

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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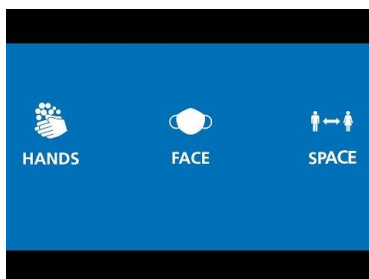
Thursday 5th November 2020

Dear Families,

We hope you all had a restful half term break. It now seems weeks ago

National Lockdown

As you are aware, we returned to a national lockdown today. We are relieved that the aim is for schools to remain open to all children and I am extremely grateful to all of our school staff for their dedication and commitment in going the extra mile to continue supporting school and our children during such a challenging time for all.



Face Coverings

There have been only minor changes to the government guidance to schools, which was released at 4.00pm yesterday. We feel fortunate not to have had a bubble closure so far. However, with continually rising COVID cases both locally and nationally, we must remind you of the necessity to take appropriate measures and to follow guidance, **particularly adhering to social distancing when entering our school site**. Evidence suggests that transmission is higher amongst adults, so your co-operation in reducing this risk will help us to keep school open and as safe as possible for children, staff and yourselves. **Wearing face coverings upon entering the school site is an additional measure you could use to support school**. Whilst this is not compulsory, it is another way you can help.

We are aware that some older children are starting to bring face coverings to school which they are not storing or wearing in the hygienic way that matches government guidance. Face coverings are not required for primary aged children. However, if you would like your child to wear a face covering to travel to and from school, we ask that you supervise your child donning and doffing the covering, and that it is stored hygienically, ideally at home, during the school day.

Hand Sanitiser

As stated on previous newsletters, we are using hand sanitiser for some transition points during the school day. Primary aged children need to be supervised when applying high alcohol content hand sanitiser, so please do not send in individual bottles for your child; we are able to supply it to all children and staff can then manage the safe supervision of its use.

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School Photographs

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel next week's planned school photograph session as this activity does not fulfil the criteria of an essential service during a national lockdown. Apologies for the disappointment caused; we will now have to rearrange this for the spring term.

According to the most recent guidance, we are still able to admit school visitors and specialist staff providing essential services, health, special educational needs or curriculum support. Speech and Language Therapists and peripatetic music teachers will continue to visit school, for example. However, school visits, live performances and after school clubs, other than those providing childcare, are not allowed. We will inform you of any changes, should the guidance be revised.



Christmas Celebrations

Obviously, Christmas will not be the same in school this year. We will be unable to offer our traditional celebrations involving large gatherings, such as the Christmas Fair, Christmas Market, and celebratory performances with live audiences. We are currently planning creative ways of replicating some of our customary events virtually - so please watch this space!

We are still able to organise some traditions, which will take place in year group bubbles: Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper/Hat Day and Christmas parties.

On Wednesday 9th December, we are inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper and/or hat, and to make a contribution to Brain Tumour Research's "Wear a Hat Day" fundraising campaign.

Provisional Christmas celebration dates are as follows:

Wednesday 9th December

Wear a Christmas Jumper/Hat Day and Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 15th December

Nursery and Y3 Christmas Parties

Wednesday 16th December

Reception and Y4 Christmas Parties

Thursday 17th December

Y1 and Y5 Christmas Parties

Friday 18th December

Y2 and Y6 Christmas Parties

Once again, we will be offering the opportunity for children who normally bring a packed meal to order a traditional Christmas lunch on 9th December and further details will be sent by ParentMail in coming days.

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher