



Westfield Primary School  
01761 413662  
office@westfieldprimary.com  
[www.westfieldprimary.com](http://www.westfieldprimary.com)  
Headteacher: Mr Simon Mills



Friday Note  
20 December 2019

#### Dear Parents



Merry Christmas and a very happy new year! Thank you for another wonderful year. Your help and support is invaluable and makes Westfield the great place it is.

See you back in school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020!

#### Christmas Church Service

A huge thank you to everyone who came to watch the lovely carol services in church on Tuesday. I think we can all agree the children sang and performed beautifully!

#### Swimming

Swimming will start back on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and will be as follows.

Tues – Year 4

Weds – Year 5 (will need kit on 1<sup>st</sup> day back)

Thurs – Year 1

Fri – Year 2

A massive thank you to everyone who has helped with swimming this year, we wouldn't be able to do it without you!



#### Did you know your child is attending one of the top 4 schools in B&NES?

We are super proud of #teamwestfield. The primary school league tables were released last week and they show how well the pupils are doing!

#### Germs

Please be aware we have had lots of germs in school this week including several cases of Conjunctivitis. We are giving the school a deep clean over the Christmas break and hope to start the New Year germ free!

#### 100% Attendance

Well done to all of those who gained 100% attendance this term, they are all very proud of their nice new badge!



#### Please take time to read the following:

##### Social media and schools

Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) has had widespread impact on the way in which we communicate and express our thoughts and opinions. There are clearly many benefits for us both as individuals and as communities, and Westfield is currently exploring how we might best harness the power of social media to engage even more closely with you, our parents.

Unfortunately we are also experiencing an increasing number of situations where social media has been the vehicle for inappropriate behaviour by both students and parents. We live in a society where we are proud of our right to freedom of speech and would not wish to suggest that this should be stopped.

There are occasions however, when comments posted on Social Media are at best unhelpful and at worst, may constitute harassment, bullying or intimidation which could ultimately lead to Police involvement.

##### Social media and pupil bullying

There have been a growing number of situations where Westfield has had to deal with students using social media to be unkind to others. What starts as something seemingly harmless takes no account of how those on the receiving end might feel nor does it recognise how quickly things can get out of control and become extremely unpleasant. Whilst things are most likely to have taken place away from the school and outside school hours, the resulting 'fallout' in such situations can have major implications for pupil

relationships within the classrooms and a resulting negative impact on teaching and learning.

### **Social media as a forum for parents' views**

The staff at Westfield work tremendously hard to provide the very best education for our pupils and always want to work in partnership with parents and the wider community. However, we recognise that there will be occasions where, for whatever reason, parents may not agree with a particular course of action or may have specific concerns. It is entirely natural to discuss school life and express our thoughts and opinions with others face to face or over the phone.

Some of these conversations however are now also being aired on social media, in particular class specific messenger groups, and the person posting has little control over who might ultimately see it. Sadly, some of these comments and observations could cause offence if aired in the public domain, and may in some cases be intimidating or even slanderous.

This is not to suggest that staff do not welcome feedback but this is always best when it is constructive and reasonable and is focused on finding an acceptable solution. When difficult things need to be said, it is usually best to do so face-to-face, or at least in some form of private communication, such as an email or letter. Some recent examples of ill-considered use of social media have caused school staff to spend a disproportionate amount of time trying to manage issues and situations. We would much prefer if this time could be focused on our pupil's learning.

### **Common questions**

If the site I post comments on is 'private' then why should I worry about what I say, as only my 'friends' can read it?

Once a comment has been posted there is nothing to stop other users forwarding or sharing it. What started as an initial 'sounding off' can quickly spread much more widely and cause a lot of unintended hurt.

### **How could the Police get involved?**

If postings are considered to be threatening or discriminatory then the Police may become involved and have the authority to seize mobile devices and contact service providers.

### **How can parents help?**

· If you are posting on social media and it relates to the school, students or other parents, please check

your facts, be considerate in the way in which you express things and avoid language that others might consider to be abusive, aggressive or threatening.

- Please do not refer to individual students or staff on social media.
- If you have a significant concern about an aspect of school life, please talk to someone at the school before posting on social media.
- If you have a specific complaint, please follow the school's Complaints Policy which is available on the school website.
- If parents see a post where these rules have not been adhered to (accusations, inappropriate comments regarding staff/children/parents) then they should inform the school.

### **Final thoughts**

We have no wish to discourage parents expressing their views, but want to encourage and promote positive role models in both the digital world as well as the real world. Whilst our pupils may be the more knowledgeable in using modern communication technologies, it is a partnership between the school and parents that can help them to use it wisely, safely and responsibly.

### **Help your child with home reading**

Please can you make sure that you hear your child read their school reading book 5 days each week. This needs to be recorded in their reading record book. At KS1 we ask parents and carers to fill out the comments, whereas in KS2, the children should be recording what they have read and writing a comment. Both reading books and reading record books need to be in school EVERY DAY!



### **Diary Dates**

#### **Jan**

Mon 6	Inset Day
Tues 7	Inset Day
Wed 8	Pupils return to school
Tues 14	KS2 Stay and SPAG
Thurs 21	KS1 Stay and SPAG

#### **Feb**

Mon 17 – Fri 21	Half Term
Thurs 27	KS1 Stay and Read
Fri 28	Reports Out

#### **March**

Mon 2	Book Week
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Thurs 5 Parents Evening  
KS2 Stay and Read  
Book Day – Dress Up  
Parents Evening

#### April

Mon 6 – Fri 17 Easter Holidays  
Wed 22 KS2 Stay and Multiply  
Wed 29 KS1 Stay and Multiply

#### May

Tues 5 – Thurs 7 Year 4 Camp  
Fri 8 Bank Holiday  
Mon 11 Year 6 SATs Week  
Fri 15 Inflatable Day  
Year 3 Sleepover  
Mon 25 – Fri 29 Half Term

#### June

Tues 9 KS1 Stay and Puzzle  
Tues 16 KS2 Stay and Puzzle  
Thurs 25 Sports Day  
Fri 26 Reports Out  
Mon 29 Shuffle Up Morning

#### July

Thurs 2 Shuffle Up Day  
Mon 6 – Fri 10 Fantastic Futures Week  
Thurs 16 Year 6 Leavers Services at Church  
Mon 20 Inset Day  
Tues 21 Pupils break up for Summer

#### Sept

Thurs 3 Pupils Return to School