

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



Westgarth Primary School 01642 485560

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Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Families,

New Website

We are delighted to launch our new website, hopefully you will find it much easier to navigate. The web address is www.westgarthprimaryschool.co.uk. Huge thanks to Mr Knott who has overseen its development.

You can find calendar dates, newsletters, policies, forms, curriculum information, safeguarding support and much more. Please take a few minutes to have a look through.



Winter Mini Reading Challenge

Many of our children take part in the annual Summer Reading Challenge through local libraries. This year, The Reading Agency has teamed up with children's publisher Knights Of (KO) to launch the Winter Mini Challenge. The theme of the challenge is 'Everyone Is A Hero'.

The Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books.

After the success of The Summer Reading Challenge's new digital platform, the Winter Mini Challenge allows children to create a reading profile, log and review books, get book recommendations, access fun activities and games and gain digital rewards for taking part! The Challenge has a suggested booklist that has been curated by KO, but children can read absolutely anything.

The Challenge is now live and will run until Friday 15 January 2021. Please visit The Reading Agency website to find out more about this year's theme and the booklist. You can also follow the Challenge on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #WMC2020.

Happy reading everyone!

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Blood Doning

We have been contacted by the NHS Blood and Transplant Team to ask for support in promoting a blood donation session at Parochial Hall, Guisborough on **Thursday 21st January**, with lots of available appointments. Supplies to the service have suffered during the COVID 19 pandemic and people are being asked to keep donating as normal. During national and local lockdowns, all blood donation sessions will continue to run. Extra safety measures are in place and every precaution is being taken to eliminate the risk of COVID 19 transmission at blood donation sessions. Having an appointment to give blood is classed as essential travel and is exempt from any local or national travel restrictions.

Christmas Holidays Test and Trace

As you will be aware, schools have been required to support Test and Trace by notifying any close contacts of positive COVID 19 cases identified to school. You may have read in the media that schools are being asked to continue doing this for the first 6 days of the Christmas holidays - up to and including **Thursday 24th December**. Schools are being given the option to make Friday 18th December a PD Day, when staff, but not children, attend school, in order to reduce the number of days that school staff are "on call" for Test and Trace during their holidays. At Westgarth, we have decided not to do this as our PD Days have already been set for the year, and we feel it is too short notice for families to make changes now.

To clarify, our school will remain open **up to and including Friday 18th December**, and festive activities will continue to take place on the days already allocated. Remaining PD Days this academic year are **Friday 9th July, Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July 2021**.

A reminder that our out of hours and school holiday 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

After Christmas Eve, there is no requirement to inform school of a child receiving a positive test result, as normal Test and Trace procedures would apply. We would still prefer that parents still inform us via email after this date and we will respond on our return to school in January. Members of a bubble (children and staff) may still be required to isolate, including over the Christmas period, should contact with a positive case be identified next week or at the start of the Christmas break.



However, we sincerely hope that all members of our school community are able to enjoy a healthy, happy Christmas break. As always, you can support this by wearing a face covering when entering our school site and observing social distancing and increased hygiene at all times.

Have a lovely, festive weekend. Stay safe everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher