

8th May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

COVID 19 Lockdown Update

We are optimistic that these weekly letters will soon be entitled 'Reopening Update' as we wait the update from the government on Sunday this weekend. As soon as we have further guidance, our plans as a Trust and as an Academy will be drawn up strategically and communicated via the newsletter, text and the website.

Home Learning

As always, we would like to pass on the thanks of colleagues for the ways in which the children are engaging with the tasks on Tapestry and See Saw. Your feedback is helping us to shape the provision in different ways and now that most of the access issues are resolved, the levels of challenge are increasing for the different year groups. This means that your Class Teachers will be able to provide Whole Class Feedback to tasks in much the same way that they did at school prior to the lockdown. It may also mean that resources such as answer sheets for mathematical calculations can be provided for self-assessment. To inspire the children to keep up their writing skills, we are including the details of two competitions for story and poetry. We would love to hear from your children if they are able to enter either of these.

Wellbeing

Although the academic expectations may seem to be increasing now, we have no wish to put undue pressure on family life in the home. Wellbeing remains paramount at this time and we would urge parents to contact us via email at office@westerton.org.uk should the need arise for additional support. Emails will be passed on to our Therapeutic Team who will make contact by a telephone call. At this time, we are acutely aware that parenting, parental expectations and parental responsibilities of work differ hugely. Whilst it is impossible to meet the disparate needs of everyone all the time, we do continually strive to do so.

Sadly, we have also been made aware of several families amongst our community now who have now lost loved ones at this difficult time. We have been so sorry to hear of this and thank you for keeping us informed when this has been the case. It may be that specific face to face bereavement support cannot be possible until we reopen the school but our Therapeutic Team can make telephone contact. Please do contact us if you feel we can help.

As I close this letter, I am very aware that my four grandchildren appear to be much bigger when I see them on screen than when I last saw them in person. (*"Come closer to the*

screen Granny, what has happened to your hair?" Straight from the mouths of babes!) My heart goes out to other grandparents out there, knowing this Bank Holiday weekend is not going to be what it should be with family and friends. However, we can make the most of it and keep the humorous messages flowing to keep us all smiling. Do watch out for our next video, coming soon!

Have a lovely weekend everyone. Let us stay optimistic that we will meet up again soon and celebrate VE Day in style.

Very best wishes

Stephanie Makin

Principal and the Westerton Staff Team