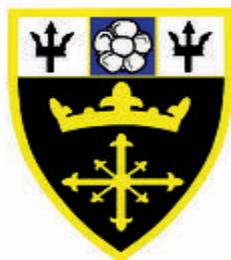


WESTGARTH WEEKLY



Westgarth Primary School 01642 485560
Redcar Road www.westgarthprimaryschool.co.uk
Marske-by-the-Sea westgarthoffice@WestgarthPrimary.co.uk
TS11 6AE Tweet: @westgarthSchool

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Families,

School Update

I thought it would be useful to update all families about the position in school.

As you are aware, we are open to the children of critical and key workers who have no other childcare options, as well as vulnerable children. In total, we have 137 children whose parents/carers have indicated that they are eligible to attend school out of a roll of 356, so up to 33% of children could be attending each day. This mirrors the national picture - schools are very much still open.

Westgarth's overriding desire is for all children to return to school as quickly as possible. If limiting the number of children on site contributes to this, we, therefore, urge families signing up for key worker school places to only do so if this allows parents/carers to go to work because no other childcare is available.

In school, we have moved the children into phase bubbles with children spread across two classrooms most of the time to limit close contact: EYFS, KS1, Y3/4 and Y5/6. Home learning provision will mirror these bubbles, although there will be differentiated activities for each year group, where needed.

We want to reassure you that, as far as possible, the curriculum and activities undertaken in school mirror those being sent home and follow the curriculum that would have been delivered in normal circumstances. Class teachers are planning and delivering lessons both for children in school and those learning at home.

There will, inevitably, be some teething problems as we launch home learning, so please do bear with us, and do not hesitate to get in touch with any issues. I would also ask for the understanding of Y6 parents/carers this week. As you are aware, Mr Mitchell is still absent, and has been for several weeks, and, unfortunately, Mrs Gallone is also currently off school, so Y6 teacher capacity has been significantly reduced. Mr Calton and Miss Turner will be supporting Miss Rutherford with Y6 school and home learning until Mrs Gallone's return.

Statutory Assessments

This afternoon, Gavin Williamson announced that SATs will not go ahead this year. Teacher assessments are already shared when children move key stages, including Y6 children moving from primary to secondary school. Our teacher assessments have always accurately reflected SATs results, so I hope parents and Y6 children can be reassured about the robustness of information being passed on to secondary schools.

Thank you, as always, for your support and patience.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher