

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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Thursday 12th November 2020

Dear Families,

PD Day

A reminder that school is closed to the children tomorrow, **Friday 13th November**. The school office will be open for messages and general queries but teaching staff will be in training and continuing to work on catch up plans and provision to support the children.

We hope that the children enjoy Children in Need tomorrow - there are lots of ideas for activities and fundraising on <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>



Blue Peter

Blue Peter has launched videos on YouTube at CBBC. The longest running children's TV show in the world is uploading videos that are suitable for 5-11 year olds, including world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. They also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about the presenters and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

You can subscribe for free on <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>

Christmas Cards

Our children often enjoy writing and sending Christmas cards to their friends in school. We have looked at the logistics of this in the current restrictions and suggest that children post their cards in a dedicated box for each class during the week. We will then isolate the cards over the weekend, and give them out on a Monday or Tuesday. The post boxes will be available from **Tuesday 1st December until Friday 11th December**.

COVID 19 National Lockdown Guidelines

As previously mentioned, there were minor changes to the government guidance to schools, which was released last week. However, a big change from the last national lockdown is that school staff in the clinically vulnerable group, or with family members in the extremely clinically vulnerable group (previously shielding) are required to work in school during the current lockdown. In addition, the majority of children in both the clinically vulnerable and the extremely clinically vulnerable group are still attending school.

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We looked at any additional measures we could take to support the safety of those children and staff, which is why the staff are now wearing face coverings when there are large numbers of adults on our school site, as this is viewed as one of the greatest risks for transmission.

You may also be aware from media coverage that schools are not receiving any additional funding to support our capacity if staff are absent, including if they are required to isolate. This puts an enormous pressure on school, both financially and in terms of the additional requirements on the staff team covering for absent colleagues.

Thank you to those parents and carers who are supporting these additional measures and pressures by wearing face coverings when entering the site. Once again, may I emphasise that face to face meetings should not be taking place and only one adult from each household should enter the site.

All measures are aimed at protecting the most vulnerable members of our school community, and I am sure we all share the same goal of playing our part in trying to keep school open as safely as possible.

Positive COVID 19 Cases

As you are aware, a positive COVID 19 case at our school was identified over the weekend. A reminder that our out of hours procedure is to email the school office marking your email with **COVID 19** in the subject box and sending it to: westgarthoffice@WestgarthPrimary.co.uk

The local Public Health helpline has limited weekend hours (Saturday 3pm - 5pm, Sunday 2pm - 6pm) so please be aware that final decisions regarding bubble closures may be taken late into the evening on a weekend.



Congratulations

Wonderful news! We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of April and Annabelle Waddington - beautiful twin daughters to Mrs Waddington. Congratulations, love and very best wishes to all the family. Double the sleepless nights!

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher