



Spring Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

We wish you all a very **Happy New Year for 2019** and hope you had a restful, enjoyable festive break. Whilst the Autumn Term was very exciting for us all in many ways, especially with all our Christmas celebrations and events, it is lovely to return to our normal routines as we embrace the Spring Term.

A special warm welcome goes to our new children and parents joining us this term in our Nursery and indeed in any year groups higher up the school, we look forward to working with you closely as the children settle in with us.

I would like to thank **all** colleagues for all their hard work last term, driving academic progress forward and maximising every opportunity for creative, enjoyable learning. Our fabulous Nativity Performances, Carol Concerts, Services, Christmas Parties and Shows all ensured we were kept in the festive spirit right up to the end of term. The 'Talent Show' was a particular treat which allowed for all talents representative of the 'Westerton Factor' to be showcased. The staff performance of a Queen tribute was extraordinary and defied all Risk Assessments. You had to be there... but no... it was not video-taped!

British Values were truly embraced and supported by our children and parents, with significant amounts of money raised for the NSPCC, Save the Children and St Mary's Church, in addition to that raised for the Academy through our Christmas Fayre.

The wonderful work undertaken by Mrs Downes with our children and the Reverse Advent initiative, providing gifts for homeless people, was very much appreciated. Our connection with Inwood Residential Home for the Elderly continues to strengthen and is touchingly beneficial to both the residents and our children. The caring ethos perpetuated is something of which we are very proud. Thank you everyone for supporting this.

Westerton Kids Club (WKC) News - Our Westerton Kids' Club continues to be increasingly popular before and after school provision and we have been able to make new appointments from January 2019, to further enhance our provision.

- **Miss J Morton – is now our WKC Manager**
- Mrs A Haigh – will be joining us morning and afternoon as a Play Leader at the WKC.
- Mrs L Ismael – will continue as a Play Leader morning and afternoon.
- Mrs S Garrad – will continue as a Play Leader during the afternoon sessions.
- Miss E Garfield and Mr L Aveyard will provide support for the WKC on a casual basis as required.

We thank all the team for their commitment and preparations in anticipation of the new term.

Training

Our INSET day at the beginning of this term enabled us to have the crucial updated training for **Child Protection and Safeguarding**. This was delivered by Debbie Jobson, a member of our excellent Safeguarding Team in Leeds, we are delighted to congratulate the Leeds Authority on their success being the first city to receive an 'Outstanding' judgement for Safeguarding in their recent OFSTED last term. This is a terrific result not least due to the high quality of the training provided to all colleagues working with children.

We have also had a **First Aid** training update, equally important and beneficial. Our thanks go to Tutor Care Ltd who provided this for us and showed professional aplomb and patience with our numerous practical tasks!

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Congratulations

Congratulations to one of our grandparents, Mrs Long (grandmother to Lexie and Mollie), who has been honoured with an MBE, awarded for her services to fostering children. The guidance and support she and Mr Long have provided for so many young people over many years has helped to change their lives and provide them with a positive future. The award was bestowed by Prince William, on the 7th December, and we are thrilled to be able to share the news with our Westerton community.

Baby news!

Congratulations go to Miss Haley who gave birth to her second daughter just before the break, weighing in at 7lbs, 2oz. We have no name as yet but mum and baby are both doing well.

At the point of writing we are still awaiting news about Miss Chippendale, our Year 3 colleague, and Miss Pratt, a former colleague, who stills works with us through mathematical research. (Fingers crossed that all goes well for you both ladies!)

Goodbye

At the end of last term, we said goodbye Miss Chiverton, one of our Learning Support Assistants, who has started a new job working with vulnerable children. We also said goodbye to Miss Vahedi, our WKC Manager, and Miss Camponi, our WKC Deputy Manager who have also gone on to work with children in different establishments. We wish you all the best in your new role and do keep in touch.

Dressing for the Weather

As the temperature will undoubtedly continue to drop at some point, please do ensure your children are wearing appropriately layered uniform clothing, with jumpers or cardigans over shirts or T-shirts. External coats are needed now, even if they are unpopular with some children. Please do ensure all garments are named. Many children grew significantly last term and, consequently, have new items of clothing this term, for example to ensure that skirts/shorts are knee length. Our brochure clearly shows the items which are allowed in our uniform code. Please do ensure that nail varnish and jewellery (other than stud earrings and watches) are not worn for school.

Snow Procedures

We fervently hope the snow stays away, now that the break is over. However, it may not and therefore it is worth a reminder about our snow procedures, especially for new parents and colleagues.

We will always aim to keep the school open and all our staff know this and make every effort to get in, setting off earlier and preparing for hazardous journeys. A decision to close will only be made when insufficient numbers of staff can get in safely, to fulfil Health and Safety supervision requirements. In that unlikely event, we aim to make the decision as early as possible, by 8.15 am, informing parents using the following methods:

- **A text will be sent using ParentPay to the registered contacts only** so please ensure that you have kept your details up-to-date. If you've not already registered on ParentPay please contact the office for an activation letter.
- Information will be on the Leeds City Council website: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-closures>
- The school answering message and website will be updated as soon as possible.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is important for continuity of learning. We aim for an annual attendance of at least 96% and we celebrate high levels of attendance across year groups, classes and for individual pupils. We're proud of our excellent attendance record. However, during the course of a school career there are likely to be occasions when absence is unavoidable and acceptable. Further information can be found on our website at: <http://www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk/parents/leave-of-absence>

Lateness - Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time so that they are present for 9.00 am in order that we can check registers and lunch numbers efficiently and they do not miss any of the first lesson. It is important that your child is here at the beginning of the Academy day so that they do not miss essential interaction and the plans for the day. If your child is going to be unavoidably late we would appreciate a phone call to this effect. Significant lateness is treated as absence on our records.

Leave of Absence - please could we remind parents/carers that a leave of absence form needs to be completed if your child needs to be away from school for any length of time due to a holiday, bereavement, a special occasion etc. This also applies to our children who attend nursery.

Thank you for your support in the above matters.



Contact Numbers

It is essential that we have a minimum of two contacts for your child in case we are unable to get an answer from the first person due to illness or an emergency. If you know that we only have one contact on file, please contact the School Office to provide details of another person. We hope these will be few and far between but it is important that information is current; **please advise us immediately of any changes.**

Change of Date - Year 5 and 6 Disco

The Year 5 and 6 Disco will now take place on Friday 25th January from 6.30 - 8.30 pm. Further information will be sent out to the pupils shortly.

Could a career in teaching be for you?

Westerton Partnership provides high quality Initial Teacher Training. You can apply for your opportunity to train to be a teacher NOW! Apply today on UCAS by searching for the following course codes:

328W – Primary 3-7 Programme

328X – Primary 5-11 Programme

Newsletters

You can subscribe to our newsletter via our website at: <http://www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>. If you have already subscribed by this method and no longer wish to receive newsletters this way you can also “unsubscribe” by emailing to “unsubscribe@westerton.org.uk”.

Dates for your Diaries

Friday 11th January	9.15 am Year 2 Assembly
Friday 18th January	9.15 am Year 4 Assembly
Friday 25th January	9.15 am Reception Assembly Year 5 and 6 Disco
Friday 1st February	9.15 am Year 1 Assembly 2.20 pm Reception Parents Maths Afternoon
Tuesday 5th February	Key Stage 2 French Play
Friday 8th February	9.15 am Year 3 Assembly

Yours faithfully

S R Makin
Principal