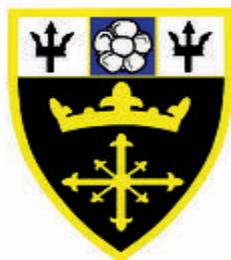


WESTGARTH WEEKLY



Westgarth Primary School 01642 485560

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Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Families,

COVID 19 asymptomatic testing for school staff

From this week, primary school staff can consent to taking twice weekly COVID 19 lateral flow device tests to identify if they are asymptomatic and unknowingly carrying the COVID 19 virus (1 in 3 people infected with COVID 19 do not develop symptoms). I am grateful to the staff for taking this additional measure to try and make our school and community as safe as possible. I would just like parents and carers to be aware that a positive LFD test requires the staff member to take a follow up PCR test and there is a small possibility that this will give a negative result, which would mean that the staff member's self isolation and any resultant bubble closure would be reversed. Obviously, we would make clear communications with relevant families in any of these events.

Half term break update

It has been announced that schools will be closed to all children, including those deemed vulnerable and the children of critical workers during the upcoming half term break, week commencing 15th February. We will not be opening as a childcare provider, as in last year's lockdown.

However, we have been asked to support the identification of close contacts in school during the half term break where children or staff still attending school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. In these circumstances, please continue to follow the current protocol of emailing westgarthoffice@westgarthprimary.co.uk using the subject heading: Positive COVID 19 test.

Where children or staff attending school test positive for COVID-19 during the half term break having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.



School Return

As announced by the Prime Minister this week, schools will reopen to all children no earlier than 8th March. He indicated that this will be dependent upon the success of the immunisation programme and NHS/hospital capacity at that stage, with a final decision likely to be made in the week commencing 22nd February. We really hope that this will be the case, as we look forward to seeing all of the children back in school together.

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



Keep Going

Here at Westgarth, we welcome having been given more notice about the possibility of school fully reopening, but share the disappointment that families across the nation are feeling about at least another five weeks before all the children are reunited again. We have all felt a dip in morale within our own families at home at this stage of the lockdown and are, therefore, acutely aware that this may be the case for many of you. As we have said many times before, as a group of adults wanting the best for all of the children, we will continue working together as a community - us as school staff and you as parents and carers - doing our best to juggle all that is being asked of us all at such a difficult time. That is all anyone can ask, for us all to simply do our best.

Local Business Donation

Our spirits were lifted greatly this week when the Director of Marske Petrol Station and Convenience Store telephoned to say that his company would like to donate around £1000 to support the purchase of additional technology equipment to support our children with their home learning. We are currently looking at ways we can utilise this to help the families who identified problems in the recent survey sent to you all by Parentmail. What fantastic community spirit. A huge thank you to the company for its kindness and care.

Mr Buckby's weekly challenge

Mr Buckby has set you a family fitness challenge this week (attached) - come on mums and dads, show the children how it's done!

With very best wishes to all of our families. Have a lovely weekend - stay safe and make your own sunshine.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher