



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

Acting Vice-Principal: Mrs E Downes B.Ed. (Hons)

13th May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

Year 6 SATs

Well done to all Year 6 who did themselves proud sitting their SATs this week. All the children have worked extremely hard over the last few months with their teachers and LSAs giving them the teaching and support that has been required. There were some excited children and staff on Thursday afternoon due to a visit from the ice cream man providing a very well-deserved treat!

Dalby Forest

Our Year 6 children are currently enjoying a day out at Dalby Forest, completing den building and orienteering activities. We would like to thank the parents of one of our Year 6 children for their very generous donation to ensure that the visit could take place due to a shortfall in voluntary contributions. Your generosity is very much appreciated – thank you.

We hope you have had a wonderful time at Dalby Forest today, Year 6, to celebrate your achievements and the end of a very tough week. Huge thanks go to Mr Pool for the meticulous planning of this event and to all colleagues and governors accompanying the trip. Whose team will build the winning den, I wonder? (Yes, they are that competitive, I have had to ban Mr Makin from taking part!)

Year 6 Netball

We would also like to say a huge, “well done,” to the Y6 children whom we had the privilege to take to a Netball Tournament hosted by Morley Academy. Despite this being their first time working together as a team, the group played excellently and impressed everyone with their team work, attacking/defending skills and pure sportsmanship. Well done everyone and thank you for representing Westerton so well!

Congratulations – Oliver Newton – Mr Mayor!

Massive congratulations go to our former Westerton and Woodkirk pupil, Oliver Newton, who at a mere 27 years old is now the new Mayor of Morley. Wowser! Naturally, there was a need to be in touch with Oliver personally and make the most of this auspicious connection. Thus, he will be visiting Westerton on the 13th July to join us in our Whole School Assembly. He will also join us on the evening of 18th July in the audience to enjoy the Y6 Performance. Oliver assures us that he well remembers participating in many of our traditional Westerton events. We look forward to welcoming him back wearing his chains of office.

Alteration to Menu 16th and 19th May

As mentioned last week in the newsletter, Thursday 19th May is School Census Day where we would like as many children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to enjoy a school meal as part of the Universal Free School Meal scheme.

For next week only, the menu will alter slightly for the whole school as follows:

Monday 16th May

- Spiral Beef Bolognese with Garlic Bread and Vegetables. Toffee Apple Crumble and Custard
- Grab Bag – Ham, Cheese or ‘No Pork’ Hoisin Wrap, yoghurt, cheese portion and biscuit.

Thursday 19th May

- Margherita Pizza with potato wedges, baby corn cobs, peas and mixed salad. Chocolate brownie and ice cream
- Grab Bag – Ham, Cheese or Prawn Cocktail Roll, Dessert, Cheese Portion, Biscuit

Fresh Fruit is also available daily.

Lunchtime Superstars

Mrs Ramsden and her team have named the following children to be mentioned for excellent manners in our busy lunch hall:

Reception - Hugo

Y1 – Grey

Y2 - Spencer

Y4 – Layla Rose

Y5 - Blake

Many thanks also to Charlie in Y3 for his perpetual kindness to others.

Also note-worthy today were our impromptu lunchtime entertainers, many thanks to the following children for their singing: **Noah in 3JW, Isobel in 3GG and Kaelan in 3AC**. All were in excellent voice and can really work that microphone!

We even had some joke-telling today from: **Tristan of 3GG and Albie of 3GG**. You could tell it was Friday!

“Which shop do pirates use the most? AAARgos!”

Uniform observance

As expected, all our children are growing and this is the time of year where the uniforms for school appear to shrink. We do understand that additional expense at this time, as the end of the academic year draws closer, is not ideal. However, the cost of new black shoes, in line with the uniform, can be avoided and we will allow the children to wear **black plimsolls/pumps** inside the building. These are more cost effective but still **no trainers or boots** inside please. We would also ask that parents and children ensure that any **skirts and shorts** are worn at **knee length** for modesty purposes, especially important for our older, taller children who seem to have had their feet in a gardening ‘grow-bag!’

With the brighter warmer weather, the planning of barbecues and parties tends to increase. The temptation to add **jewellery** and gorgeous **nails** is completely understandable for party outfits but do, please, ensure that these do not make an appearance in school. Thank you everyone for your understanding and support in upholding our standards to the very end of the year.

Attendance – Information from our Therapeutic Team Lead – Mrs Sayers

Regular school attendance is, of course, now more important than ever. This now means, our usual rules for attendance apply as follows:

- *It is the duty of parents and carers to ensure that their child attends regularly and on time.*
- *The Academy has responsibility to record attendance, and follow up absences.*
- *The Academy will offer appropriate support for your child's education, attendance, wellbeing and wider development, working closely with other professions when necessary and appropriate.*

- *The Academy is expected to issue sanctions, including Penalty Notices in line with the Local Authority's codes of conduct and Government guidelines.*

Attendance figures are shared regularly with the Local Authority. Children should strive to achieve 100% attendance at all times; attendance should not drop below the Academy's target of 97%. The grid below helps to explain how attendance is evaluated.

| Attendance | |
|-------------|---|
| 100% | Exceptional |
| 97% - 99.9% | Excellent - Achieved above school target |
| 94-96.9% | Below target |
| 90.9-93.9% | Below target, concerned that low attendance will have a significant impact on attainment |
| Below 90% | Regarded as a Persistent Absentee by the Local Authority and Government |

Children whose attendance has fallen below target previously will automatically have their attendance monitored. We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances which is why we monitor attendance on an individual basis. You may receive a letter about your child's attendance, please feel free to contact the academy.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our attendance procedures:

- If your child is suffering from any Covid symptoms and have a positive LFT or PCR test, they should remain at home for 3 days. The first day of symptoms is still classed as day 0.
- If your child is very ill, then please notify the Office Staff/Attendance Team on: 0113 2533504 before 9.00 am. Please advise us of the reason for absence on **each day** of absence.
- On occasions throughout the week members of the Attendance Team and other school staff may **visit** any child who is absent from school. If your child is well enough to attend, your child will be expected to attend school for the remainder of that day.
- If your child is absent from school for **5 days or longer**, you are required to provide medical evidence i.e. an Appointment Card, indicating the reason for absence. Failure to do so will result in the absence being unauthorised. A home visit will be carried out on day 4.
- Please arrange all medical appointments outside the school day, wherever possible. If the appointment is unavoidable, the Academy expects your child to attend before and/or after the appointment as a full day cannot be authorised. Please provide a copy of the appointment letter for our records.
- All requests for **holidays in term-time must be unauthorised** and may result in a **Fixed Penalty Notice** being issued by the Local Authority. A form to request holidays and/or absence for exceptional circumstances is available from the office. Please check our Attendance Policy on our website for guidance on absence in term time.

I am obliged to inform you that under the provision of Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, parents/carers are legally responsible for ensuring their children attend school regularly and on time. Failure to do so could result in the issue of a Penalty Notice or legal proceedings being taken by the Local Authority.

The Academy shares the Government's determination to raise the levels of pupil attendance at school because we want to give the best future opportunities for all our pupils. If you are experiencing any difficulties with your child's attendance, please contact school at the earliest opportunity.

We thank you for your continued support with attendance, working together promotes the best early life chances for your child to fulfil their potential.

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.



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

Please find attached two flyers from local sports clubs who are running clubs.

Dates for your diaries

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 19 th May | 4.30 pm East Barnby Meeting for Y6 parents |
| Thursday 26 th May | Reception visit to Cannon Hall |
| | 5.30 pm Musical Evening in the hall – children perform for parents |
| Friday 27 th May | End of Summer Half Term 1 |
| Monday 6 th June | Back to School – for the last leg! |
| Monday 13 th June | INSET Day – this follows the exhausting Y6 residential weekend trip and allows time for much-needed rest and recuperation. |

Have a lovely weekend everyone and please do stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Makin
Principal and the Westerton Team