



# August 2020 Newsletter

## Westpark School

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We are delighted to welcome all children back to Westpark School and Nursery this term. It has been a long and very difficult time for many people since the lockdown started way back in March. A huge thank you to all parents who supported their children with learning at home for the whole summer term, and for the supportive messages we received as a school. All staff worked extremely hard to keep all children engaged with learning, no easy task in the circumstances.

The return to school has focussed on learning new rules and routines to reduce the risk of a COVID outbreak at school as well as giving children an opportunity to explore and speak about how they are feeling and how lockdown affected them, as part of their recovery and to build their resilience for any future outbreaks or other upset.

Outdoor learning will be a big part of school life for the immediate future, so we are encouraging children to come to school with clothes to be out in all weathers.

Unfortunately, parents are not allowed in the school building just now and are encouraged to contact the school office with any queries. Telephone: 01224 692323 or E-mail: [westpark@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:westpark@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

### **School Arrival/Drop off**

We have been very impressed at how well our learners have adapted to the return to school. P2-P7 pupils are lining up independently at their doors, and we encourage the P1s to do so as soon as they are used to the routine of arriving at school – we recommend that parents gradually move further back in the mornings so that children become used to this by the September weekend. Members of staff are in the playground every morning to support children in getting to the correct door.

Several parents have raised concerns regarding the crowded pavements and lanes in the morning. Parents do not have to wait until the doors are open before leaving for home, and we encourage you to say goodbye away from the gate and then leave for home to allow children arriving to keep a social distance more easily as they enter the playground. It would be helpful if any parents who are waiting by Byron Court use the side of the fence closest to school so that children need not pass between two lines of adults. We also politely request that parents do not smoke whilst near the school gates when children are arriving and leaving, and do not park on double yellow lines/zig zags by school entrances.

### **Car Park**

Parents are not permitted to access the school car park. Should you be late for pick up or drop off please phone the school office and we will meet your child at the gate.

### **Child Protection**

The children and staff have had refresher inputs on child protection and our anti-bullying policy, and each class has created a class charter; the rules they create to promote safety and learning. Class charters will be shared with you via Google Classroom – please look at these with your children.

### **School Holiday Dates**

Dates for school holidays can be found on the Aberdeen City Council website:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/view-school-term-and-holiday-dates>

September weekend: 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September

October holidays: 12<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Dates for your Diary**

P1 school lunch: 11:30 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August (P1 children only).

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## **School Improvement Plan**

The School Improvement Plan was shared with parents on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August and is also available on the school website.

<https://westpark.aberdeen.sch.uk/>

## **Independence**

One of our school aims in independence, and it is more important this term than ever this term. If your child wears lace up shoes please practice tying them at home. Please also practice opening juice, lunch and snack items independently.

## **School Meals**

You can top up cards online:

<https://online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Services/AccordPayment/PrimaryMealPayment.aspx>

The menu is available here:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/view-school-meals-menu>

## **Nursery – Mrs Chalmers, Mrs Seivwright, Mrs Smith, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Macdonald, Mrs Mowat, Mrs Shand, Mrs Gray**

It has been lovely to welcome back our nursery children and to see how quickly they have settled back in. They have been learning the new rules and routines this week and it has been super to hear about all the exciting things they have been doing since they were last at nursery. We have been out exploring the nursery garden and looking at how it has changed over the last few months. We are looking forward to welcoming the new nursery children starting over the next few weeks.

## **Primary 1 – Miss Murray**

P1M have settled in well over the past few weeks. We have read lots of jungle-based books by Sue Graves to create our class charter/rules. We have started learning phonics with Snakey, Inky and Bee. The children have all worked hard on their independence, mastering writing their names, being kind to one another and finding the place where they belong at Westpark.

## **Primary 1/2W – Mrs Welsh**

P1/2 have made a great start to the year. We have created our class charter and the children have been doing well following the class rules and routines. We are reading our class book: The Cave by Rob Hodgson and will focus on creating characters and story settings. We will soon start learning phonics with Snaky, Inky Mouse and Bee. P1 will focus on letter recognition and initial sounds. P2 will focus on blending sounds to read words. In numeracy P1 will focus on numbers to 10 and P2 will focus on 2-digit numbers. Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday. This will be outdoors so please come suitably dressed.

We will be doing lots of mark making and develop our drawing and painting skills. We will also have regular outdoor learning so please make sure the children have suitable shoes and a coat every day.

## **Primary 2 – Mrs Grant**

We have had a lovely start to Primary 2 and everyone is settling in well. So far we have been working on our class charter by reading the book Have you Filled a Bucket Today? The book helped us to discuss what qualities make a good classmate, friend, and learner. We have been enjoying reading lots of books and are developing our comprehension and understanding of what we read by thinking about who the main characters are, where is the setting and what happened at the beginning, middle and end. In maths we have been revising numbers and practicing our counting skills all the way to 100.

## **Primary 3 – Mr O'Neill**

Primary 3 have had a nice start to the term. It has been strange and daunting for all, including staff, but most have settled back into school life well. We have been getting to know each other and setting class targets for the year. You will have a lot of children wanting fruit for their break! We have been busy making our Class Charter, and it was interesting listening to their very caring and thoughtful opinions. In numeracy, we have started with place value. It has been quite relaxed by design but will progress. They said they are eager and want to be challenged! The class novel for P3 is 'The Legend of Kevin'. The class all are engaged when reading and it is a fantastic first novel for them.

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### **Primary 3/4 - Miss Reid**

Primary 3/4 have been making posters to show how to stay safe during Coronavirus and they have been following all the new rules and routines during this time. Our class novel is The Legend of Kevin and we will be writing a biography about our own magical pets. In maths we will be looking at numbers, place value and some practical measurement activities. As a class we have been discussing our goals for the future and creating our Class Charter. To celebrate that we are all unique the class made fantastic self-portraits.

### **Primary 4 – Miss Bean**

We have had a great first week back at school in Primary 4. We have been sharing our experiences of lockdown and discussing what we are looking forward to in P4. This term we will be reading our class novel “The Legend of Kevin” and completing lots of activities linked to this book. We will be looking at place value and measurement in numeracy and personal writing in literacy. In health and well-being, we will be exploring what makes a good team.

### **Primary 5 – Miss Jones/Miss Lees**

In Primary 5 we have been getting to know each other and what we have learnt over the last few months. We have been thinking about Westpark Aims and ‘recipes’ for a successful year. We have started work on the class book for this term – ‘The Lion the Witch and The Wardrobe’. This will form the basis of the children work for the next few weeks in Literacy and other subjects. We are also starting to look at Nature and animals in connection to the book and what we have just experienced during ‘lockdown’. In Maths we will learn more about Fractions, percentages, and decimals as well as revising times tables and number work. In the second half of this term the focus for the children’s’ learning will be ‘Energy’ – where it comes from, how we use it and how different forms of energy affect the world in different ways.

### **Primary 5/6 – Miss McAllan**

It has been lovely seeing everyone again and we have spent the first few days settling back into school life and learning all the new routines and procedures. For the next few weeks, we will be focusing on the four school aims and how they tie in to our learning. This is a Health and Wellbeing topic and we will focus on friendships, growth mindset, target setting and identifying/managing our feelings. The novel we are reading is called “Charlie Changes into a Chicken” and we are really enjoying it. In numeracy we will be looking at Place Value and general number work and for writing we will be doing lots of personal writing, using our class novel to help prompt these ideas.

### **Primary 6/7 – Miss Godoy**

P6/7 have had a great start to the year. We have spent the first few weeks getting to know our new routines to stay safe. We have begun reading our novel study, ‘Ghost Boys’ by Jewell Parker Rhodes. We will be doing lots of work on our wellbeing including our mental health, growth mind set and resilience. In maths, we will be working on place value and number and in writing we will be working on journaling. For PE this term, we are excited to be going outside on Tuesdays and Thursdays to play some no-contact rounders.

### **Primary 7 – Mrs Macrae**

Primary 7 have had a great first week in school. We have mainly been working on getting to know each other tasks and creating our class charter. We have come up with some interesting class jobs, including a DJ and comedians. On Monday we had to think outside the box and come up with a new way to enjoy our outdoor P.E. session. The class adapted the traditional rules of rounders and turned the game into a no-hands version. It was extremely competitive, but lots of fun! This term we will be reading our voted for class novel, Trash by Andy Mulligan. In numeracy we will be working on estimation and rounding.

### **Support for Learning – Mrs Jones**

This term, Mrs Jones will be working with children from across the school for numeracy and literacy support and extension. For numeracy, there will be a focus on building confidence with mathematical skills, concepts and operations. For literacy, phonic knowledge will be a key focus to support reading

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and writing. Mrs Jones looks forward to working with groups and individuals and seeing the progress that they make.

### **Staffing Update**

This term we welcome several new members of staff – Ms Jones is covering P5, Mrs Macrae is new to P7 and Ms Morrison and Ms Arthur have joined us to provide Non-Class Contact Time for Class Teachers.

### **School Uniform**

It is great to see the children arriving back at school dressed in uniform, thank you for supporting this. It is really important that children come to school in clean clothes, and we understand that it is not always possible for this to be school uniform. Please ensure that children have appropriate jackets for wet or chilly weather, and a change of socks for wet days! Due to the ventilation requirements of the Return to School Risk Assessment we will be keeping all windows open. Children may wish to wear extra layers to stay warm indoors.

### **Google Classroom**

P1-7 children have been allocated to a Google Classroom where information and news will be shared. Parents have also been invited as guardians – if you have not accepted the invite please check your junk mail folder for this.

### **Westpark AC**

Sorry to say Westpark AC will not be starting up in the next few weeks. However, it has been great to see lots of activity on Strava from members. Training challenges will be set over the next few weeks to keep the children ticking over before we can get back to full training together. Anyone in the Westpark Family may join – just download the Strava app and search for Westpark AC.

### **A note from our School Chaplain - Rev Scott Guy**

After 22 happy years serving as Chaplain to Byron Park, Westerton & Westpark schools, I will be retiring in November of this year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in the schools - class visits, assemblies, end of term Church services, musicals, staff outings etc. and I will greatly miss these special times.

It has been a wonderful privilege to have been part of the school community and I thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me over the years.

I wish you and the children all the best for the future.

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