

# WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## September 2021

We hope that you have had a fantastic summer. Welcome back to familiar faces and to all our new children and families who have joined our school community this Autumn term. We hope that children settle soon into their new routines and make new friends quickly. I am sure that they will very quickly feel a part of the Westfield team! As society starts to get back to some kind of normality, we are hoping that this year will pass without disruption. We will continue to work with Public Health and the Local Authority to monitor infection rates within school and will continue to ensure that the school is well ventilated and that staff and children adhere to a strict handwashing regime. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions, especially in these early weeks.



### School Staffing

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff to the team this September. Miss Pendleton has joined the teaching staff and Senior Leadership Team. Miss Long and Miss Allbones have joined our TA team and many of you will have either met or spoken to Mrs Arthur who has joined the Admin team. I'm sure the staff, children and parents will ensure that they feel a part of the Westfield community very soon.

### School Communication

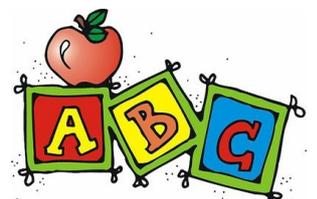
We aim to keep parents as fully informed as possible—either via text, email or letter when appropriate. Please ensure that we have your current and correct contact details so that you don't miss out on key information. Our website has details of each year group's curriculum and is updated termly and our school twitter account is a great way to see all the fantastic things happening throughout the school.

### Parent Consultation Evenings

Our Parent Consultation Evenings will take place during the week commencing 4th October. These are short five minute appointments with your child's class teacher and will focus on how they have settled into the new year. Attainment and progress will be discussed in more detail in the Spring consultation meetings. We will continue to hold meetings virtually via Goggle classrooms, as many parents felt that this system gave them greater flexibility and was a much more efficient system with regard to timings. Information regarding the online booking system and how to access Google classroom will be sent home next week.

### EYFS Phonics Information Sessions

Teaching phonics is an important start to children's education and we are pleased to offer an Information Session for parents of pupils in EYFS to explain how phonics is taught in school and how you can support your children at home. Miss Plews and Miss Fancy will be holding an early evening session on Thursday 30th September at 5.00pm. More details will follow. We hope to see lots of you there!



## 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. 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 them to make a suitable appointment. Staff are always happy to meet with parents and discuss any concerns. However the start of the school day can be very busy as they are preparing for lessons and the end of the school day is a more convenient time.

## 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 with a 20% discount if meals are ordered every day within the week. Meals for EYFS and KS1 pupils are free of charge 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! To help reduce this could we please ask that at the start of this year all uniform is labelled with your child's name and their class. This will ensure that lost items can be returned quickly and effectively. Should you need to access our lost property, this is stored in the school entrance.



## Diary dates— Autumn term

Tuesday 7th September	School reopens
Thursday 30th September	EYFS Phonics Information Evening
Monday 4th October	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 5th October	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 6th October	Parent Consultations
Thursday 7th October	Parent Consultations
Friday 8th October	School photographs
<b>Monday 25th October</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 1st November	School reopens
Tuesday 7th December	Flu vaccinations
Friday 17th December	<b>END OF TERM</b>

