

WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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January 2023

Happy New Year to all our children and families. We hope you have had a restful Christmas break. It's great to welcome the children back into school and they have settled quickly back into their school routines. I know there is already a range of exciting activities planned for this half term.

You should shortly receive a copy of our Topic Web, briefly outlining what your child will be covering in their curriculum this half term. You can also find more detailed information regarding year group curricula on our website. We hope that this information will give a clear outline of what your child will be learning in school.

Please take a look at our updates on our Twitter feed @WestfieldCott to see what takes place this half term.

Mrs Hickey

New Year Resolutions

If you are looking for something to encourage your children to adopt as a new year resolution, could we suggest home reading three times per week. We often get asked how parents can help their children develop reading skills. Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day.

Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. If you're both enjoying talking about the content of a particular page, linger over it for as long as you like. Books aren't just about reading the words on the page, they can also present new ideas and topics for you and your child to discuss.

Tips for helping your child to enjoy books:

- Encourage your child to pretend to 'read' a book before they can read words.
- Visit the library as often as possible - consider Audiobooks as well as traditional paper books.
- Schedule a regular time for reading - perhaps when you get home from school or just before bed.
- Buy dual-language books if English isn't your family's first language - you can talk about books and stories, and develop a love for them, in any language.
- Look for books on topics that you know your child is interested in - maybe dragons, insects, cookery or a certain sport.

Make sure that children's books are easily accessible in different rooms around your house. Please remember that reading at home does not need to be an arduous task - ten / fifteen minutes three times a week is more beneficial than a forty five minute battle on a Sunday evening and is a fantastic way to support your child and their education. Thank you for your support.



Staying Safe

Teaching pupils to be safe is an important part of our work and we are aware that many children were lucky enough to receive electrical devices for Christmas such as iPads or Smart phones/watches. Could we please stress to parents the need to monitor children's online activity and be aware of privacy settings on social media Apps such as Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat. Talking to your children about the need to stay safe and encouraging them to report any unwanted or inappropriate material to a trusted adult is a great way to support children. Further information and advice can be found through updates on our Twitter feed @WestfieldCott or at <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Please note that pupils are not permitted to wear Smart watches in school. Thank you.

TT Rockstars

At the start of this academic year, we introduced TT Rockstars for pupils in Y2 upwards and Numbots for younger children. This was to replace the Doodle package the school had previously used as a homework platform. This month, we will relaunching our TT Rockstars to build momentum and engagement. As this is part of our homework offer, please ensure your child accesses this for ten minutes three times per week. The resource is a fun way to build speed and fluency in multiplication skills, vital for success in mathematics. Please contact your class teacher if you require further information on using this resource. Thank you for your cooperation.



Winter Arrangements

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..



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

Diary dates— Spring term 2023

Wednesday 4th January
Friday 27th January
Tuesday 31st January
Monday 13th February
Wednesday 15th March
Wednesday 15th March
Friday 17th March
Friday 31st March
Tuesday 18th April

Children return to school
Y2 Scooter training
Whole school theatre performance –Alice in Wonderland
HALF TERM
Wrates Photographer—Class Photos
EYFS Humberside Police visit
Red Nose Day—non uniform
END OF TERM
Children return to school

