



## Westerton Primary Academy

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Leodis  
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Trust



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23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

### **Covid 19 Update**

During the full lockdown, you will recall our incredibly talented staff created a video for children and parents so you would all remember what we looked like. Well... we actually did it again and, for Westertonian eyes only, Mr Sam Spielberg Eustace has directed, produced, edited, spliced and diced our extraordinary performance of ***Hakuna Matata*** from The Lion King. This extravaganza was created for you and saved until now, lest the half term break be undermined by the pandemic and, sadly, it has been. The production can be accessed via SeeSaw and Tapestry and we do hope this gives you all a giggle. You will at least have fun spotting the performers, even those disguised by fancy dress and face paints!

We have greatly missed our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Westerton Kids' Club children and colleagues for the past two weeks. Just as we felt there was some semblance of a new 'normal' emerging for us, the virus struck and it was unfortunately necessary to close these bubbles. We are grateful to all who have been so committed to home learning through Tapestry at this time and to colleagues who have kept working at home. We are very optimistic that all bubbles will be returning as normal from the 2<sup>nd</sup> November after the half term break and this will include our before and after school provision. However, we will still need to be made aware if any of our families and colleagues need to access a Covid test during the half term and we would very much appreciate being updated of the results. Our email [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk) will be monitored closely through the break by the Senior Leadership and Management Team. Please do email us as necessary so we can continue to support the track and trace system as necessary. Of course, we sincerely hope we do not hear from you!

As we do return after the break, we will continue to operate in year group bubbles so that there can be a crossover of staff within a year group to support with cover issues. This helps to ensure that specific intervention work for individual needs can continue and, the monitoring of shared facilities across year groups. We will continue with Phase Two of our 'Reopening Plan' which means that staggered start times and dismissal times will remain the same. Thank you to all our parents and our childminders for your understanding with these, we do understand the inconvenience they can cause but they are still deemed necessary.

The one way system of collection for Early Years and Key Stage One from the Westerton Road gate will also continue and we do request that all adults remember to maintain a safe social distance from each other as they wait to collect the children. This would be much appreciated and will help to alleviate anxieties in the current circumstances.

### **Additional Support**

It may be that some families have difficulty in accessing food at this time, during half term. If this is the case we can broker contact with local support agencies who can help so please do email us via [wellbeing@westerton.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@westerton.org.uk), and your concerns will be picked up by our Therapeutic Team working through the holiday. Thank you to the colleagues involved for this provision of service, it is very much appreciated.

### Parent Consultations

Our Parent Consultations will be done differently this year in line with the restrictions and parents will have now received a letter with specific information. We know a virtual meeting is not going to be ideal but it will be an opportunity to share news about how your child has settled back into the academic routines, learning behaviours and their wellbeing. Usually a Parent Consultation appointment would involve the pupil, the parent and the teacher but our experience with the virtual meetings to date show that they run more efficiently, when time is limited, without distractions. Children, please do not be offended but we feel these meetings will be much more productive at this time if restricted to parents and teachers, thank you for your understanding with this. The meeting will also be an opportunity to consider home learning routines. We really hope there will not be another partial or full lockdown, but if this were to occur, we will strive to ensure the learning can continue uninterrupted with our virtual support.

Parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be given an extended virtual meeting at a different time so that one of our SENDCo colleagues can also attend as appropriate.

### Fancy Dress

It has been a very exciting last day to the half term with such a wonderful variety of outfits on show at school and through our learning platforms. Thank you to everyone who has participated and contributed to the fun. We have managed to raise **£500 so far** for Children with Cancer and for the academy and the money is still coming in through ParentPay. Unfortunately, any donations of actual coins cannot be accepted and will be coming back home with the children so we do request that ParentPay is used instead. Many of the costumes were related to Halloween which is understandable and it was brilliant to be able to provide an opportunity to wear them in the absence of the 'Monster Disco' which we usually hold at this time of year. Like most seasonal events, the pandemic restrictions tend to thwart the fun but staying safe inside, even at this time of year over the half term break is still a priority.

Thank you to the parents who sent in this poem which really cheered our colleagues up so we thought that we would share it with everyone:

T'was the week before half term and all through the land  
The teachers were tired of washing their hands  
Of cleaning the desks, and the drawers and the pens  
Of reminding their class not to cuddle their friends  
Tired of hand gel and soap, bleach and wipes  
Of passwords and google and all things that swipe  
Of trying to stand at the length of a lion  
From friends whose shoulders they wanted to cry on

T'was the week before half term and all through the land  
The parents were trying to make up great plans  
That don't involve meeting, or greeting, or places  
That in these strange times don't resemble safe spaces  
They look to the teachers, and all they have done  
To make school inviting, inspiring and fun  
To see past the problems, the issues and rules  
To bring back the joy and excitement of school

Thank you being the safe place, the learning  
For standing there strong with the children returning  
For finding solutions that don't feel so strange  
With no funds or magicians to help you arrange  
For stories and spellings and phonics and play  
For taking the fear of this moment away

By

Esther Nzenza October 2020

**Half Term Activities**

We have been contacted by Temple Newsam House and by Discover Yorkshire Days Out with activities that are taking part over the half term and the website links, if you wish to have a day out, are below:

<https://www.leedstownhall.co.uk/whats-on/family/temple-newsam-house/6343>

[Educational Visits Discover Yorkshire Days Out](#)

Please do have a restful break, we very much look forward to seeing you all again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin  
Principal and the Westerton Team