



## Westerton Primary Academy

Telephone: 0113 2533504  
Email: [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk)

Leodis  
Academies  
Trust



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

**Email:** [makinsr01@westerton.org.uk](mailto:makinsr01@westerton.org.uk)

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

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

**Vice Principal:** Mr T Pool B.Sc. (Hons) PGCE

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

### **COVID 19 – Lockdown Update**

As our time estranged from each other in the lockdown continues, we can at least be thankful that the weather has continued to be kind. There have been some truly lovely moments which bring a smile and give us cause for celebration. Our new baby (yes, we have now claimed baby 'Oliver' as a Westerton mascot) is going from strength to strength with enough clothes for a baby boutique whilst his mum should henceforth be known as Wonder Woman! We have been really touched by the responses of our community striving to support each other and sharing positive vibes. Two baby gates have been delivered now and a third has been donated, thank you so much to our donors for these. Such kindness which also prevents accidents and promotes safety is very much appreciated.

### **Re-opening Speculation**

Whilst much of the information updating us via the media can be helpful (get well more quickly please Boris!) some is not. Speculation about re-opening and the possible permutations of separate schools planning such a feat individually, could not be more undermining and de-stabilising. Please do be reassured that we will await full clear guidance from the government and will communicate any plans for re-opening to all parents through formal channels. Unsurprisingly, nothing is happening yet.

### **Home Learning**

We have been able to provide 'grab bags' of school resources for our children to use at home. To date approximately forty of these have been collected from outside the main entrance and we will continue to provide a number of these on a daily basis, over the coming weeks, topping up stocks as necessary.

The Tapestry program and our SeeSaw app are being used very widely already and colleagues continue to be very impressed by the extensive engagement of our children at home. Our year group teams of teachers continue to respond, sometimes on behalf of each other if some are leading our Emergency Provision and at different times of the day/night. Do not be surprised to find that colleagues are catching up with correspondence at very odd times, depending on their own home/child commitments. Thank you colleagues for this and parents for your understanding.

We know that there have still been some issues with the codes for the home learning app going awry. Mr Pool has been busy trying to iron out any implementation wrinkles for you but if these still persist, please do contact him at [poolt01@westerton.org.uk](mailto:poolt01@westerton.org.uk). He may well have aged considerably the next time you see him!

There have been some queries from parents with children in different year groups and we understand that trying to complete different activities with children of different ages can be very challenging. Please do not feel under pressure to do so, if combining activities as a family and *doing less but doing it together* is more meaningful in your particular situation, do feel free to do so.

## **Wellbeing**

There is no doubt we are all missing each other. Many thanks go out to Mr Eustace, our Emotional Health and Wellbeing Leader, for creating our first video of stills conveying staff messages of positivity and encouragement to stay safe. Knowing how demonstrative and creative we all are, there are likely to be more of these, perhaps themed, so apologies in advance for the outfits!

Our Therapeutic Team continue to check in with vulnerable families and children. We are aware that such intense family time can bring about additional pressures and since we would usually be offering parental support as an academy, Mr Eustace and his team are determined to continue to try to provide this remotely. The parental workshops providing advice and support, which would have been scheduled to take place on school premises this term, will instead be offered through Zoom Workshops. They will last approximately one and a half hours and will focus separately on the following themes: Anger; Sleep; Worry; Anxiety. If you feel that accessing any or indeed all of the workshops would be beneficial and would like to signify your interest, please do contact our team directly at [Wellbeing@westerton.org.uk](mailto:Wellbeing@westerton.org.uk). Please do be aware that not everyone will read this correspondence at the same time so it may be that you may wish to pass this information on to others. This would be appreciated and could help to widen our audience.

It only remains to say have a great weekend everybody and please continue to follow the guidelines and stay safe. Please do make the best use of social media to keep each other smiling (guffawing even) at some of the jokes out there which simply cannot be shared in this forum! Anything appropriately anecdotal which you would be happy to share in one of our updates then do email us at [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk). We will sign off now before the office computer begins to spark!

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin  
Principal