it to could screen shot it and share it. Would you be happy for your family to see it? What about a future employer?



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Don't accept or open files from people you don't know, they could contain viruses or inappropriate messages or pictures. Delete suspicious emails.

Not all information online is reliable, check if it is a trusted source before using it. Beware of pop ups that take you to less trusted sites and check web addresses look genuine. Beware of fraudulent emails, texts and links that take you to fake sites and never give your bank details even if they are promising you a cash prize or refund.

Be aware that most people are likely to exaggerate online and only share their perception of events, people often only share the best times. It's not likely to reflect their everyday real life and you shouldn't compare it to yours.

It's good to know what's going on in the world but if it gets too much take a break from it and do something that takes you off line and helps you relax or focus on something else.

If you do send something you regret or feel you shouldn't, please tell someone so we can try and help you put things right. Don't let anyone use something you have shared online to make you do or say things you are not okay with.

### **What do I need to do if I am worried?**

All staff who work in school have a responsibility to safeguard and protect children and young people. If you are worried and wish to speak to one of Westerton's Safeguarding Team, please contact us on the school emergency number: 0744 9419082 or email to [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk)

If you are worried you have been a victim of online abuse, or you're worried about somebody else you can also report this to CEOP online at [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) have advice for all different ages including parents/carers on all sorts of online issues and where you can get support.

If you're being bullied online and would like to talk to someone in confidence you can also speak to Childline on 0800 1111 or talk to them online at [www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline)

**House Party App** – LCC Safeguarding Team has sent guidance around this app. House Party is a live streaming platform and as such, screenshots, unsolicited messages and self-generated inappropriate imagery can put young people at risk. Links to 'rooms' can also be shared publicly to other platforms, which could see other uninvited users joining. 'Rooms' should be locked to prevent uninvited guests from joining. Remember, all rooms will lock by default if a user enables 'private mode.' If an uninvited guest joins a room they can easily 'friend' others taking part in the live stream. It appears that when a friend is invited, their friends can also join a 'room' without an invitation. If you are currently using this app please check your settings to ensure you are keeping children safe.

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There will be further updates next week but, for now, we would encourage you all to continue following government advice, stay safe, stay apart but do stay in touch with friends and loved ones to promote wellbeing in any way you can.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin  
Principal  
SLMT

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