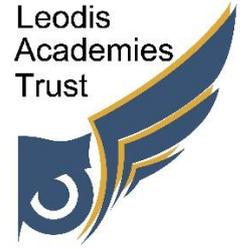




## Westerton Primary Academy

Telephone: 0113 2533504  
Email: [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk)

Leodis  
Academies  
Trust



**Principal:** Mrs S Makin M.A. B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH  
**Email:** [makinsr01@westerton.org.uk](mailto:makinsr01@westerton.org.uk)  
**Deputy Principal:** Mrs A Lazarus B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH  
**Vice Principal:** Miss A Booth B.A. (Hons) PGDE  
**Vice Principal:** Mr T Pool B.Sc. (Hons) PGCE

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

### **COVID 19 - Update**

It has been another turbulent and challenging week for ourselves and Woodkirk Academy with the necessary closure of both **Year Four** and **Year Ten** respectively. This is due to the number of positive cases identified, close contacts and low staffing capacity levels. The other eleven primary provisions from our Morley Family of Schools (MFoS) have faced similar difficulties with bubble closures with only two schools as yet apparently untouched by the virus to date. We all appreciate that the detriment to wellbeing, learning and inconvenience this causes for all of us is only surpassed by the concerns for preserving the health and safety of all staff, pupils and families.

The time lapse between testing and notification of a result can *still* be problematic, as in the cases of random control test participation. It is particularly difficult if children appear to be asymptomatic but then receive a positive test result, days later, which then triggers the need to self-isolate for others (in some cases *again*) due to proximity contact. We do thank everyone again for your understanding when this has had to happen. Headteachers from our MFoS this morning reported that the vast majority of parents are still unstintingly supportive at this time and we would certainly echo this at Westerton.

Unfortunately, the constraints of the congested building we have, with **shared hygiene facilities** between the three classes of each year group cohort mean the year group bubbles cannot be subdivided. We of course remain committed to continuing our hygiene protocols, maintaining social distancing and adult face coverings/visors but we simply cannot arrange for additional toilets to be installed, even temporarily, at this time. There simply is not enough space.

Where we can use our own staff within year group bubbles to support additional needs and continue interventions whilst covering absence, this will take place and, whenever possible we will enlist supply colleagues when needed to keep open. However, all schools are finding there are dwindling numbers of available, supply teachers who are well with the current situation.

Thank you to all staff, children and parents for engaging with our home learning platforms during self-isolation. We are grateful, especially to colleagues juggling the demands of teaching children still in school and partial class numbers needing to self-isolate. Your commitment really is highly valued.

### **Parent Consultations**

Where some virtual Parent Consultation appointments have had to be cancelled or postponed due to the illness of colleagues and/or parents, these will be re-organised shortly and parents impacted will be contacted with a new date. Again, thank you all for your flexibility and understanding with this.

We have been asked to provide child care for the children of Key Workers when bubbles have to self-isolate, particularly for a second time to support working parents. Unfortunately this request cannot be accommodated at this time due to **lack of space or staffing capacity**. Our Emergency Key Worker provision worked well during the full lockdown when the Westerton Kids Club (WKC) house was available and the rest of the school was empty. Staff

who were well enough were on a rota to provide that support for parents. With schools struggling to stay open, the well staff are in classrooms or leading learning from home in imposed self-isolation. We are trying to ensure the WKC is in use as normal for as long as possible.

We were very sorry to lose Mrs Amanda Haigh, our Deputy Manager of the WKC this week. Amanda is retiring early and relocating and we wish her all the best for the future. We have been fortunate to be able to recruit and welcome Miss Rachel Marshall, to succeed Mrs Haigh. Miss Marshall has already joined our WKC Manager, Miss Morton, and the rest of our team this week.

### **Applications for Reception in September 2021**

Parents of children who are due to commence Reception in September 2021 should have received information regarding the applications online process. Applications can be made until midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We have placed a frequently asked questions sheet on our website at:

<https://www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk/schooloffice/admissions> and you are encouraged to read the 'Before you apply' section on the Leeds Admissions website.

Leeds Admissions will be holding a Facebook question and answers session on the dates below or you can contact the Admissions Team on 0113 222 4414 if you have any further questions.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 4.00 – 5.00 pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 2.00 – 3.00 pm

### **Log-in Details and Passwords**

To prevent extra work in the school office, please could you ensure that you keep your child's log-in details and passwords for all the VLE platforms in relation to home-learning. These were sent home with your child in September.

### **Westerton Primary Academy has joined the 'My School Fund' initiative to help boost our budget**

We're pleased to announce that we are now part of the My School Fund initiative. This innovative scheme allows us to be able to boost our school's budget with your help.

#### **How does it work?**

Parents, guardians and carers can sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback on the things they buy in participating retail stores, including Sainsbury's and Argos. As you spend you'll receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school on the My School Fund website we'll also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Add that all up across our school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

#### **How to get involved**

Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) to register for free and link to Westerton Primary Academy. From there, everything you spend in participating stores will go towards helping boost our budget, plus your own!

Sign up today at [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org)

### **WF3 Kindness Award**

Our very own Mr Eustace has been nominated for the Best of WF3 Awards 2020 for his work with our families. The quote on his award is *"Mr Eustace of Westerton School has provided a lot of support to mine and other families, not just during lockdown but for the duration of my child being a pupil at Westerton. He is a 'normal' person and appreciates the struggles that families have, he doesn't judge he just helps."*

Congratulations on your nomination for the award Mr Eustace, such recognition from our community is an accolade in itself and you are in very good company. We are very proud of your work, our whole Therapeutic Team and all colleagues representing the academy.

The lovely ideas from parents for supporting more vulnerable members of our community continue to come in for Christmas with links to our local churches. We have had some lovely suggestions to try to safely create hampers to donations or to raffle as we embrace the Christmas spirit and the festive season. Please do keep them coming in. Decisions for a way forward with this, especially in the absence of our Christmas Fair this year will be announced shortly.

We are also considering the best ways to celebrate Christmas in school in the circumstances so that our children do not miss out on all the usual treats. It is hard to consider that some of our youngest children may not remember anything different to the impact of Covid in schools. We all long for the future when we can change that!

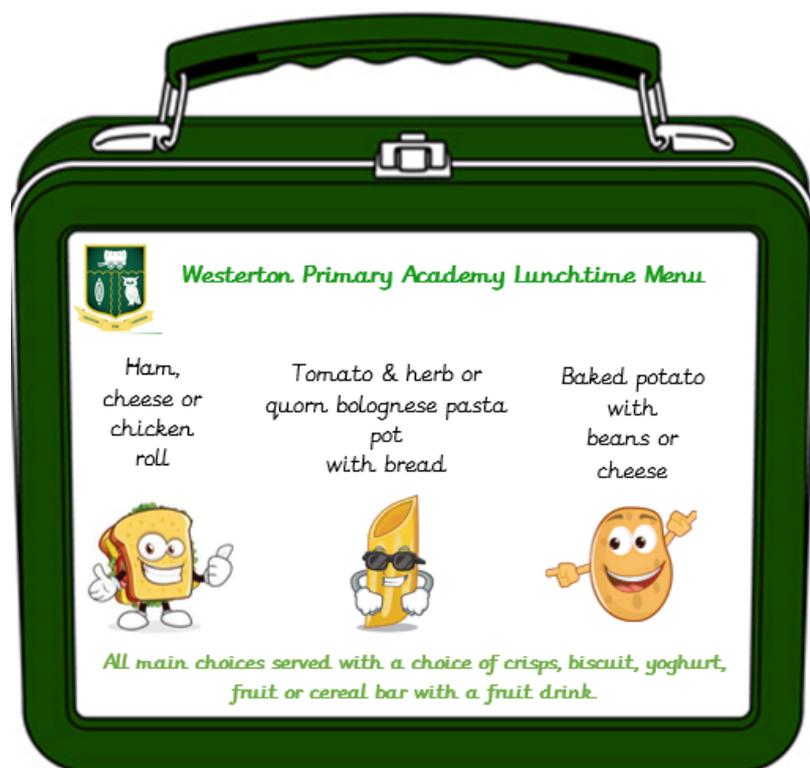
### **Anti-Bullying and Anti-Racism**

Our annual themed Anti-Bullying Week has gone well, with different activities throughout the academy raising awareness of perceptions of bullying, reasons for it, strategies to combat it and the impact of disagreements and conflict on emotional wellbeing. At this time, visits and performances are restricted but, optimistically are planned for later this academic year to reinforce the key messages. Thank you to Miss Gill, our PSHE Leader for arranging all materials for this, to all colleagues for supporting our ethos and to our Therapeutic Team in enabling us to balance the moral imperative of being inclusive whilst developing resilience and understanding of different individual needs.

We do thank everyone for participating in our **Wear Red Against Racism** day today. Again, this is such an important message for our whole community and beyond. The support of all parents in appreciating diversity with respect and understanding has been demonstrated today. More importantly, your support in addressing any racist issues which may arise in the future will be equally valuable.

### **School Meals**

Though still without a dining hall (since the space must continue to serve as a staff room of sorts for social distancing) we are now pushing forward with two hot meal options in addition to sandwiches. Thank you to our Catering Team for managing this in the limited space with staff on rotation, for serving and for still delivering to classrooms. Though still a logistical challenge, all your efforts are appreciated in trying to ensure our children have a nutritious, balanced warm meal at this time of year. Thank you also to our Healthy Schools colleagues, Mr Emmett and Miss Harris, for consulting on this and the rather fab menu design below! The menu is also available on our website at: <https://www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk/schooloffice/dinner-menu>.



### **Scholastic Book Club**

Our Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/westerton-primary/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. **Unfortunately, orders cannot be delivered to school so please ensure that your order is sent to your home address.** Postage and Packing is free for orders over £25 to be delivered to the UK or there is a charge of £3.95 for orders under £25. Orders should be delivered between 5 and 7 working days. Please place your order online by December 18th, 2020.

### **Children in Need**

It was lovely to see the children and staff dressed in their spots last week and thank you to everyone who has supported this good cause. We have raised the wonderful amount of £683.50 for the charity.

### **Inhalers and Medication**

Please could you ensure that inhalers or prescribed medication that is brought into school is in the original **named** packaging. Please do not send any medications, including creams, into school in a plain container as we will not be able to administer this. Any type of medication requires a medicine form to be completed which can be found at: <https://www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk/schooloffice/school-forms> at the time of it being dropped off with your child's class teacher/learning support assistant. Please be aware that due to COVID, we will only administer **essential medication** during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Apologies that this has been a long letter again, thank you for reading this far. Please do have a lovely safe and restful weekend everyone.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin  
Principal and the Westerton Team