

# WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Dear Families,

## **Reports**

All children in full time school will receive their annual report today; we hope you enjoy reading them.

## **Lockdown Extension**

As you will be aware, the government has delayed the next stage of easing COVID-19 related restrictions until Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, which takes us right up to the school summer break. This means that we will be unable to ease any mitigations in school, such as the children's bubbles mixing in assemblies, playtimes or at lunch breaks, as we had hoped. Any "Meet the Teacher" meetings scheduled will now need to be held remotely: Reception, KS1 and Y3 this term and years 4, 5 and 6 in the autumn term.

Staggered starts and finishes will, therefore, also continue in transition week. To avoid confusion for families, the children will now start and finish school at their current times but in their new classes until the end of term. Timings for new Reception children, moving up from Nursery, will be circulated separately.

Unfortunately, secondary schools are also no longer offering a face to face transition week in the final week of term due to the delay in restriction easing. We really value our internal early transition and do not intend to cancel this, so we are currently planning provision and staffing for our Y6 leavers in that final week. More details to follow for families of Y6 children.

## **Questionnaire results**

Thank you for your responses to our recent questionnaire; they are much appreciated and help us to know what families feel we are doing well, where we could improve and, most importantly, what your priorities are for children following the disruption of the last 18 months. The results are attached below.

Questions 4 and 7: Sorry if parents and carers were unaware that information about what the children are learning is posted each term on the school website: see Curriculum and Enrichment > Topic Maps. We are also aware that, due to the January lockdown, we were unable to offer our usual spring term structured conversation and accompanying mid year report which captures your child's progress and the next steps being addressed. Hopefully, the end of year reports issued today will address this.

## **RSE Consultation**

Thank you to all families who responded to the consultation about the implementation of statutory Relationships Education. Mr Knott has collated all responses and will publish a consultation summary, policy and overview of

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curriculum coverage on the school website for your information: see Curriculum and Enrichment > RSE Consultation.

## Support for Families with Children with Additional Needs

Please find a flyer enclosed for families with children with additional needs, offering advice on potential options of support available to parents and carers.



## Beanstalk Reading Volunteer Programme

Can you spare a few hours a week to become a trained reading helper at our school next year?

Our school is working with a charity called Coram Beanstalk and are looking for volunteers who can spare an afternoon or two a week to come in to school as a reading helper. Holding reading sessions with some of our children on a one-to-one basis, giving those that need it extra support to practise reading skills outside of the classroom. It's a fun role that's about much more than just listening to children read.

Coram Beanstalk help children become readers; equipping reading helpers to help children switch onto reading, learn to read and become confident independent readers. Reading helpers are trained in a proven approach and will lead sessions for each child that bring fun and enjoyment to the reading experience, ultimately wanting the child to choose to read and be enthusiastic about it!

Reading helpers read to the child, talk about what they have read, check understanding and encourage thinking and conversation based on a book. They use fun book based activities to reinforce understanding, develop vocabulary and further cement enjoyment through a positive reading experience. We know this approach works and raises reading attainment, with 1-1 sessions bringing additional benefits of improving confidence, self-esteem and attitude to learning.

If you would like to become a reading helper at our school, or you know someone, perhaps a grandparent or a neighbour who would like to join our friendly school community please do consider this role.

For more information or if you want to apply online, visit the website at [www.corambeanstalk.org.uk](http://www.corambeanstalk.org.uk) and complete an application form.



## Cleaning role

We will have a vacancy for a school cleaner from September, working part time after school each day. If any parents, carers or family members are interested in joining our school team in this valued role, please contact the school office for more details. Please note that, as the role is in school, full DBS clearance would be required.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead  
Headteacher

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Parent Questionnaire 2021 Summary		Percentage		Quantity		Total 206
		Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	
1	My child is happy at school	94.2%	5.8%	194	12	
2	My child feels safe at school	99.0%	1.0%	204	2	
3	There is a good standard of behaviour at Westgarth Primary School	96.1%	3.9%	198	8	
4	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn throughout the year	73.3%	26.7%	151	55	
5	The school has high expectations for my child	92.7%	7.3%	191	15	
6	My child does well at this school	96.6%	3.4%	199	7	
7	The school lets me know how my child is doing	81.6%	18.4%	168	38	
8	The school understands and responds to my child's needs	93.2%	6.8%	192	14	
9	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	98.5%	1.5%	203	3	
10	I was satisfied with the remote learning offered to my child during school closure.	93.2%	6.8%	192	14	
11	The school deals with any incidents of bullying effectively	91.3%	8.7%	188	18	
12	The school supports my child's wider personal development	93.7%	6.3%	193	13	
13	The school encourages my child to lead a healthy lifestyle	99.0%	1.0%	204	2	
14	If I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with appropriately.	93.2%	6.8%	192	14	
15	The school keeps me well informed and I was satisfied with the communication during the school closures.	97.1%	2.9%	200	6	
16	The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns	89.8%	10.2%	185	21	
17	My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for his/her age	93.7%	6.3%	193	13	
18	The school is well led and managed	96.6%	3.4%	199	7	
19	The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved	95.6%	4.4%	197	9	
<b>I would recommend Westgarth Primary to another parent/carer.</b>		Yes -96.6%, 199		No-3.4%, 7		

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## Parent Questionnaire 2021 comments and feedback

***Please tell us what we have done well over the last 18 months:***

- Very supportive staff
- Welcoming and friendly environment
- Managing of children's and families' emotional wellbeing
- Communication- from staff, school and Headteacher
- Managing of school closure and reopening
- Remote learning- fun, educational, good use of Zoom and didn't put too much pressure on parents and families
- Child centred approach
- Safeguarding

***"You are all just Super Stars! Thank you for what you have done and how hard you've worked to keep it safe for our kids and still do so! True Super Heroes!"***

***"I feel Westgarth have dealt with the pandemic amazingly and I am so pleased my child attends this school."***

***"I feel Westgarth handled the Covid 19 pandemic and school reopening very well. I felt like the school put the children at the centre of everything they did."***

***"Westgarth have done amazing during the pandemic advising us in enough time of new measures and setting out paths for everyone to follow and adhere to. I feel very safe going into Westgarth and for my son to be here throughout the pandemic. Thank you"***

***"Over this last really tough year I have been really pleased with how much time has been taken to ensure the children are happy and a lot of focus has been on wellbeing and mental health rather than workload and pressurising the children too much academically."***

***"I think over the past 18 months, the school has done everything it could to support my child - school work, lessons, self-study - all brilliant!"***

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***What do you feel is a priority to support your child/children's recovery?***

- Wellbeing and emotional support/continued support for mental health
- Academic support
- Physical exercise
- Friendship support/social needs
- Patience
- Afterschool clubs

**"To make sure that the children are brought up to date with any education they have missed out on over the last 12 months."**

**"Helping with emotional support after the lockdown and not expect too much from the children trying to recover from all that's happened."**

**"Continue to support academically working towards the curriculum and ensuring emotional support."**

**"Keep on doing what you are doing, the school setting and the normal (as it can be) routine has ensured minimal disruption to my child's life."**

**"Building on forming friendships and social and emotional needs."**