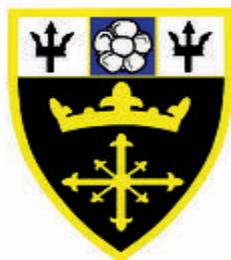


WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Families,



HOORAY!

We are truly delighted that all children will return to school on Monday 8th March.

Key Reminders

As you will be aware, schools are deemed to be as safe as we can make them with the wide range of mitigations we already have in place - "bubble" organisation; additional cleaning; restriction of non-essential visitors; one way system; staff testing. The decision to close schools was taken with the aim of reducing community transmission.

- To keep our school open, it is, therefore, imperative that adults entering our school site take every precaution to minimise contact with other adults.
- In addition, we urge you to wear a face covering when entering the school site and, ideally, wherever there are a number of adults in close proximity on the way to and from school.
- There will be no face to face meetings with parents/carers until further notice - please continue to use the year group emails to communicate with class teachers.

Next week, we will issue a simplified Parent Guide with reminders about all the practicalities of a full re-opening. Staggered start and finish times will resume. Please time your arrival and departure to minimise time on site:

Full-time children (please remember to inform those who will drop off or pick up your child of these times)

8.45am to 3.00pm Reception Y1; Y3; Y5

9.00am to 3.15pm Y2; Y4; Y6

Nursery (please remember to inform those who will drop off or pick up your child of these times)

Morning session 8:45-11:45 with flexible drop off 8:45-9:15 and flexible pick up 11:15-11:45;

Afternoon Session 12:15-3:15 with flexible drop off 12:15-12:45 and flexible pick up 2:45-3:15

Curriculum

First and foremost, we will be supporting the children's social and emotional needs, as routines and relationships are re-established. Building positive relationship will be the main focus of our PSHE work across school. Routines, including learning routines, play a significant role in emotional recovery for both children and adults. You can help

WESTGARTH WEEKLY

us to help your child by ensuring eating, sleeping and exercise routines are re-established next week as a practice run for the following week.

At the same time, we will be focusing upon identifying gaps and assessing essential key skills as soon as possible to inform our planning and teaching. Whilst we will continue to offer a broad and creative curriculum, there will be a particular emphasis upon reading, vocabulary, writing and mathematics. We will also utilise opportunities for outdoor education across the curriculum, including outdoor PE. Whilst assessment will be key, the removal of formal assessment points, such as KS2 SATs week in May, does now allow us to plan key skills coverage over the whole of the summer term, leading up to the children's transition to new classes or, in the case of Y6, to their new schools.

DfE Guidance

Please find links to an open letter to parents/carers from the Education Secretary, as well as Department for Education parental guidance on the re-opening of schools and keeping children safe online.

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/23/an-open-letter-from-education-secretary-gavin-williamson-to-parents-carers-and-guardians/?utm_source=24%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=24%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm_source=25%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

World Book Day

We are looking forward to some Magic and Mystery themed reading activities next week, and Oh Dear (Drop Everything And Read) next Friday. Thank you to those of you who are also supporting our virtual Book Fair.



Comic Relief

It is Comic Relief on **Friday 19th March** and the theme this year is SuperPower, something we all need at present! The children are invited to dress up or to bring an accessory on a SuperPower theme that day. We will arrange for voluntary donations for this excellent cause to be made remotely by ParentMail. Please do not send any cash into school.

One more week until we are all reunited! Wishing you all a lovely, sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher