



## Westerton Primary Academy

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16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

### COVID 19 – Update

The ending of this week, thankfully, has been more settled in some ways than the beginning and we currently still have almost full attendance in school (98%) with the children of Years Two, Three, Four, Five and Six. Our children in Nursery, Reception and Year One are able to access home learning via 'Tapestry' and this is being led by our colleagues also self-isolating at home. Thank you to all those impacted who have engaged with our alternative methods of teaching and learning so smoothly. It is quite possible with the current situation that we will all continue to become ever more practised at switching with versatility between the different learning mediums.

### Home Learning

Our colleagues leading the learning with our children from Year Two to Year Six are also adapting their teaching and learning materials for use on our online learning platform, 'SeeSaw.' We sincerely hope to avoid the need to collapse year group bubbles for our older children for as long as possible but, as with all schools city and nationwide, should this be the case again, we are preparing. Please do be aware that **colleagues** using SeeSaw to engage, support and communicate with **pupils** (rather than parents) will be using our policy of **whole class feedback** and announcements. This is in contrast to the individual responses and interactions with parents on Tapestry which is used more for communication with parents of much younger, less independent learners. If parents of Year Two – Year Six children do have queries unrelated to learning tasks, please do contact the academy by emailing either [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk) or [wellbeing@westerton.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@westerton.org.uk). Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate Senior Leader or member of the Therapeutic Team.

### Free School Meals

We are concerned that some of our children who are **absent due to Covid 19 and/or in self-isolation** are entitled to **Free School Meals**. To ensure they are still in receipt of support as they were during the lockdown period, the families affected will be contacted by email or text by the company '**Wonde**' who will be distributing vouchers accordingly. However, please be aware that this support is not available for those entitled to the generic 'Universal Free School Meal' offer.

### Remembering Jessica

As we inch our way towards half term, we are aware this is a very significant time for us as a community since it is a year ago that we lost one of our Year Four children, Jessica Weaver. Jessica was a very valued member of her class, year group and the academy. We had planned a very special commemorative event for the last day before half term, 23<sup>rd</sup> October with Jessica's family and we are very disappointed that this cannot go ahead in the current situation. Our **Fancy Dress Fun Day**, planned instead, would be something which Jessica would have loved! We are asking for a donation of £2 per participant and the proceeds will be shared between the academy and our chosen charity this year, in honour of Jessica, **Children with**

**Cancer UK.** We do encourage everyone to participate whether at school or at home and we look forward to seeing the outfits. Whilst keeping in touch with Jessica's family, we have learned that her older brother, Oliver, now a Year Seven pupil, has started a website to help remember her: <https://mrweaver.co.uk/>. On the website, Oliver speaks about taking part in the **Game2Cure** event for Children with Cancer UK on the **14<sup>th</sup> November** this year. Any support for Oliver or even additional participants would be very welcome for this worthy cause close to our hearts.

### **Thank you**

Again, we have received some very touching words of support from parents and grandparents this week. These are shared across staff groups and really are very uplifting in such difficult times. We do want to thank all parents, carers and child-minders again for supporting our staggered starts and endings, for your punctuality and understanding of the wider complexities as positive cases inevitably arise and we try to promote safety for all.

Please do take care, stay safe, alert and have a lovely restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin  
Principal and the Westerton Team