

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



Westgarth Primary School 01642 485560

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Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Families,

Safeguarding

Local residents have contacted school, yet again, to request that parents/carers park safely on Westgarth Close and surrounding areas, not blocking driveways or parking on the pavement which forces pedestrians, including our children, to walk on the road.

Private Fostering

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 years old (18 years if disabled) who is being cared for and lives in the carer's home continually for 28 days or more by someone who is not a parent or close relative. The child could be the child of a friend. Relatives who are not classed as private foster carers are: grandparents; siblings; birth aunts or uncles; step-relatives (this must be by marriage or civil partnership).

Private foster carers have a legal duty to inform Children's Services of the arrangement under the Children's (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005. If you are privately fostering a child, or know someone who is, please contact Children's Services on 01642 771500.

Parental Support

Please find attached details of free support services that may be of interest to families:

- R&C Short Breaks Clubs Offer which runs until March 2023. These clubs are self-referred and are for children and young people aged 5+ who have additional needs that would prevent them from accessing mainstream clubs and groups;
- The Max Card - the UK's leading discount card for families of children with additional needs;
- Parent and Carer Courses: understanding anxiety; emotional wellbeing; understanding ADHD; understanding sensory processing; encouraging positive behaviour; money matters.



Ventilation and Cold Weather

As part of our COVID mitigations, we are still required to ventilate rooms as much as possible. As winter approaches, as well as scarves, hats and gloves for the outdoors, children and staff are advised to wear extra layers indoors, if

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needed. We will be flexible around uniform colours if your child brings in an extra sweatshirt or jumper. We would just ask that the children do not wear sweatshirts with slogans.

"Once a Week, Take a Peek"

As the children mix together more regularly, there will, undoubtedly, be increased outbreaks of head lice. As a school, we follow Primary Care Trust advice about notifying parents regarding such outbreaks. The most effective approach, according to the medical profession, is to encourage parents to check children's hair regularly, using combing. We would encourage all parents to take the approach - "once a week, take a peek" - and to inform family and close friends directly should head lice be found. As a school, if we do notice head lice, we will always alert the parents and carers of the affected child directly.



Celebration Assembly

We ended our first full week back at school with a whole school celebration assembly. It was such a pleasure to see the whole school back together again, helping the children to feel part of a community bigger than their own year group. I was so proud of the way all children conducted themselves today, particularly our youngest children sitting in a hall full of more than 300 people, many of whom they had not met before. I have also been delighted with the support and encouragement volunteered by our KS2 children to any Reception and KS1 children crossing their path over the school day. It is this sense of community and family that makes schools such special places.

In the weekly celebration assembly, children are nominated by their class teachers for awards based upon our curriculum drivers: respect, independence, resilience and global care. Please do congratulate your child if they come home wearing one of our special stickers on a Friday: they should be very proud indeed!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher