



# WESTON NEWS

2020-21 ISSUE 1: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Website: [weston.cheshire.sch.uk](http://weston.cheshire.sch.uk)

Facebook: [westonvillageprimary](https://www.facebook.com/westonvillageprimary)

Twitter: [@WestonVillagePS](https://twitter.com/WestonVillagePS)

## Dates for your diary:

17<sup>th</sup> September – Mrs O’Neill (Alsager School HoS) in to see Y6

17<sup>th</sup> September – Academy photographers in (siblings, individual photos)

29<sup>th</sup> September – EYFS and KS1 Harvest workshops (tbc)

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Virtual harvest service (donations of dried and tinned food welcome)

8<sup>th</sup> October – Yellow Class assembly (virtual and not live)

14<sup>th</sup> October – Whole school flu vaccination nasal spray (permission required)

22<sup>nd</sup> October – Aqua Class assembly (virtual and not live)

23<sup>rd</sup> October – Break up for half term holiday

2<sup>nd</sup> November – School reopens for all pupils and staff

## A message from Mr Cutts

As we approach the end of our first full week of the new year, I want to reiterate something I said last week: the efforts of the whole Weston community have ensured that the children have experienced a happy and successful start in their new classes. Thank you for your support in helping us to achieve this. We have refined our reopening plan and will continue to when necessary, but we are very pleased with how the term has started in relation to our priorities – safe and happy children and staff, proactive approach to nurture and emotional support and high quality education.

Look out for this fortnightly newsletter for an insight into what the children and staff have been up to at Weston, learn about what is on the horizon and find out about what is happening in school and in the community. If you are on social media, check out our official Facebook and Twitter pages (identical content). These give you a flavour of what is going in different classrooms. All other official communication will come via ParentMail. If you haven’t already, it’s easy to sign up and receive instant notifications – you won’t miss a thing. You can even pay for school dinners, uniform and other items.

## New Staff

Together with our new children and families, I would like to officially and warmly welcome some new staff to the Weston family: Miss Griffiths, who teaches Blue, Aqua and Turquoise classes; Mrs Rowlands, who has joined the admin team and Mrs Green, who has joined the site team. Mrs Shearer, who is a midday assistant, will be permanently joining The Hive team next month. In the immediate future, we will also be adding two teaching assistants, a midday assistant and another Hive team member.

## Nut Free School

Please be advised that we are a nut-free school. Some of our children have a severe nut allergy and the only way to manage the risk to their health is to insist that no one brings nuts or products containing nuts into school. This includes children, staff and any visitors. The obvious risks are with packed lunches and when children bring in sweet treats for classmates on their birthdays. If you require any further clarification, please ask.

## Absence

We have so many ways to communicate, which gives us all lots of flexibility and ensures that school is very accessible. In the case of pupil absence however, it is very important that you call the school on our phone number, 01270 814848, and leave a message on the answer phone or with a member of the team. This will ensure that nothing gets missed and that you don't end up receiving a phone call enquiring about an absence that you already believe you have told us about.

## School Photographs

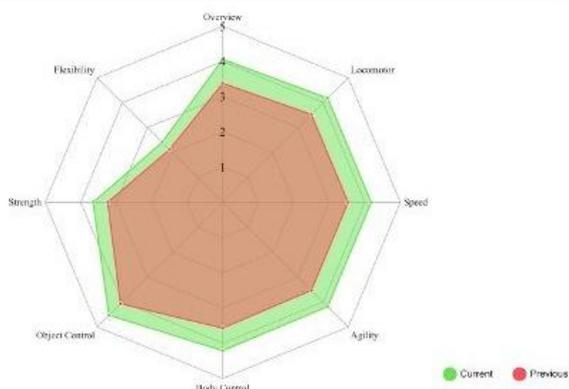
Together with the partners and colleagues that we usually work with from outside of our organisation, we have been looking at how we can safely continue with aspects of school life that we consider to be enriching, valuable or significant in some other way. One such area is school photographs. Our photographer, Academy, will be coming into school next Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September to take individual photographs and siblings photographs.

They will set up in the hall, a class at a time will be brought to them and all relevant items (such as chairs), will be cleaned between classes. No one from the Academy team will come within 2 metres of school staff and children, they will wear PPE and will be subject to our visitor protocols. We are normally very grateful for the parent volunteers who help us to organise classes and siblings for school photos but, unfortunately, due to our necessary-visitors-only policy, that won't be the case this term. Similarly, we can not offer family photographs that include younger pre-school siblings this term.

On the day, all individuals and siblings will have their photographs taken. They will bring home the proofs and order forms and then it is up to you what, and whether, you order.

## Clubs

We have a plan for running lunchtime and after school clubs successfully but intend to start them after October half term to allow all of our safety routines to become fully embedded and any potential problems that we haven't anticipated to reveal themselves. Look out for information over the coming weeks about the wide range of Covid-secure activities for children of all ages, that we will be offering after half term.



## Amaven

This September sees the reintroduction of our Amaven approach to PE assessment and teaching, following its success last year. The children's key physical skills, including flexibility, speed, body control, locomotor among others, will be assessed three times per year. The results will inform our PE planning and staff will work with a specialist teacher, Mrs Clogg, to co-deliver lessons and improve Weston's capacity to deliver high-quality, tailored PE lessons this year and beyond. We will send you instructions for how to access your child's physical literacy results and access a wealth of fun physical activities that your child can complete at home to help them reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

## Class Dojo and Diaries

As you will have seen in this week's homework letters, we will continue to make use of the intuitive and accessible functionality of Class Dojo following our positive experience of using it last term. Through Class Dojo, we will set homework, remote learning in the event of Covid related absence or partial school closure and to communicate. There is a handful of parents who have yet to sign up – please check your email (including your junk) for the link and let us know if you are having any trouble accessing it.



Through Class Dojo, we will provide regular feedback on homework and anything else that is relevant to your child's safety, happiness and educational progress. Communication is key to the home/school partnership and this partnership is vital for your child's success. Communication of this nature previously took place almost exclusively in the home/school diaries. You are welcome to continue to use the diaries in this way and they will be checked regularly. The primary function of the diary is now to record reading, both at home and at school. Please ensure that all reading at home is recorded in the diaries. Teachers will monitor these and use the information to direct your child's reading and to inform conversations with you and your child about their reading. We strongly advocate that the children read every single day and that their reading diet is varied and challenging. The use of Bug Club for children of all ages will reinforce this approach.

Please make a point of reading the first 4 pages of the diary and sign the home/school agreement on page B. Please also complete pages 5, 6 and 7 as early as possible and no later than next Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. It is particularly important that we have up to date contact information, including more than one emergency contact. If other circumstances have changed, please let us know via an email to the office [admin@weston.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@weston.cheshire.sch.uk) or by sending in a note in a sealed envelope. This includes the following: address, medical and dietary conditions that have come to light over the last 12 months.

The permissions on page 5 includes photos for use on our school Facebook page. We renew these permissions every year so even if you have previously given permission, we do require it again. We like to post regularly to give an insight into what goes on in school.



## Diversity and Equality

I wrote to you last term about our intention to review our curriculum, resources and promotion of equality and diversity and the establishment of a steering group. Since then, we have made some adjustments to our curriculum including the further promotion of significant scientists, artists and other non-white people. We have also added to and enhanced our resources and classroom environments, including the fiction and non-fiction that are accessible to the children or used in different curriculum contexts and the toys and equipment that are so prevalent in our Early Years curriculum. We have also earmarked some staff CPD for the purpose of enhancing our knowledge, skills and understanding around this area.

Once these changes are embedded and the training has been accessed, it would be a good time to take this starting point to the steering group and explore further opportunities and areas to enhance our provision and secure its endurance. We are grateful to parents who have already shared ideas and literature with us and who have signposted the successes of other organisations in this area. Our work must result in an approach to diversity and equality that is firmly part of the school's culture and at this stage, the early work mustn't get lost in the challenges brought about by coronavirus. This item is to inform you of our work so far and to reaffirm our future intentions.

## Secrets of Success

We continue to underpin our school ethos of *success for all being demanded, desirable and achievable* with the Secrets of Success. Through this approach, we really single out the characteristics of successful people and actively promote and reward those qualities. The Secrets of Success are 8 qualities which we believe are essential to ensuring success at school and beyond. These are:

Try new things



Work hard



Concentrate



Push yourself



Imagine



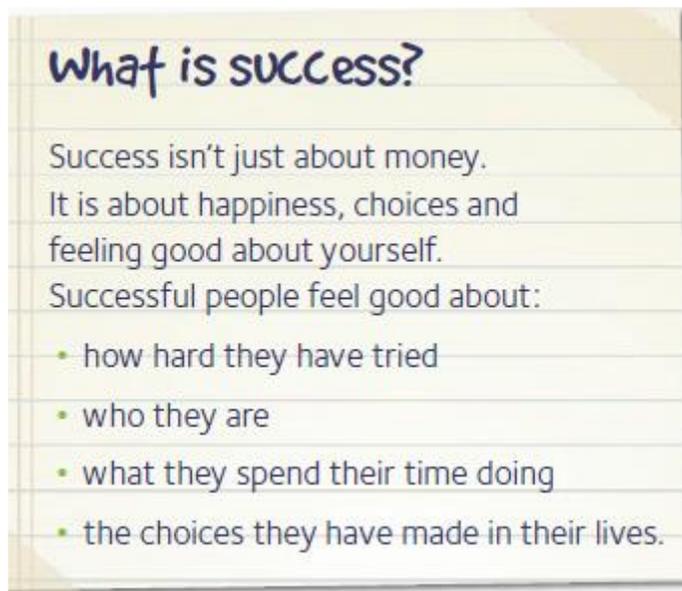
Improve



Understand others



Don't give up



Like last year, we will award dojo points to children when they demonstrate these skills. Through your child's Class Dojo portfolio, you can see their dojo total and which Secrets of Success they demonstrated in order to earn them.

## New Build

When I wrote to you last term, I highlighted some building work that was due to be underway over the summer. We successfully won a CIF bid (Condition Improvement Fund) to replace the building we called the annexe or the cosy classroom, which formed part of our EYFS environment. That building, together with the structure to the rear of the building that is known as the conservatory will be demolished and replaced by a state-of-the-art, eco friendly modular building and all-weather canopy. There were some delays over the 6 week break that were out of our control and while the project is back on track, work won't commence until the next holiday in October, for safety reasons. We are very excited about the build and can't wait to officially open it in the very near future.



## Plays, Assemblies and Harvest Festival

We are currently ironing out our plans for ensuring that the children experience as many of the wider enrichment opportunities as possible, rather than indefinitely suspending everything. This will include remote access class assemblies and, hopefully, performances, as well as intra-bubble sport festivals and competitions. We are enjoying surmounting these challenges and finding positives in looking at alternative approaches to the more conventional or traditional ways of doing things in a school.

One event on the horizon is Harvest Festival. We normally collect donations of fresh and tinned food which we then distribute to vulnerable members of our community and to the Salvation Army foodbank in Crewe. You are always incredibly generous with your donations and the need of the wider community is greater than ever. As such, we intend to retain our Harvest Festival assembly, which the children will access remotely in their bubbles. We also intend to collect dried and tinned goods only, which we feel we will be able to do in a safe way and which, following a tinned food quarantine, we will be able to take to the Salvation Army foodbank in Crewe. The date of our Harvest food collection is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and more information will follow nearer the time.

## Parent/Carer Consultation Evening

There will not be a conventional Autumn Parent/Carer Consultation Evening this term so we are currently exploring efficient and effective ways of safely providing you with useful information about your child's start to the year, their areas of success and any areas in which they require support or further attention. I will let you know further information in due course.

## Year 6 Parents Update

Our Year 6 children have really hit the ground running since they returned and, as well as growing by several inches, they are carrying themselves like Year 6s in their conversations with adults and their approach to a very challenging curriculum. It is unfortunate that they can't carry out their Reception buddy and play leader roles currently, but plans are still in place to assign them roles of responsibility this year.

Next week they will be visited (in a Covid-secure way) by Mrs O'Neill, Head of School at Alsager School. She will give them an insight into Alsager School life ahead of their virtual open day later this month. Keep an eye on the websites of the local high schools to see their plans for virtual visits and open days so that you can make an informed decision about high school choices next month. We will share any information that they ask us to.

## Assessments

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA), who develop and deliver statutory assessments for the DFE, have informed schools that all statutory assessments will resume this year and will adhere to the usual timetable. This means that children in Reception will be assessed against the EYFS profile, children in Years 2 and 6 will complete end of key stage assessment (including tests and teacher assessment), children in Year 1 will take a phonics screening check and children in Year 4 will take a multiplication screening check. Children in Year 2 are also required to take the phonics screening check that couldn't be administered last term and this will take place between October half term and Christmas.

At Weston, we are clear that our role is to prepare the children for the next stage of their life and that fulfilling their academic potential is part of this. Please be assured however, that we don't narrow our curriculum to focus on the content of statutory assessments. As ever, we will maintain a broad and rich curriculum throughout the year and expect that children will excel because of this, not despite it.

## Music Tuition

Mrs Shackleton is our visiting music teacher. We have established a Covid-secure way of her returning to school every Tuesday to deliver music lessons across a range of instruments including guitar, piano and singing. We will send out information next week about the tuition that she offers and some free taster sessions for interested children. Future DJs, who deliver DJ tuition, have moved all of their teaching to a remote delivery for the time being. More information will follow.

## Numbots

Some children have access to Numbots, a fun maths website and app. Please note that before they can access the login screen, they need to enter our school postcode, which is CW2 5LZ.

## Lost Property

Please ensure that all pupil property is named. We amass a huge quantity of lost property every term, lots of which is never claimed, including jumpers and cardigans, trainers, bottles and even coats. Being responsible for your own property is a life skill and we ask that you reinforce this at home in order to keep lost property to a minimum.

## Inhalers

If your child suffers from asthma and requires the use of a salbutamol inhaler, please ensure that they have two in school – one which will stay in the teacher's cupboard and one to keep in their school bag. You will know that the inhalers have an expiry date and it is expected that parents will be aware of these and replace inhalers accordingly.

## Friends of Weston

We remain blessed to have such an active parent group who raise lots of money for the school to spend on things that enhance the children's experiences at school. For the time being, things won't quite be the same in terms of Friends of Weston run community events, however, they are always keen to recruit new members to the team. All parents are welcome at meetings and support of any kind is both vital and very much appreciated.



Why not join the Friends of Weston Facebook page? Dates of upcoming meetings and events will be shared via ParentMail. Our plans for investing the money that has been raised into projects that benefit all of the children remain in place, and last year's cancelled circus event has been rebooked for later in the year.

## Stars of the Week

A child in every class is awarded a Star of the Week award each week. This is entirely based on their application of the Secrets of Success. The teachers often have a tricky time choosing a child and many teachers have told me that this week they would be very happy to choose anyone in their class. The Stars of the Week are normally brought to the front in assembly and invited for juice and biscuits with me in my office. For the time being, we won't be able to do that, but we can still acknowledge and celebrate our superstars. Here they are with their certificates!



Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

*Thomas Cutts*