



Westerton Primary Academy

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Leodis
Academies
Trust



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Deputy Principal: Mrs A Lazarus B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH

Vice Principal: Mr T Pool B.Sc. (Hons) PGCE

4th March 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

World Book Day

What is the saying? *"You do not have to be mad to be here but... it helps."* It certainly does on days like World Book Day! Throughout the morning there have been various extraordinary sightings of Fantastic Mr Fox, Vampira, Elsa, Henry the Eighth, Brave, Harry Potter, Willy Wonka, Jack Black... and the list goes on. The children look amazing too of course! Enjoy the photos below and see who you can spot under the make-up.



Health and Safety

Health and Safety is always a priority, especially as we are still 'Living with Covid,' hence the information distributed earlier in the week. In addition to this, we have had a full Health and Safety Audit this week, undertaken by Leeds City Council. Despite the congestion of the building, we are very happy to report the feedback from the audit was very positive. Our thanks go to all colleagues and children (whose behaviour was praised profusely) with particular recognition to Mr Pool and our Site Manager, Mr Canning, who ensured all paperwork and premises requirements were in place. Compliments also were given to Mrs Hubbard and the rest of our Catering Team for the excellent school lunch. Well done everyone!

Mrs Lazarus – the news!

Our brilliant and ubiquitous Deputy, Mrs L, is notably absent just now, following a rotten accident on holiday in Iceland during the half term break. With a badly broken ankle, Mrs Lazarus is now recovering from surgery, managing the pain and fighting the frustration of keeping still. We know you will all join us in sending our very best wishes for a very speedy recovery and huge commiserations for the irony of a well-deserved holiday being ruined so horribly. All cards and messages are being collated to send on to try to keep Mrs Lazarus smiling. Any jokes welcome too, within reason!!!

Mrs Downes – the news!

In the absence of Mrs Lazarus, our Senior Leadership Team is understandably depleted. To increase our capacity, in support of Mr Pool and myself, Mrs Downes is stepping into the role of Acting Vice Principal, adding to her duties as Phase Leader for Y2, Y3 and Y4, until the end of this academic year. Congratulations and many thanks to Mrs Downes for her unstinting support at this time.

Absence Communication

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please inform the office staff rather than the Class Teacher. The staff in the year groups are busy greeting the children in the morning and it is difficult for them to take messages at this time. If your child is going to be absent for any reason other than illness or a medical appointment, please ensure that a **Leave of Absence** form is completed and submitted, these can be downloaded from the website. Holidays in term time still cannot be authorised so we are all bound by this, in spite of complications with Covid delays and the additional expense of school holidays. Please be aware of this and the likelihood of Penalty Notices being issued if unauthorised absence extends to five days or above. Thank you for your understanding in this matter, we do share your pain!

Year 4 Ilam Hall and Year 6 East Barnby Residentials

The next instalments for the Ilam Hall and the East Barnby residential visits were due on the 25th February, during the half term break. If you have not had the opportunity to pay this yet, please help us by ensuring your next payment is made as soon as possible. Thank you.

Music Tuition Fees

If your child has music lessons (not Artforms), and the partial amount was paid in September, the final instalment was due by 1st March. If this has not been paid as yet, please help us by ensuring that this is addressed promptly. Thank you.

Red Nose Day

We have 200 Red Noses available to purchase via ParentPay for **£1.55** each. Once we have received payment and had delivery of the Red Noses, our School Council will distribute them.

On **Friday 18th March**, for a minimum donation of £1.00, children can wear non-uniform incorporating at least one item of **red** into their attire. To make your donation, please click on this link rather than logging into ParentPay in your normal way:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=6726>

Y5 Bikeability

Our children in Year Five have undertaken 'Bikeability' training this week and we wanted to give them a special mention. The trainers reported that they had responded very well, in all weathers and their behaviour has been exemplary. Well done children, we are very proud of you! Huge thanks go again to Miss Neale for arranging these opportunities for the children.

The children and trainers all wore the requisite protective helmets for this event. However, we do know many children and some parents cycle or scoot to school, without protective helmets. Whilst the Health and Safety auditor assures us this is a matter for parental choice and school have no jurisdiction in this respect, we do **urge everyone to travel safely** and take protective measures.

Parking

This is another aspect in which we have no jurisdiction. However, we have received complaints from residents about inconsiderate and dangerous parking, on the **zig-zags**, on **double yellow lines**, on **pavements at corners** and **blocking driveways**. Please avoid doing this, to promote visibility for the safety of everyone and as a civic duty, to avoid hostile altercations. Sadly, when infringements occur this does lead to unbecoming adult exchanges which children should not have to hear, resulting in anxiety and even fear. We are all responsible for helping to avoid this, I know you will agree.

Year 4 Road Safety Training

There will be a whole school assembly taking place on Tuesday 22nd March followed by Road Safety Training for Year 4 on Tuesday 22nd and Tuesday 29th March. Separate letters have been sent out to Year 4 parents with further information.

Walk to School

This month, we have made 2959 active journeys and there are 244 badges to hand out which is fantastic! For February, we have a new class winner... well done to 3JW who have completed the most active journeys this month! Keep on walking everyone!

Online Safety Survey

We have been asked by the Leeds Education and Early Years Safeguarding Team to circulate the link for an Online Safety Survey which they would like parents to partake in. Please click on the link to commence the survey <https://forms.gle/814YAwP1AtdSYXXWA>

The closing date is **31st March**.

Your School Lottery

This month, you have the chance to win a £500 bike voucher if you join Your School Lottery. Tickets are £1 each and there is a cash prize every week. Please see the attached leaflet or the website for further information. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>



Could a Career in Teaching be for you? We would certainly recommend it!

Westerton Partnership provides high quality Initial Teacher Training. You can apply for your opportunity to train to be a teacher NOW! Apply today on the DfE web page on the GOV.UK website by using this link: <https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate>:

328W – Primary 3-7 Programme

328X – Primary 5-11 Programme

Please visit our school webpage for more information.

Community News

All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket

Please find attached information regarding the above clubs. Further details can be obtained from their websites: www.allstarscricket.co.uk and www.dynamoscricet.co.uk

Dates for your diaries

Monday 7 th March	Audiologist visiting Year 1 pupils
Tuesday 8 th March	10.00 am Year 5 and 6 Disco Tickets go on sale Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening
Thursday 24 th March	5.00 – 7.00 pm Year 5 and 6 Disco
Friday 25 th March	Ilam Hall and East Barnby Payment Deadline

It has been lovely to see so many of you face to face for the first of our **Parent Consultation Evenings**. Thank you to those who have already completed our **surveys** in the Conference Room, we know the refreshments and fabulous flapjacks and cakes provided by our Catering Team were very much appreciated by children, parents and colleagues. (If Mr Pool did manage to lasso you in to complete a survey, thank you, it is very much appreciated.) The goodies certainly kept us all going and we will have the same provisions next week. Please do join us then if you can and have not already done so. In the meantime, do have a pleasant, restful weekend.

Yours faithfully



S Makin
Principal and the Westerton Team