

3rd July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

Covid 19 – Update

We are really pleased to be able to say at the end of this week that the re-integration of Year Three and Year Five has been successful. The children have returned to school in their respective bubbles of no more than 15 and this has gone very smoothly. In staff meetings and updates, our classroom colleagues have remarked positively on the **excellent behaviour** and learning attitudes of all the children present. Your continuous support at home has ensured that all hygiene protocols within school are being closely observed without challenge and this, in turn, is very reassuring for staff. Thank you all for this.

Understandably in the current circumstances, as the children have grown during lockdown and will continue to do so, our **uniform** rules have been somewhat relaxed although the academy colours of green and white are still observed by most. However, in September, as we aim to return to school in line with Government guidance, the uniform policy will be strictly observed again. This will include our policy on hair and jewellery. We would urge parents and children to consult the school brochure on the website to ensure they are compliant with this as September draws nearer, particularly when visiting the hairdressers and barbers. Parents, we do feel your pain with any negotiations which must take place over this and thank you in advance for your perseverance!

As we have been unable to allow items to go between home and school during reopening, we do anticipate that all children accessing school this term will be bringing home their **personal items**, including their PE kits on their **last day** of attendance. It will not be possible to safely provide a quarantine area for any unclaimed clothing of pupils who will not be attending before the end of term. Unfortunately such items will have to be discarded at the end of term to allow for our contractors to move freely throughout the building. We do still remain hopeful that all our children are able to access school for their allocated days before the end of term and we do encourage parents to facilitate this wherever possible.

We have had several queries now about the **Westerton Kids' Club**, our before and after school provision, for September. It is very gratifying that this has become increasingly popular and we now have a lengthy waiting list for the provision. However, as the Government guidance this week stated that year group bubbles (to be allowed in larger numbers) must not mingle. Therefore, we are really struggling to see how we can open this to the usual variety of age groups whilst upholding distancing protocols, it may not be

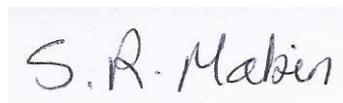
possible until the rules are relaxed further. If we can make adjustments to do this, we will keep you informed of any provision we may be able to offer. Thank you for your patience with this and to colleagues who are trying to solve this puzzle and consider all other aspects of our September Reopening Plan as additional guidance emerges.

Transition remains one of our top priorities, both for the children leaving us and for those moving on within the school. The Year Six Writing Transition project will really help our children moving to Woodkirk to prepare for Year Seven and polish those crucial skills to be secondary ready. We urge all our 'leavers' to keep up their best efforts with this both in school (albeit for only two days per week) and at home through home learning. This is also the time of year when we would schedule our Class Carousels to introduce children to their new teachers and classrooms. The circumstances prohibit this but we do wish to make contact with the children in virtual meetings and provide opportunities for discussion with new teachers. A letter will be coming to parents and children shortly with details of separately timed Zoom meetings and support, in line with all safeguarding guidance.

A lovely problem has also emerged through queries this week from parents wanting to present staff with end of year gifts. Please understand there is no expectation at all from colleagues for any gifts at the end of the year. However, if there is any intention to do so, children can bring items in on their last day of attendance. The staff will be able to store them securely (for quarantine purposes if you will) and open them safely at a later date. It is really quite remarkable to consider the variety of hurdles this virus has given us all but we do try to find a way over them, whenever possible!

Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation at this time. Please do all continue to be safe and well, especially this weekend as the rules relax further, we still all need to look after each other. We very much look forward to welcoming back our two remaining year groups, Year Four and Year Two, on Monday.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. R. Makin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light grey rectangular background.

Stephanie Makin

Principal and the Westerton Team