

WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher
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Cottingham
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It has been an absolute delight to finally open the school gates again and welcome all our children back this week. The children have been amazing and have settled into new routines really quickly. It is great to see classrooms full again and children enjoying being with one another. All the staff at Westfield have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that new procedures and protocols have been put into place and we will continue to ensure that we maintain as safe as possible an environment for your children to learn and play. I can assure parents that the School Leadership Team will continue to monitor our procedures in school and will respond to any changes or recommendations at both national and Local Authority level. I am extremely grateful to all of the staff team for their hard work and am sure that I speak for many of you when I say thank you.

Staff will spend the first few weeks of the term getting to know their class and settling the children into new routines. During this time we will also be conducting assessments. Staff will then analyse class data to address any gaps in learning which may have developed. Gaps in knowledge will be addressed either through whole class teaching or small group intervention, depending on need.

Could I politely remind all parents and carers that, unless using Hometown Club, access to the school is not permitted before 8.40am in the morning and 3.15pm in the afternoon. We have created fifteen minute drop off and collection slots, so that parents could drop off and collect children without congregating on the school site. We would ask that all parents observe these times to ensure the safety of families and staff.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unusual times.

School Communication

We aim to keep parents as fully informed as possible—either via text, email or letter when appropriate. It is now more important than ever that we have your current and correct contact details so that you don't miss out on key information.

School Curriculum

Staff are always looking for fun and exciting ways to deliver learning. Our website has details of each year group's curriculum and is updated termly and our school twitter account is a great way to see all the fantastic things happening throughout the school.

Home School Reading

As a school we are passionate about the importance of developing solid literacy skills. Support from home and the wider community is extremely important and the most successful readers make a transition from mechanical reading (decoding the words) to comprehension of the text at around eight years old and children who can connect emotionally with the text enjoy the greater success in this area of the curriculum. Research has proved that a child who has access to just twenty texts within the home has a fifty percent chance of a future above the poverty line—a statistic which we found staggering. We have developed a system to ensure children can take reading books home, which are then quarantined before reissue. Please help us to support the teaching of reading by completing home reading three times a week, sharing literature at home and encouraging your child to develop a love of books and passion for reading.

Contacting your child's teacher

If you would like to speak with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office to make a suitable appointment. Staff are unable to hold face to face meetings in the current climate but are happy to arrange telephone appointments to discuss any concerns. Please be aware that due to enhanced cleaning regimes, staff are only on site between 8am—4pm. Any concerns should be addressed with the class teacher before contacting the Head or Deputy Headteacher.

School Meals—Payments

Could we politely remind all parents that school meals should be paid for in advance and accounts should not fall into arrears. Should your account fall into arrears, the school office will contact you to inform you of the situation. However, if the outstanding balance is not settled by the end of the working week, we regret that we will be unable to provide any further school meals until the account is in credit. Our school meal—either hot meal, jacket potato and sandwich option is priced at £2.40 for KS2 pupils and is free for EYFS and KS1 pupils under current government funding.

Lost property

Despite having cloakrooms in many of our classrooms and our very best efforts, every term we generate a massive amount of lost property! Many of the items often appear to be brand new and can range from the usual suspects, such as jumpers and cardigans, to expensive winter coats and even shoes! We are hopeful that the restricted movement of pupils around school will help reduce the amount of lost property but we would stress that all school items should be labelled with a child's name and year group so that we can return any lost items. In the current situation, we are unable to keep lost property and any unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of the school week.

Diary dates— Autumn term

Wednesday 4th September	School reopens
Friday 23rd October	Staff Training Day—School closed to pupils
Monday 26th October	HALF TERM
Monday 2nd November	School reopens
Friday 18th December	END OF TERM