



West Park Academy

Date: February 2022

Spring Term 1

We are welcoming the slightly lighter mornings and evenings in school. January seems always to be the longest month but there is a sense of Spring being just around the corner. We hope you and your family are staying safe and well. Despite falling national figures, we are still experiencing a significant number of positive cases within the staff and pupil population. We are therefore maintaining our existing Covid measures and will review them at the end of this term.



Keeping Children Safe on Line:

Please come along and join us for an informal presentation and chat about how you can help keep your children safe when using technology. Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 3:30pm <https://www.westparkacademy.org.uk/news/?pid=15&nid=1&storyid=698>

School uniform: We have collected a lot of lost property due to things being unnamed. Please can we ask you to name everything including, drinks bottles, lunch bags/boxes, hats, gloves, scarves, and shoes. We understand that some of the children are too young to be fully responsible for their belongings and this is something we are teaching them every day, but it does help us to return them to you.

School Uniform and PE kit:

We expect all children to be in school uniform and have a PE kit in school for their PE lessons. Children should bring their PE kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday.

Our uniform consists of:

Grey/black trousers, pinafore or skirt

Yellow/purple polo shirt

Green sweatshirt or cardigan

In Summer, grey/black shorts may be worn, or a green, yellow or purple gingham dress.

Forthcoming Events:		
Tues 8th Feb	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Aquasplash
Wed 9th Feb	4:00 PM - 6:15 PM	Darlington International Football Event @ Dolphin Centre
Fri 18th Feb	3:30 PM	School closes for Half Term starts
Mon 28th Feb	8:45 AM	School Re-opens
Thurs 10th Mar	ALL DAY	Tempest - Class photos
Fri 11th Mar	ALL DAY	Educational Visit Yr 4 Centre For Life
Mon 28th Mar	5:30 PM - 6:45 PM	Dance Festival - Selected Children
Fri 8th Apr	3:30 PM	School closes for Easter
Mon 25th Apr	8:45 AM	School Re-Opens

Website update: We are consistently adding information to our website and Facebook page. Staff and pupils have worked hard on updating our parents page with videos on how to support reading at home. We know that reading can open up the world to children and enable them to access all aspects of the curriculum and thrive. We prioritise reading homework and ask that you sign your child's Home Contact book each time they read.

Board of Trustees: We are always looking for Trustees to sit on our Board. Being a school trustee is a hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment. You will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country. If this is something you would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hirst for further information.



World Book Fair: The bookfair will be in school from Monday 28th February 2022 until Friday 4th March 2022. Only children can visit the bookfair this year, parents are unable to attend due to Covid restrictions.



The children will visit the bookfair with their class and make a Wishlist in school, they will take this home where parents can scan the QR code in order to purchase the books. Each child will receive a voucher with their Wishlist.

World Book Day is fast approaching! As part of the national campaign to bring back the bedtime story, on Thursday 3rd March 2022, World Book Day itself, we ask all pupils to come to school wearing pyjamas. Throughout the day, they will have the opportunity to listen to different stories told by a variety of people from the school community. The day is designed to develop reading for pleasure through:

- Being able to read regularly
- Access to books at home
- The ability for children to choose what they want to read
- Having trusted adults and peers sharing and recommending books
- The reading experience being enjoyable
- Designated time to read

There will be hot chocolate and biscuits for all the children.

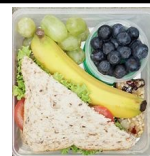
Scan the QR Code to pay for your books online or visit
bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay



Outdoor Play: Despite the nip in the air, we are continuing to play outdoors at lunch times and playtimes. Please ensure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing and footwear each day and that they are clearly named.



Healthy Lunch: We all want our children to feel good about themselves. A healthy lunch every day will give your child the energy and nutrients they need to grow, develop and learn. Our school dinners provide children with healthy, tastes and nutritious food but are also designed to appeal to their taster. We offer taster sessions throughout the year so that children are familiar with any new additions and there is always 3 options to choose from. If you do choose to send a packed lunch, please can you ensure that there are **no sweets or fizzy drinks**.



Breakfast Club: If you would like your child to attend breakfast club please arrive between 8:00am - 8:30am at the main hall doors the cost is £2:25 per day. There is no need to book your child in.



School Correspondence: Where possible we are now sending letters via email. Please look out for emails from West Park Academy, if you are not receiving these emails please contact the school office to update your email address.



Contact Details: If you have moved address, had a change of telephone number or need to update emergency contact details we ask that you inform the school office immediately. This is to enable the school to contact you in an emergency should one occur.

Schools News App: To keep in touch with the latest school news, calendar events and photo galleries go to West Park Academy website to find links to download the school news app.



We have had a number of complaints from nearby residents about parking and the amount of cars blocking driveways, double-parking etc.

Dangerous parking is also an issue around school, putting the safety of children and other at risk. Please be considerate when bringing/or collecting your child to school. We are working with the Council and Safer Streets to find possible solutions to this.



Huge thanks to all our parents, staff, and children for the amazing way they have approached school since the return in September. Your smiles, resilience and support has been incredible.