

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Families,



Cross Country

Well done to all of the KS2 children who participated so sportingly in each round of the ongoing cross country tournament, competing in school or at subsequent rounds at St Peter's, Brotton. Congratulations to Shane R and Emily C who go on to compete in the finals at Stewarts Park on 13th October. We hope you thoroughly enjoy the experience, and wish you both every success. Go Westgarth!!

Fundraising

A special mention to Tilly D, who has been training hard to complete a triathlon to raise funds for her cousin, who is undergoing treatment for leukaemia. She will be swimming 20 lengths of Saltburn pool, biking the coast road then, lastly, climbing Roseberry Topping. Tilly's challenge is happening 15th-17th October. If any families would like to support Tilly and this excellent cause, her "Go fundme" page is: <https://gofund.me/64cd0d2a> Go Tilly!!



Morrisons "It's Good to Grow" Vouchers

We will be collecting "Good to Grow" Morrisons vouchers, which school can then use to buy gardening equipment. Such resources will be a great accompaniment to the KS1 outdoor area, which is really beginning to take shape. Please send any vouchers into school with your child, and thank you, in advance, for your support.

Remote Learning

We have had several positive COVID cases amongst both children and staff in school, but have not quite reached a threshold whereby we will be instructed by Public Health to reintroduce additional measures. Your continued support with measures at home, including handwashing, cough hygiene and vigilance in having children tested should they exhibit any COVID symptoms, will support us in trying to keep school in as normal a position for the children as possible.

If children isolating are well enough, we are endeavouring to send remote learning to them. However, please be aware that class teachers are trying to teach their classes whilst also managing home learning for isolating children. With increased staff absence from other seasonal infections, it can be very challenging for the teaching staff trying to fulfil both roles, sometimes having to "double up" classes if staff are ill at short notice. Your understanding and

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appreciation of the additional pressures in school is very much appreciated. It is certainly not going to be a smooth return to normality, and we can only assure you of our very best intentions towards the children.



Structured Conversations

We will soon be offering structured conversations, with a choice of face to face, telephone or Teams/Zoom. We hope that this will help the individual circumstances of parents and carers. However, it is possible that we will need to move such events to remote/telephone only with limited notice if the number of positive cases in school continues to rise.

The conversations will focus on how your child has settled back in school, and any concerns you or your child's class teacher(s) have about their wellbeing and engagement in learning.

As always, please do not feel you need to wait for a formal meeting to raise any concerns. You can request a call from a teacher by contacting the school office on the telephone number or email address above. We just ask that you appreciate class teachers are, rightly, working with the children all day in lessons, supervising breaks and lunches and attending training and meetings after school many nights, so they may not always be able to call you back that day. A reminder that the messaging emails are for brief, one way messages such as collection arrangements only. They are checked once a day at 9.15am by a TA who will then pass on those messages to the class teachers.

Messaging emails are

nurserymessages@westgarthprimary.co.uk

receptionmessages@westgarthprimary.co.uk

year1and2messages@westgarthprimary.co.uk

year3and4messages@westgarthprimary.co.uk

year5and6messages@westgarthprimary.co.uk

We have also always advised parents and carers to speak directly to school about any issues or concerns, and to work with us in partnership as we are all, ultimately, working to the same goal of wanting the best for each child. As we always teach the children, facts and opinions can be so easily misconstrued on the playground or through social media.



Wishing you all a lovely weekend as we move into an autumnal October.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher