

NEWSLETTER W/C 24TH JANUARY 2022

Wednesday, 26/01/2022
13:48To Prime Parents of: [+](#)To School Members: [+](#)[✉](#) EMAIL

Westmoor Primary School

Dear Parents Carers

We hope that you and your family are well and ask for your patience in supporting us with the following. We have had a significant number of staff absence due to Covid, since the return after Christmas. This is across caretaking, office, support staff, teaching staff and leadership. This is representative of many schools in our region. Staff have been covering posts where possible, to ensure we can keep school open and operational. Please be mindful that we may not have the capacity to deal with queries immediately, but will always respond when we are able to. If your child has forgotten items such as a water bottle, they can access drinking water as and when they wish in school, as dropping off items to the school office is placing undue pressures upon school. On occasions, you may be inevitably delayed and arrive late for school, however we have noticed that some families are repeatedly late, causing additional tasks for office staff. Please therefore, make every effort to be prompt for the beginning or end of the school day.

Assembly

Current Events

For a few years we have been using a resource called "Picture News" for a weekly assembly. The content ensures that our children are knowledgeable with regards to current affairs, but at an appropriate level. Recently we discussed whether rules should be the same for everyone, when considering the situation around Novak Djokovic. Discussions then led to a sharing of views around alleged Downing Street parties. We then considered China's recent announcement that players were banned from entering the footballing profession if they had tattoos and that those with them had to cover them, or have them removed. Each week you will be sent the information, via school gateway, to facilitate further discussions at home, should you wish to.

RSE

Relationships and Sex Education

Different Families - Same Love

Our PSHCE curriculum ensures that our children receive a unique curriculum suited to their needs. The pandemic has led us to focus even more on physical and mental health. We also consider healthy relationships and explore aspects at age appropriate levels. School used a £100 book token donated by Sainsburys to purchase a range of LGBTQ+ books recommended for use in school. Mrs Trundley intends to deliver age appropriate assemblies and has begun with Year 5/6. Following on from our discussions regarding rules around tattoos (see above) we explored how people choose to identify. The children were incredibly mature in their discussions and understand the need to respect one another as individuals. We aim to move on with Year 5/6 to consider mental health and body image, recognising the disparity between what is often presented online to that of reality.

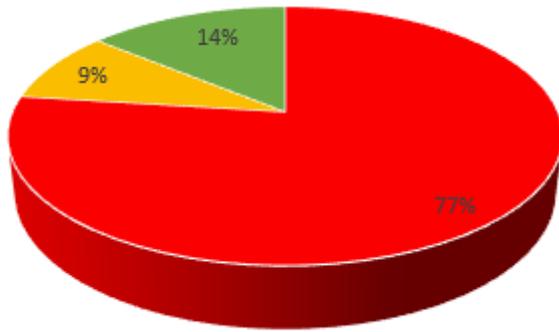
Uniform

Non gender specific

Thank you for working with school to ensure that your children are dressed in school uniform. The PE uniform is practical, meaning no time is lost to changing clothing at school. At times, we do have to remind some children on general uniform expectations, particularly shoes. Please ensure that your children's shoes are plain black. Whilst we want our children to develop as unique individuals, they are aware of the reasons behind having a uniform. We are also reminding children that nail polish should not be worn for school and that earrings should be studs and should be removed for PE. Long hair should be tied back for school.

E Safety Awareness

Thank you to parents for completing an e safety survey. Children across school also completed the survey at age appropriate levels. School has purchased a specific teaching tool to carefully inform children on a range of aspects with regards to e safety. The following is a summary of the parental survey.



Out of a potential 270 surveys, 100 were completed. This represents 37% of the school's parents from Year 1 – Year 6.

Out of this 100, 77% of parents demonstrated a poor understanding of the online risks their children may encounter. 9% of parents demonstrated a level of vulnerability. They have some understanding of the dangers which can be found online but overall require further understanding of the online risks posed to their children. 14% of parents demonstrated competency and have a good knowledge of the online challenges their children may face. However, these challenges and risks are constantly evolving.

When considered in more depth the answers provided by the parents, showed that 25% of parents allow their children to be online without an adult present in the room, 7% of adults allow children to speak to people they do not know. 11% allow children to use technology before bed. 11% believe their child does not think technology can be dangerous/put them at risk.

The OFSTED framework requires schools to "work closely with all families to help them ensure that their children use new technologies safely and responsibly both at home and at school." With an ever changing society and a necessity for an online presence in our children's future, it is imperative that the parents and school work together to ensure our children are well educated in e-safety and in understanding their digital footprint. As technology advances, children will inevitably become more informed on new technology than parents so there is a real need to be as informed as possible.

Mrs Dundas will keep parents updated with further information



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