



Westerton Primary Academy

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7th September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

COVID 19 – Reopening Plan Update

We do hope you have had a restful and enjoyable Summer despite the undoubted challenges of keeping safe and the disappointment of inevitable holiday cancellations. It has not been easy for any of us but, following the extended break we are very much looking forward to welcoming our children back albeit in these unusual circumstances.

Fortunately, we are able to proceed with the **Reopening Plan** shared prior to the break. This can still be found on our website along with the **Rationale**, under the 'Letters' tab and provides the specifics of the staggered timings for entry and collection. As the plan states, the staggered timetable will be continuing throughout Phase 1 and Phase 2 this term. We do not anticipate moving to Phase 3 before the end of term but if this does change, we will of course update you accordingly in line with government guidance.

Correspondence throughout the break has conveyed the **levels of anxieties** felt by parents, children and colleagues about the return to school. Please do know that we remain completely committed to the safety and welfare of all, our measures are robust and will be vigilantly upheld. We recognise the need to have our children return for their education but their **well-being** is our first priority and will be addressed supportively, particularly during the phased return this week.

We have also had some requests sharing concern about the **staggered timings** and the inconvenience this causes, particularly for families and childminders caring for more than one child. We must ask you all to understand that **bending the protocols** to accommodate individual needs could **render them ineffective**, especially for a large organisation. This, in turn, heightens any residual anxieties further at a time when we must try to reduce them and provide reassurance. Your co-operation with prompt drop off and collection at the gates in the time windows given will help things run smoothly, especially with class teachers on the playground to meet, greet and dismiss. Time taken to practise these procedures with half classes this week will help us all to ensure we are well-versed for Phase 2 next week, from the 14th September. We do apologise for the inconvenience this will cause but it cannot be rectified as yet.

Fortunately, the building works are complete and we have a freshly redecorated environment which looks very smart. Our thanks go to Mr Canning, our Site Manager and the site team for helping ensure we were ready on time. We fervently hope the children will be able to access more than their own classroom bubble before too long but this will not be possible during Phases 1 and 2.

Although our kitchen team will be preparing cold packed lunches with sandwich choices for all Reception, KS1 and those requesting them in KS2. There will still be **no hot meals** during Phase 1 or Phase 2 due to

the Health and Safety risks inherent in providing them at this time. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Our **Westerton Kids' Club** will be opening from 14th September, as planned in line with governmental request. The new accessibility path across the field is complete and will be used to allow for the children in that particular 'bubble' to join their class bubbles when delivered by WKC colleagues.

We are all aware of the need for consistency where possible with this situation but also, realistically, our local situation could change at very short notice. Our home learning platforms, SeeSaw and Tapestry will continue to be used for homework tasks, for home/school communications and we will be ready to resume greater use of them should the need arise. We hope it does not. We will continue to restrict the items going between home and school, to avoid cross contamination where possible and this, sadly, must extend to books. The children will have access to varied reading materials via our online library 'MYON' but, for now, will be discouraged from using our Accelerated Reading community libraries in school.

We will, of course, continue to update you regularly with any changes to the situation and answers to collective queries as they arise. We very much look forward to seeing you soon and making our 'new normal' as enjoyable as possible for the children.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Makin
Principal and the Westerton Team