



Westerton Primary Academy

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13th November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

COVID 19 – Update

It has been another somewhat turbulent week dealing with the impact of the virus, particularly in Key Stage Two this week. As always, the swift actions taken by parents of children who may have tested positive or indeed themselves and colleagues, have enabled us to respond speedily and responsibly to try to contain the potential spread. This has been complicated further by the **random control testing** to which some of our families have been subjected. In some cases, although asymptomatic and showing no signs of illness at all, if the test result is positive, the same track and trace contacts and self-isolation must be imposed. That said, there can still be several days between the test and the result which in itself is very tricky to negotiate although this situation is improving now. There is no doubt it has been very awkward but we do thank you all, again, for your cooperation.

As the situation rumbles on we are very pleased to have been able to welcome back returning children and colleagues towards the end of this week. They have all been missed and it is lovely to see them. To those still unwell, we continue to wish them a full recovery. We are fully aware how serious the virus can be and a return to full health can be a lengthy challenging process.

Fortunately, we have been able to secure some excellent and very experienced supply colleagues who are becoming familiar faces to us and are very keen to prioritise work at Westerton. This is a testament to all our children, parents, childminders and colleagues. Thank you all, we know that many schools are currently struggling to keep open with the paucity of available supply teachers at the moment. These colleagues are very thorough in their liaison with returning substantive colleagues and share all information on pupil progress, welfare and relationships. This means that even if our Class Teachers have been absent for an extended period, when well, they are in a position to share information with parents through the virtual meetings this year. We do thank colleagues and parents for their flexibility in going through the process in this way, it is very much appreciated and we are certainly learning from the approach as we implement it, needs must!

Home Learning

Throughout this week, Mr Pool distributed a **home learning survey** via email. Please do complete this for us and return it. This will provide the important information we need in order to prioritise the support we offer in the event of having to collapse further bubbles due to the pandemic. We fear this will be inevitable though, of course, we work to avoid doing so.

Children in Need

Today, we have been rather **spotty**, in support of Children in Need and this has helped to raise our spirits in time for the weekend. At the last count we had managed to raise **£537** and the money is still coming in. Well done and thank you everyone for your participation.

We are also very proud of the fact that **£728** was raised, and counting, with our recent Non-Uniform Day to support the charity for Children with Cancer, in memory of our lovely Jessica Weaver, and to raise funds for school.

Anti-Bullying Week and Anti-Racism Day

Next week is our annual **Anti-Bullying Week from the 16th November**. In spite of the current challenges we are going ahead with this important curriculum focus and our PSHE Leader, Miss Gill, has distributed activities across the academy to engage the children. As one crucial aspect of this, we are embracing the national cause against racism and on **Friday, 20th November**, we are inviting all our academy community to **Wear Red against Racism**. There is no financial donation requested for this event, but we would greatly appreciate it if conversations in the home could support the academy in embracing diversity and promoting our values in upholding mutual respect and understanding. These are the very values which continue to make our academy so popular.

Parking

Whilst the staggered starts and ends of the day are working as well as we can expect, we are still experiencing problems in the staff car park. Please do avoid the car park if at all possible. **The marked bays are for staff only and only blue badge permit holders may park in the disabled bays**. Respect for this necessity will make things so much easier for parents, carers or colleagues who do have disabilities and remove the need for awkward conversations between parents which can easily cause offence. The **Drop Off Zone** is **only for dropping off in the mornings**. It cannot be used for parking and waiting between drops or collections. This only causes unsafe congestion and confusion for the children waiting to be collected. Thanking you for your understanding with this matter.

ParentPay

Please ensure that you keep your details up-to-date on ParentPay as this is being used as the method of communication especially for COVID related matters.

We look forward to seeing all who are well enough next week and, in the meantime do have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin
Principal and the Westerton Team