



# West Park Academy

**Date: Sept 2023**

**Autumn Term 1**

Welcome back to school to all children and staff especially all new starters. The morning bell rings at 8:45am, all children need to be in class for registration at this time. Collection time is at 3:30pm - this is for all children.

**Reception Classes:** Learning to read is such a crucial skill for young children to master and we **Phonics** hope to ensure that the children learn these skills whilst maintaining a love of books and stories. Reading can be very challenging for some children, however, when school and home work together, the children stand the best chance of making great progress. The Reception team will be presenting a phonics, reading and mathematics information session on **Thursday 21st September 2023 at 2:15pm - 3:15pm or 5:00pm - 6:00pm** they will share with parents our approach and things you can do to best support your child.

**Open Event:** We are holding an Open Event for prospective parents for Reception Sept 2024 starters. This will be on **Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 5:00pm**, just come along no need to book.

As part of **The Harvest Festival** we will be having a collection in school of food such as tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, cereals, tinned meat, rice and UHT milk. This will be collected by King's Food Store, which is a food bank. King's Food Store are coming to collect during an assembly on **Monday 9th October 2023 at 3:00 PM**. Many thanks in advance for your kind donations.



**Parents Consultation** will take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday week commencing **23rd October 2023**, there will be more information to follow shortly.


**Nasal Flu Vaccinations.** As part of the NHS National Immunisation schedule, we are offering the nasal flu vaccine in school. This will take place in WPA on **Friday 13th October 2023**.


A new link will be emailed out to parents once we receive it from the NHS.

If you have already consented this will be transferred, so no need to re-consent. Thank you for your patience.

## Forthcoming Events:

Mon 18th Sept	9:30 AM - 1:45 PM	Yr 3 Educational Visit - Dolphin Centre
Tues 19th Sept	AM	Yr 2 Educational Visit - Acorn Dairy
Wed 20th Sep	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Parent Carer Forum Welcome meeting at WPA
Wed 20th Sept	9:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Yr 4 Educational Visit - Town Trail
Thurs 21st Sept	2:15 PM & 5:00 PM	Current Reception Parents - Phonics meeting
Wed 4th Oct	All Day	Yr 6 Educational Visit - Hamsterley Forest
Wed 4th Oct	5:00 PM	Open evening for potential Reception 2024 starters
Fri 13th Oct	All Day	Nasal Flu Vaccinations R - Yr 6
Mon 23rd Tues 24th & Wed 25th Oct	3:30 PM onwards	Parents Consultation - information to follow
Thur 26th Oct	All Day	Training Day - School closed
Fri 27th Oct	All Day	Training Day - School closed
Mon 30th Oct	3:30 PM	School Closed for Half Term
Mon 6th Nov	8:45 AM	School Re-opens
Mon 20th Nov	All Day	Individual photos

**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. **Correspondence:** Please check that school has an up to date email address as we are now sending most correspondence via email. These emails will come from **West Park Academy.** 

You can also look on the school website: [www.westparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.westparkacademy.org.uk) and click on 'Key Info' for news & events throughout the school year. For individual class curriculums, click on 'Curriculum'. Our website is regularly updated, why not have a look. We are also on Facebook and Twitter. 

**Individual School Photographs** will be taken on **Monday 20th November 2023**. If your child has siblings who **do not** attend West Park Academy, they may come into school from 8.30am onwards, a ticket will be given on arrival for a place in the queue.



**All** children who attend West Park Academy will have their photographs taken throughout the school day.

**Meal Pattern:** If you would like to make a change to your child's current meal pattern: i.e changing from Packed Lunch to School Meal or vice versa then please inform the school office.

**Nut Allergy:** Just to make you aware that we do have children with nut allergies in school. Please be mindful when sending food into school, this includes products such as Chocolate nut spread and food stuffs that do not seemingly contain nuts. Children do not have to eat these products to have a severe reaction.

**Healthy Eating:** At West Park Academy we encourage healthy eating and want lunchtime to provide a nourishing break within school, therefore can we remind parents that sweets and chocolate bars are not allowed in children's packed lunch or as a break time snack.



**PE Kit Requirements:** PE is a compulsory subject in school and too many children are coming to lessons without appropriate kit.



Please provide your child with a sensible PE kit. This kit should preferably be in the school colours, (however, this is not mandatory) or plain colours – **NO** football kits allowed.

The kit must consist of the following items:

- Yellow/purple or white t-shirt
- Black/green shorts
- Trainers (outdoor)
- Jogging bottoms/track suit for outdoor use and for the cold weather

PE days may change to fit in with the needs of the school, therefore it is important that your child has appropriate PE kit in school with them **every day** to ensure that PE can be taught consistently and in line with the National Curriculum.

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast Club runs each morning starting at 8:00am, the doors will close at 8:30am. The daily cost is £3.00. Your child can enjoy toast, cereals, fruit and a drink. No need to book just come along to the hall doors.



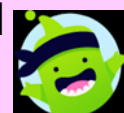
**Parent/Carer Forum:** This year, we are very excited to be continuing our work with the Autism Education Trust and Darlington's Parent Carer Forum. We are offering a number of **FREE** workshops for parents this term. Welcome meeting **Wednesday 20th September 9am –10am**, please come along and have a bacon/sausage sandwich.



**Bikes and Scooters:** Could children and parents please dismount from bicycles and scooters at the entrance gates to school. For health and safety reasons bicycles and scooters are not permitted on the playground. Could you also ensure that you stay on the paved areas and not use the grass.



**Class Dojo** This year we are introducing a new tool for home and school communication which we believe is such an important aspect of a child's learning. We are going to be using Class Dojo as reward and communication system, **this is to replace Marvellous Me.**



Dojo allows staff to provide children with instant feedback on their behaviour and attitudes to learning in school. It also allows two-way communication between home and school to celebrate success and also inform you about events in class. (Teachers will not respond out of office hours).

The Dojo app offers a paid subscription, this is **NOT** required, you will still get updates on your child without having Dojo Plus (which requires payment).

Unfortunately this shows each time you open the app.

**Lost Property:** We are trying to reduce the amount of lost clothing in school, therefore we no longer have a lost property box. Please help us by **clearly labelling all** clothing. Children are responsible for their coats, jumpers, cardigans etc. At the end of play/lunchtime all items are returned to the child, this can **only** happen if the clothes are clearly labelled.

Names written on the label will help school reunite lost clothing with their owners. Labels can be purchased from Elizabeth Embroidery.