

Westfield Primary Community School



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Autumn Term 2019

Thursday, 19 December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn term has flown by in a flurry of exciting learning opportunities as we have enhanced the curriculum at Westfield. Examples of amazing teamwork are everywhere as the whole school community embraces the changes we are introducing to school. It really is a happy place to be.

The introduction of our Behaviour Policy has seen a great shift towards our children 'owning' their behaviour and truly taking responsibility for their actions. We still have work to do to improve playtimes and lunchtimes but it is wonderful to see happy children making great choices and learning well.

Curriculum Update

Photos are a great way for us to remember previous events, trigger emotions and promote discussion. When you ask your child, 'What did you do at school today?', and they reply, 'I can't remember!' remind them how important it is to remember what they have been learning. Also please could you ask them, 'What did you learn today?' Try using some of these images below to promote discussion about the learning that has happened this term.



Please note that to protect our children the school gates are locked between the hours of 8.30am and 9.05am and 2.45pm and 3.30pm. If you are travelling to school by car during these times please be aware that you could be locked in the school car park. Please find alternative parking outside the school gates, if required.



Next term we will be launching our Year Group pages on our new website so that the children will never be able to answer, 'I don't know', ever again!

In the spirit of strictly.... 'Keep Reading'

This term, we have spent considerable time developing reading throughout school through resourcing high quality texts throughout EYFS and KS1. Many parents support their children everyday by hearing them read and children would not make as much progress without this support. As children get older, they become a little reluctant to read aloud. Please remember that reading happens everywhere. Read food labels when shopping; signs when out and about; pick up leaflets and pamphlets; read blogs and online articles and enjoy a newspaper or comic together. Anything to keep your children reading as reading is the foundation for all learning. And don't forget to keep collecting The Books for Schools tokens in the Sun newspaper.

Staffing Update

With all the excitement of Christmas we thought we may have an early birth at school last week! Miss Watson started with labour pains a little too soon and will now begin her maternity leave earlier than expected. Thank you to the many parents who have noticed her absence and have asked after Miss Watson. She is well and her baby has not arrived as yet but she wanted me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and to let you know how sad she was to miss the nativity. Mrs Craggs has been a star and has been working an extra day for the last couple of weeks. Miss Bentley has been teaching the children on Monday and Tuesdays to be a familiar face until we break up.

You may have seen Mrs Claire Hill around the last few weeks as she has been visiting the children to prepare for her return. As Miss Watson begins her maternity, Mrs Hill ends hers and officially returns in January.

We welcome Sally Lewis and Lucy Parnaby to the office team on a temporary basis whilst we restructure our systems in school. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we implement new systems to improve our efficiency. It is essential that we get our communication to you right so please keep your suggestions, questions and queries coming into the office so that we can continue to move forward.

We also say farewell to Forida Miah who leaves us from the Teaching Assistant team to move closer to her family as her own family grows. We say thank you to Miss Homer for supporting us through our period of staff absence this term and we welcome back Mrs Hill who will be teaching our Year Four next half term until Mrs Gudgeon returns.

Mrs Hurrell has been part of our Children's Champion team for more than nine years. Over the past few years she has never stopped studying and is now a qualified councillor. As she leaves us to begin to grow her own practice, we wish her every success for the future and also thank her dearly for all the support she has given our children and families over the years.

And finally...last but certainly not least... THANK YOU

Your continued support and attendance at events has been greatly appreciated by our whole staff team. We know how much the children love you coming into school to find out about their learning, but as a staff team it means a great deal to have such high levels of engagement from you all. Your thanks does not go unnoticed and as one teacher said last week...it makes it all worthwhile.

Kind regards
Lamara Taylor
Headteacher