

WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher

Mrs S J Hickey

BA Hons

Tel: 01482 844369



Westfield Road

Cottingham

East Yorkshire

HU16 5PE

February 2019

Pupil Absence and Attendance

Pupil absence is very carefully monitored at Westfield and we aim for every child to have an attendance of 90% or above. Research shows that children do not achieve as well in their education and in public examinations the more school absence they have. A child absent from school for a period of two weeks each year, for exceptional circumstances, and with the average absence for illness will have missed the equivalent of one whole year's education over their school life. We do however appreciate that there are some occasions when your child will be absent through genuine illness. Could we please ask that, unless recorded on an Exceptional Circumstances Form, pupil absences are reported to the school office before 9am so that we are not expecting your child in school and do not raise safeguarding concerns about their whereabouts.



Recently we have also seen an increase in the number of pupils arriving late at the start of the school. This affects how quickly individual children settle at the start of the day and can disrupt the session for other children. Pupils should arrive between 8.55am and 9.00am. Arrival after 9.00am is recorded as "late" and an arrival after 9.15am is recorded as "unauthorised absence". We would welcome your cooperation with these matters.

Staffing Changes

Mr Tugby, who is currently covering Miss Plew's maternity cover, will be leaving us at the end of this half term. Miss Plews intends to return to work from Monday 1st April and Mrs Hind has agreed to cover the Y4 class during this interim period. This will mean that Miss Rhodes will work full time in Y3 and Miss Jones will teach on Monday in Y2 while Mrs Hind is with Y4. We have also had confirmation that Miss Kenyon will be returning to work from Monday 18th March and will take up her full time teaching role in Y1.

As Winter approaches we would like to remind parents of our procedures regarding potential school closures during severe weather. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly. We will always endeavor to make a closure decision as early as possible. If possible, parents will be informed via the school text message service. However, parents should also ensure that they check the school Twitter account and website and listen for announcements on BBC Radio Humberside and Viking Radio.

Please be assured that we will always endeavour to keep school open and will only close for health and safety reasons.

The above information will be a constant newsletter item during the winter months.



Payments—School Meals

At present the cost of a school meal is £2.20 and this applies to children in KS2. Meal options include: a hot meal, school sandwich or jacket potato. It is expected that all meals are paid for in advance and we would ask that parents do not knowingly fall into arrears. Should your school meal account fall into arrears, the online system will automatically send a message to inform you of this. Thank you.



Comic Relief 2019

We have taken delivery of 250 red noses in support of Comic Relief 2019. These will be available to buy (minimum donation of £1.25) from the office staff at morning playtimes during the first week back after half term—week commencing 25th February. Stocks are limited so please don't miss out!

Arts Mark Award

Following our success with the School Games and Youth Sports Trust accreditation and awards, and given the school's commitment to music, art and drama, we have begun working towards the national Arts Mark accreditation. The process takes approximately two academic years and I know that Mrs James, Miss Jones and Miss Hunt, who are leading the project, have some exciting activities planned. Watch this space!



Little Princess Performance

Pupils in KS2 thoroughly enjoyed a theatre adaptation of The Little Princess with a very clear anti-bullying message. The performance was of an exceptionally high standard and we have already made a booking for next year! We are now all looking forward to the visit from The Magic Theatre Company next half term.

Contacting staff

Could we please ask that any parental concerns are initially discussed with class teachers. Should you then feel that the matter is not sufficiently resolved it would be appropriate to ask to meet with either Mr Garnett or Mrs Hickey. All staff should be contacted via the school office, this can be via telephone or email at westfield@westfield.eriding.net. Please refrain from using personal emails to contact staff. This ensures that in the case of staff absence, the concern can be redirected to an appropriate member of staff.

Diary dates— Spring term

Friday 15th February	School closes—Half term holiday
Monday 25th February	School reopens
Friday 1st March	Y1 History Day
Wednesday 6th March	Theatre Company visit
Tuesday 12th March	Science Day—Kitchen Sink Science Show
Wednesday 13th March	Y3 Hull Museums visit
Friday 15th March	WSA disco
Wednesday 20th March	School class photos
Monday 25th March	Y4 swimming starts (10 week course)
Monday 25th March	Parent consultation week
Wednesday 27th March	Y6—Oliver performance at Cottingham High School
Friday 5th April	School closes—Easter holiday

