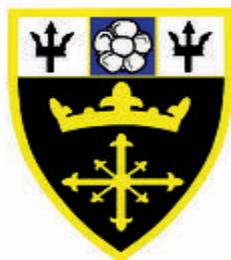


# WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Dear Families,



## **Daily Testing for Contacts of COVID-19**

From today, Tuesday 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 and above, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 - whether Omicron or not - should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days. The government believes that daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

When a positive case is identified in a child's household, our local Public Health Team is continuing to advise that the child takes a PCR test and does not attend school until a negative PCR test result is received. An LFD test should then be taken every day for 7 days, as above.

Children should only attend school if the LFD test is negative.

You may be aware of some local schools having to close year groups recently due to significant outbreaks of COVID-19 amongst staff and pupils, and resultant staff shortages. At Westgarth, since September, we have had almost 70 positive cases, including 8 fully vaccinated classroom based staff: approximately 20% of our total school community. As previously outlined, we ask that you do not compare Westgarth to other schools who may be dealing with very limited outbreaks. As positive cases are continuing to be reported in school this week, we are aware that some members of our community will now be isolating over the Christmas period. Your continued support, and understanding, of the required measures is crucial for all families.



## **Santa Dash**

Thank you for your incredible support of our Santa Dash on Friday, with donations to Brain Tumour Research, a charity very close to the hearts of our Westgarth community. We are thrilled to have raised a fantastic total of £506.50 from this event.

# WESTGARTH WEEKLY



## Lochlan's Winter Wonderland

A message from the Peckham family:

"In memory and honour of Lochlan we are opening our own Winter Wonderland to raise much needed funds for Brain Tumour Research. Faith will switch the lights on on Lochlan's birthday, 15th December at 4.30pm. The gardens will be open 4.30-8 o'clock, every night until 23rd December. We will have a couple of buckets for people to make donations. Faith has chosen a lot of the lights so hopefully your kids will love it. Please pop along to our house on Scanbeck Drive - you won't be able to miss us! 🎄🎁"

## Christmas performances

We hope you enjoy watching the recordings of the children in their Christmas performances, which we will make available for you to view later this week. The children have really enjoyed taking part and it has been wonderful listening to school so alive with children's singing in such challenging times for school and families.

## Christmas Market

Each year group will be selling products directly from classrooms this week that they have made for our annual Christmas Market. We welcome cash, as the funds raised from the sales are used by each year group to buy resources or experiences over the coming year, beginning with Christmas party treats. Previously, the children have chosen to spend their profits on games for their classrooms, or experiences such as a visit from the local owl centre. We are so proud of their enterprise and teamwork in making quality products at this busy time of year. Well done everyone!



## Angels at the Gates

Thank you to Marske Methodist Church for, once again, offering to decorate our school gates with festive angels, creating a lovely way to enter school at this time of year. They will appear on the gates on Thursday morning.

## Xplore Christmas Club

The Xplore Christmas Club is being run by the Junction Foundation over the Christmas holidays, providing free activities, food and enrichment opportunities for eligible children. For more information, please see [www.thejunctionfoundation.com/xplore](http://www.thejunctionfoundation.com/xplore)

## PFA Christmas Gifts

Many thanks to our PFA for offering a small Christmas treat for the children as they break up for the school holidays.

# WESTGARTH WEEKLY

## School Lunch Price

Please be advised that from Monday 3rd January 2022 there will be a small price increase to the cost of school meals.

Galileo Trust has not implemented a price rise for the last two years but an increase is now necessary to cover increased staffing costs caused by a rise in both the National Living Wage and employer National Insurance contributions, coupled with unprecedented pressures causing increased food costs.

The current price is £2.25 for a main meal and a dessert. This will increase to £2.35 per day (£11.75 per week).

Children entitled to free school meals, and those in the first three years of school (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) who are part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals offer for Key Stage 1 pupils, will not be affected as their meals are government funded. This small increase will allow the Trust to continue to offer a varied menu which exceeds the government nutritional standards for school lunches while offering good value for money.

If you think you may be eligible, it is important to apply for free school meals, as it not only saves you money but the school will receive additional funding which enables them to further support pupils from qualifying families. If you are unsure about your eligibility for free school meals, please see attached information from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council. All queries and requests for support are confidential and we will always work with families to ensure that a solution is found.

Thank you in advance for your continued understanding and support, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any queries.

## Staffing Update

Mrs Brown and Mrs Williams (teaching assistants) are leaving Westgarth at the end of term. Thank you so much to both members of staff for their contributions to, and support of, our school over many years. We wish you both every happiness for the future. Do keep in touch!

## And finally ...

Thank you for your continued support of school throughout such a challenging term, and for whatever may lie ahead in January.

On behalf of staff and governors, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead  
Headteacher

