



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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23 October 2020

OCTOBER HALF-TERM LETTER

Dear Parents / Carers,

Introduction – PHEW !!



Well we have managed to reach the end of this half-term, this has been the most unusual term I can remember in my 28+ years of teaching. We break up knowing that we are in the midst of a resurgence of the pandemic and within a locality that is now Tier 3. We know that a large number of children have suffered loss of time in school through having to close bubbles. Most schools have experienced this including in some cases whole school closures. This is clearly not going away just yet.

I am fully aware of the significant impact this has had, and may still have on everyone, particularly those of you who have needed to take time off work, likely unpaid, to look after your children. But I would like to thank you also for supporting our actions and plans because the incidents we have had have remained single and isolated which has meant that other year groups have remained unaffected. I hope we can keep this up after half-term.

Schools in the area are aware that a number of children from them, when supposedly self-isolating, have been out and about during the time. Obviously we are not in a position to police this. However, these actions could significantly increase the risk of wider infection which could then have an impact on the running of year groups and bubbles, and I am sure you will agree with me that we want to avoid as much as at all possible any future bubble closures. We are extremely grateful to you for your continued support in what we are doing, even when it is a great challenge for you.

School Lunches



At the start of the term, we had hoped that we could soon expand the hot dinner menu to beyond the infant years. However with the recent rapid rise in cases in the area and recent year group closures, we have decided that now is not the time to widen this in order to keep the year group bubbles as tight as possible, therefore the current menu style will remain the same after half-term. As soon as we are in a position to expand full hot dinners we will. A hot snack option will still remain available for older pupils.

Staggered Start and End Times



We have reviewed the staggered start and end times and based on the current rise in cases locally, we have decided to keep the times the same. Again, we thank you for your understanding over this as we know that for many of you it is an inconvenience to walk around the school using the one-way system, but again, your support with this is what is keeping the risk of spreading the virus across year groups down. For a school our size this really is an achievement and the credit goes to you. Thank

you. Please do ensure that your child arrives in time before the classroom door closes as this is the time when the teachers need to start their lessons.

Year 1 Classrooms – Link Way



We have been very grateful to Year 1 parents and carers who have collected their children from the zones on the playground at the end of each day. As the weather gets more wintery, we have arranged for a hard-surface pathway to be installed between the run-a-mile track and the infant playground. Once placed, this will allow non-Year 1 parents to walk around the playground rather than passed the Year 1 exit points. This means that Year 1 parents can collect from the classrooms again. We will let you know when this is ready and we will have staff present to guide everyone. We hope this is in place straight after half-term or very soon after.

Parent Consultations



As with other schools, we have now set up provision for parent consultations to be arranged electronically. Ours will be through Scopay so that you can book appointments. You will be informed of when this is ready and when they will be. This term they will be via a telephone conversation as we still need to restrict people from being in school. If you have not yet registered with Scopay, please contact the school office and they will advise you.

Friends' Raffle



The Friends' Raffle took place earlier today Live on Facebook. You can check it to see if you are a winner, but all winners will be contacted by the school. Thank you for helping to raise £406 !! Thank you for supporting this.

!! And Finally !!

We all wish you all very peaceful, healthy and safe half-term break. We look forward to seeing all year groups back again on **Monday 2nd November**. Thank you again; we really could not do this without you.



DON'T FORGET - CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR THIS SUNDAY



Yours sincerely,



Keith Wright
Head Teacher
Westgate Primary School