



Westpark School

September 2021
Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all children and their families to a new school session. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter outlining some of the important activities and learning that will be taking place this school year. Everyone is hopeful that this will be an uninterrupted year, which will see the removal of final restrictions and the return of all school activities, as the pandemic comes to an end. At the moment, however, we must remain cautious with positive COVID cases rising dramatically in Scotland since the end of summer. Children remain in contact with their class groups only, both inside and outside the school building, staff continue to socially distance as much as possible, while meeting the needs of learners and parents are requested to contact the school office before coming into the school. The full risk assessment is available on the school website.

Our school priorities for the coming year from our Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan include:

- Refreshing the school aims, vision & values
- Compassionate and Connected Communities – a long-term development to support wellbeing of staff and pupils as we recover from the effects of the pandemic and to embed nurture practices across the school.
- Inter-disciplinary Learning framework – rounding up work of the last 3 years focusing on developing the young workforce as well as literacy & digital skills across learning within the local context.
- Maths Mastery – a new resource to be bought with Pupil Equity Fund money to develop maths teaching and learning techniques and raise attainment.
- Closing the attainment gap – embedding use of targeted support interventions such as Reading Wise and SumDog within school and at home.

A calendar of school events, which can be added to as restrictions change, will include open days; an opportunity for you to participate in the life of the school and to have your say in decisions made for your children, as well as sharing in the learning across the school.

Parent Voice meetings will continue virtually for the moment, starting 13th September at 4:30pm. An invitation will come to you all via-groupcall. Please consider attending as your

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voice matters. The AGM will be held at the subsequent meeting, date to be confirmed, where the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will be nominated and voted for.

Pupil Voice will be gathered by the pupil council, which makes a welcome return following a year interrupted by COVID. The pupil council will meet monthly, socially distanced, in the main hall. They will decide on their activities for the year but some early suggestions from school management include how we will attract more wildlife to the school playground, refreshing the school vision, values & aims and road safety (including cars parking dangerously at the school entrance). A huge thankyou to all parents who park & stride, contributing to a safer and healthier environment around the school in the mornings.

Active Schools have re-engaged and our new coordinator is Stacey Stuart who will work to build opportunities for our children to engage in sports over the year. Stacey is looking for parent volunteers to lead/support after school activities at Westpark. Stacey is also arranging the termly house rewards and leading the return of Chance to Shine cricket coaching and the return (fingers crossed) of the lunchtime tennis club. We also hope this session to be able to reintroduce school football and hockey teams and the running and netball clubs; COVID allowing.

Finally, I hope to engage a local artist to help a group of our children design and implement graffiti art on the container at the nursery end of the school playground, which attracted some unwanted rogue spray art last year. This will make a small contribution to bringing some of the colour and fun back into school life, which has despite all our best efforts been missing over the past 18 months.

As always we will continue to keep you updated of any changes and development plans and welcome your attendance at Parent Voice meetings to discuss these.

In the meantime, please contact the school office with any queries. Telephone: 01224 692323 or E-mail: westpark@aberdeencity.gov.uk

The school office is a busy place and we do our best to welcome and support parents and learners. Please be mindful that we may not always be immediately available as administration of first aid and medication is prioritised. Parents should not visit the office in person without a prior appointment. Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their own snacks, lunches and jumpers so that learning time is not interrupted with their delivery.

Jewellery in PE

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) recognises its duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of those affected by its activities. The wearing of personal effects, such as jewellery and watches, can present risks of injury to the person and / or others involved in an activity. Exposure to the risk of injury from such items can principally occur in Physical Education. The basic rule is that all jewellery should be removed as this then removes that particular hazard. Where an item of

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jewellery cannot be removed then it should be made safe by using microporous tape. Where safe participation cannot be assured then the pupil cannot take part in that element of the lesson. Pupils should remove their own jewellery. If the child is unable to do this themselves, they should not wear any.

Dates for your diary

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

September weekend: Friday 24th and Monday 27th September

Dress As you Please: Friday 8th October (Suggested donation £1 to school fund)

Virtual parents' evenings: 4th-8th October

Term ends: Friday 8th October

New term begins: Monday 25th October

Your Challenge Your Way: September 2021.

Sleeping Beauty: The Parent Voice are funding a P1-7 trip to the Arts Centre to see Sleeping Beauty on 15th December this year.

Cowie Cup: Congratulations to Sean who won the Cowie Cup in June. The judges were very impressed with the commitment to community shown by all of the finalists.

School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan is available on the school website.

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

Achievements at Westpark

We are on the lookout for out of school achievements to add to our achievement wall – please encourage children to share these with their classmates and teachers. Lots of Westpark runners and walkers have been enjoying the return of parkrun and junior parkrun, and we are proud to be the highest attending school at Duthie juniors. To join them, please sign up here: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/duthie-juniors/>

Assembly

This term in assembly we have learned about the UNCRC – the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and about tick safety. We also met PC McKenzie who works at Northfield Academy, and celebrate achievements such as reading, running, writing and creativity. The House Captains present certificates from the teachers, and this year are also presenting certificates to each house for demonstrating the SHANARRI indicators – safe, healthy, achieving, nurturing, active, respected, responsible and included. Please email house captains with SHANARRI examples to receive a certificate.

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Nursery –Ms Airey, Ms Anderson, Mrs Smith, Mrs Macdonald, Mrs Mowat, Mrs Shand, Mrs Gray

In Nursery:

-We are happy to have welcomed all the new children to our Westpark Family and we are all settling in well to the new hours. In addition, we have welcomed a large number of new members to our team who are adapting practices to meet the requirements of the 1140 hours and sharing the Interdisciplinary learning topics with P1-7 classes alongside the many indoor and outdoor learning experiences. Settling in interviews will be conducted by phone prior to the October break.

Primary 1 – Mrs Welsh

- We are settling into our classroom routines and talking about how to make our class a safe and welcoming place for everyone. We will be reading the Moonlight School series of books by Simon Puttock and Ali Pye.
- We have begun our Phonics lessons and will be learning 2 sounds a week.
- In numeracy we will be focusing on counting and recognising numbers 0-10.

Primary 1/2 – Mrs Chalmers and Miss Reid

- As part of our Topic (Westpark Reads) we are reading a collection of nature stories by Julia Hegarty.
- P1 are learning to read, write and count up to 10. P2 are counting forwards and backwards up to 100.
- We are learning and revising our sounds through song, writing and play based activities.

Primary 2/3 – Miss Bean

- We are reading the book The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark. We are learning all about nature and night time.
- We are learning to read, write and count to 100/1000.
- We are practicing our racquet skills in PE.

Primary 3 – Mrs Grant

P3 have had an excellent first few weeks back at school. This term we are:

- Reading the novel Flat Stanley as our book study. As an introduction to the book P3 came up with lots of ideas of adventures they would go on if they were as flat as Stanley.
- Becoming SHANARRI Superheros as part of our class charter. The class went over the UNCRC and SHANARRI to create class rules to make sure we are all treated fairly. It is now their responsibly to uphold the rules and be superheroes.
- Beginning to look at place value in maths, concentrating on two, three and sometimes even 4 digit numbers.

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Primary 4 – Mr O’Neill

It's great to be back and quickly into the swing of things in P4.

Fortunately, the Milk is the class novel this year and has been a very popular choice. The class don't want to stop reading and talking about what they have spotted in the wonderful illustrations.

Place Value has been the starting topic in numeracy. The class have a very good foundation in this already and are clearly building on their P3 knowledge.

Continuing from last year, IT and Expressive Arts are a firm favourite at the start of P4. Expanding on prior knowledge and linking art and StopMotion is the first project of the year.

Primary 4/5 – Miss Seaman and Mrs McCreath

- P4/5 are really enjoying reading their class novel “Jinks and O’Hare Funfair Repair” by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre. They have demonstrated their creativity when designing their own funfair and have been exploring new vocabulary during class discussions around the story. They are enjoying predicting what will happen next and we can’t wait to continue reading the novel next week.
- In Numeracy, the children have been exploring numbers to 1000 and revisiting their times tables. They have enjoyed participating in a variety of maths stations and games.
- In Literacy, the pupils have been developing their creative writing by thinking about what makes a story exciting for the reader. They have been building their confidence when using punctuation through practicing their Kung-Fu punctuation moves.
- In Health and Wellbeing, the children have been discussing their rights and completing wellbeing webs. We have been exploring our emotions and the children have been recording positive thoughts each day in their own diaries.

Primary 5 – Miss Godoy

- P5 are really enjoying reading Mega Beast by David Walliams.
- We are doing a great job at developing teamwork and other skills in dodgeball.
- After reading The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas we all created some amazing colour monsters of our own to help us talk about different emotions.

Primary 6 – Miss McAllan

- In numeracy we are learning about place value up to six digits.
- For Westpark Reads we are reading Catscape by Mike Nicholson.
- In literary we are learning about the features and differences between autobiographies and biographies and we have started writing our autobiographies.

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Primary 6/7 – Miss Murray

- P6/7 are reading Norse Myths tales of Odin, Thor and Loki this term This book of short stories has provided lots of opportunities for discussion and learning about Vikings.
- P6/7 have been learning about place value in numeracy since their return to school. P6/7 will also look at estimation and rounding and decimal numbers this term. The class have also set a target to finish our set of numeracy loop cards in under 2 and a half minutes.
- This term P6/7 will be studying recount texts. P6/7 will cover imaginative recounts, procedural recounts and literary recounts.

Primary 7 – Mrs Macrae

In room 11 we have had a busy start to the term. We have been enjoying our class novel, Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki by Kevin Crossley-Holland. We have been learning about Vikings to give this book some context and are discovering that the Vikings were a clever but sometimes gruesome bunch! In maths we have been revising and extending our knowledge of place value. Our greatest achievement so far this term has been how much effort every member of the class is putting into the Couch to 5k, we are going to be a fit bunch by the end of Primary 7.

Tick Safety

We love hearing about our Westpark Family being active and enjoying nature. Please take care and carry out tick checks after playing in wooded and grassy areas.

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Ticks and Lyme disease in Scotland



What are ticks? Ticks are small, spider-like creatures which feed on the blood of animals and humans. They can be found anywhere there is wildlife – bushes, undergrowth in the countryside, parks and gardens.

Sometimes, ticks can carry bacteria that cause Lyme disease (also known as Lyme borreliosis) in humans.

What is Lyme disease? Lyme disease is an infectious disease which can be effectively treated with antibiotics if detected early.

If left untreated, there is a risk you could develop severe and long-lasting symptoms.

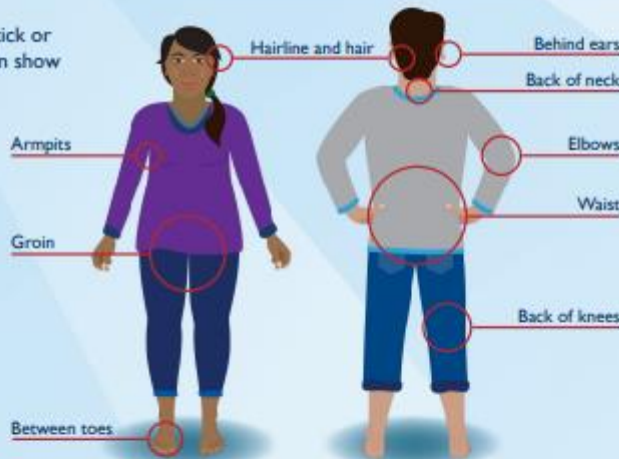
Symptoms may include a rash around the tick bite and flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, muscle and joint pains).

How do I avoid Lyme disease?

Be prepared - carry a tick removal tool. Keep skin covered and use insect repellent containing DEET.

Do a tick check - remember to check skin folds, armpits, groin and your waistband area, checking the neck and hairline too (particularly in children).

It's a good idea to take a photo of the tick or any rash around the tick bite so you can show your GP.



Remove ticks promptly - if you find a tick, get rid of it as soon as possible without squeezing it. If you remove it in the first 24 hours, a tick is unlikely to pass on Lyme disease.

Tick twister

Tick card

Fine-tipped tweezers



Watch for out symptoms - it might be as long as a month before these appear. If they do, see your GP, advising that you've spent time in areas where ticks may live.

Further information is available at nhsinform.scot/bugs-and-germs



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