



Westerton Primary Academy

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Leodis
Academies
Trust



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6th May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

Ilam Hall Residential

To our joy and relief, our Year 4 children have been able to spend two days this week on their first residential. The fact that this has not been ruined by the pandemic has, in itself, been a cause for celebration! They had lots of fun activities at Ilam Hall followed by a day at Eyam learning about the plague. Both days were enjoyed by all the children and their behaviour was amazing. Members of the public and Ilam Hall colleagues were extremely complimentary about the courtesy of the children and their support and encouragement of each other, they really did us proud! We would like to thank all **twelve staff** and Mr Makin for **volunteering** their time away from their own families, overnight, to ensure the children had such a wonderful experience, building their social skills and resilience in such a great environment. We are certainly blessed to have such a great team.

Thank you also to all parents for the lovely messages of appreciation and support for this event, it really does make all the planning worthwhile. There is no doubt the Westerton community spirit is very strong and this is even evident throughout the vast majority of external social media coverage, something over which we have no jurisdiction. We are especially grateful to those parents who are positively protective of our school and help to guard against any rare but unsavoury, negative comments (which may even use expletives) by forwarding the screen shots. We do understand the concern that such comments can reflect badly on a very small minority of the catchment, however, please do be reassured they do not bring the school into disrepute.

Online Safety

Indeed, social media is very much a double edged sword. Whilst it can be used to do much good in terms of facilitating communication, sadly it can also do much harm against adults and children. A lack of understanding, finesse or simply naiveté about the ramifications can lead to untold misery and even danger. The problems can easily escalate. To help avoid these, please find attached two leaflets from the police regarding Online Safety with regards to Facebook Messenger and Group Chats. It is hoped these will help to protect everyone, particularly our children as their use of social media grows.

Lunchtime Manners

Mrs Ramsden and her ubiquitous team have been closely monitoring our lunchtime behaviour in terms of table manners, cutlery use, etiquette, courtesy and noise levels. This week the following children have received a Principal's Award sticker for being great examples to others in this respect:

Reception - Henil

Year Two – Rhys

Year Three – Lexi
Year Four – Junior

Well done and thank you children.

Master Chef!

Our fabulous Master Chef competition for Year Six is now underway and the second heat has taken place. The school fills with the tantalising aromas of fabulous food and the staff queue up to volunteer as tasters, making any form of dieting impossible. We will keep you posted with the names of the heat winners as we move towards the grand final.

Illnesses – Advice from the UK Health Security Agency

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have seen a rise in cases of sudden onset hepatitis (liver inflammation) in children. Please be alert to the signs of hepatitis (including jaundice) and to contact a healthcare professional if you are concerned. Hepatitis symptoms include:

- yellowing of the white part of the eyes or skin (jaundice)
- dark urine
- pale, grey-coloured faeces (poo)
- itchy skin
- muscle and joint pain
- a high temperature
- feeling and being sick
- feeling unusually tired all the time
- loss of appetite
- tummy pain

Children experiencing symptoms of a gastrointestinal infection including vomiting and diarrhoea should stay at home and not return to school or nursery until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped.

Walk to School

For the month of April, we had 1574 journeys which is good considering we weren't in school for 2 weeks of it! We also have a new class winner... the winner is **2CL** with 216 active journeys. **3JW** you were only 1 active journey behind!

Health and Safety – Cycling/Scooter Helmets, Pedestrians and Mini Police!

Please do continue to be mindful of Health and Safety and the need to wear **protective helmets** if riding scooters or cycling to and from school. Whilst the school, of course, have no legal jurisdiction or capacity to enforce this, we do hope that our additional curricular provision involving '*Bikeability*' is helping to keep our children safe by influencing good habits.

Children, please remember, we cannot allow cycling or scooting on the playground at drop off and collection times due to the congestion at these times, the slope of the playground and the risk of collisions with other children and parents. Thank you all for your understanding with this.

Punctuality

We have noticed an increase in the number of some children arriving to school late and also being collected late at the end of the day. Please ensure that you check the times that your child should be in class so that they are not missing any important information at the beginning of their day. Arriving late

also disrupts the class and staff who have to escort the children to their classrooms. Thank you for your support with this important issue.

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Nursery	8.40 – 8.45 am	2.40 – 2.45 pm
Reception, Years 1 and 2	8.35 – 8.40 am	3.00 – 3.05 pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	8.30 – 8.35 am	2.55 – 3.00 pm

Holiday Requests

Understandably, but unfortunately, this is the time of year when requests to authorise holidays in term time tend to escalate. As such, individual queries cannot receive separate responses hence the information distributed here. Please do be aware that holidays **cannot** be authorised by schools. The Leodis Academies Trust policy upholds the legal requirement from the government in this respect. Only absence for special circumstances in term time can be granted. Examples of these can be:

- participation in religious ceremonies
- bereavement
- participation in sporting/musical competitive events
- undertaking entrance examinations
- therapeutic time for children with SEND
- medical appointments

The extended visiting of relatives or birthday celebrations do not qualify as special circumstances. Unfortunately, neither do postponed holidays previously booked through the pandemic or those which are significantly cheaper in term time. Please believe us that all school staff share your frustration and financial pain with the latter! Thank you for your understanding with this.

Photographs

The early bird 10% discount on your school photographs will be finishing soon so order online now to get the cheapest deal. Alternatively, you can order by phone or post, more details are on the proof sheet given to you last week.

The proofs for the class photographs will be delivered to us in the next few weeks.

Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

At Westerton we truly believe that free school meals continue to be an excellent idea not only for our vulnerable families but for all other families too. The funding provided is based on the number of meals that are served on a given 'census' day regardless of how many meals are served on other days. The next census date is Thursday 19th May 2022. It is very important for the school to provide as many meals as possible to pupils on this day in order to maximise the amount of grant we receive that allows us to provide the best lunchtime provision we possibly can.

A separate letter will be sent, nearer the date, to those children who are entitled to receive Universal Free School Meals (this is different to Free School Meals) as we would like to encourage as many children as possible to try a school meal or grab bag on that day. Thank you for your support in enabling us to obtain as much funding as possible in these difficult financial times both at home and school.

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.

Dates for your diaries

Week beginning 9th May

Friday 13th May

Thursday 19th May

Thursday 26th May

Friday 27th May

Monday 6th June

Year 6 SATs Week

Year 6 to Dalby Forest

4.30 pm East Barnby Meeting

Reception to Cannon Hall

Musical Evening

End of Half Term

Back to School

Please do have a restful weekend and to both Year Two and Year Six as you undertake your SAT exams this month, we wish you all the very best of luck.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin

Principal and the Westerton Team