

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Families,

Parent Guide

Please find our updated Parent Guide attached. It is important that you read and thoroughly understand this in order to support the safe return to school of all Westgarth children. It is also your responsibility to share it with any other adults who may attend our site to drop off or collect children - grandparents, childminders, private childcare providers. The one way systems in use before lockdown remain. Thank you for your support with this.

Guidance on children attending out of school settings

Please refer to the DfE guidance below if your child attends an out of school setting, particularly in support of you being able to attend work outside of the home.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

This clarifies that wraparound and after school care can be used if it supports parents to work, but you are encouraged to only use one additional setting to school wherever possible.

After School Clubs

At present, after school clubs can only resume if their prime purpose is to support childcare for working parents/carers or to provide catch up support for children.

Our clubs, such as sports clubs run by school staff or external providers such as Dance Magic, are not aimed at providing childcare and will, therefore, not resume in the immediate future.



Traditional summer term events

Whilst there is a great desire for a return to "normality" and a particular focus on life after 21st June, we all need to be mindful that the dates given in the government's "roadmap" are entirely provisional and based upon a variety of factors. I would, therefore, urge you to manage any expectations you or the children may have about large scale traditional events, such as sports days, discos and leavers' assemblies being able to resume in the summer term. The overriding national priority is to keep schools open to all children, and we, therefore, do not anticipate such events being deemed appropriate to go ahead. However, we will await government guidance, as always.

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LFD testing for families

You may be aware of the availability of LFD testing to families with children in education. School staff have been undertaking this testing voluntarily over the last few weeks. NHS Test and Trace announced that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Please find below the information we have been asked to share with you by Public Health:

"Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site - anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online - please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other."



Virtual Book Fair

We hope all of the children have enjoyed a week of celebrating reading, whether in school or at home. A reminder that there is a Virtual Book Fair on Facebook until Sunday - to access the range of fantastic Usborne books on sale, please follow the link <https://fb.me/e/3KArWPvip> or search Facebook for 'Westgarth Primary Virtual Book Fair'. The more money raised at this event will mean more free books for your child's class! Thank you.

60 minute challenge

Mr Buckby has set families a daily active 60 minute challenge this week - attached. Time to get active everyone!

Three more sleeps to go until we are all back at school together! Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher