



# Westlands Primary School

A member of Swale Academies Trust



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Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Welcome back to Westlands Primary School! We are so excited to be starting another school year with you all. Thank you to everyone who arrived at school on time, looking very smart and ready to learn!

A special welcome to everyone who has started with us in Reception this week. The children stayed for the morning session and for lunchtime – from next week they'll be staying all day. It was fantastic to see the children exploring their new classrooms and getting to know the school routines.

## Attendance

Did you know?

Attendance Percentage	School Days lost	Number of school weeks lost	Number of lessons lost
90%	19	4	100 lessons lost
80%	38	8	200 lessons lost
70%	57	11.5	290 lessons lost
65%	67	13.5	340 lessons lost

The school day officially starts at 8:45am with our doors opening from 8:30am to allow children to come into school and be ready for a prompt beginning of the day. Lessons do start immediately at 8:45am so it is very important that you're here on time and that you come to school every day.

## Uniform

Westlands Primary School has a very clear uniform policy which is in place to help support a positive learning environment. Details can be found on our website but there are a couple of items to bring to your attention:

**Giant hair bows and brightly coloured hair accessories** are not part of the school uniform policy. Children may wear dark coloured hair bands and/or clips, in line with the school uniform colours.

**Earrings** of any kind are not part of the school uniform policy. Please don't wear them to school. You will be asked to remove them if they are worn to school. Children are not permitted to take part in physical activity, including outside playtime, if wearing earrings.

**Wellies** - the school fields are used throughout the year to enable children to have plenty of space at playtimes. Please send in a pair of **named wellington boots** so that your child can be allowed on the fields.

It looks as lovely as your mum's dinner! Libby, Yr 6.

## Lunches

You will hopefully now be aware that we have a new catering company, Pabulum, working for Westlands Primary School. The feedback from children and staff alike has been highly positive. Particular favourites so far are the sausages & mashed potato with onion gravy and the vegetarian chilli! The children can now all sit together when having lunch – whether packed lunch or school dinner – and all children can help themselves to freshly made bread as part of their lunch.

If you would like your child to have school dinner you can simply log on to ParentPay and order one – you can change your mind, have school dinners on some days and packed lunch on others. There is a lot more flexibility than we had before.

The macaroni cheese was fantastic! Freddy, Yr 2.

For more details go to <http://www.pabulum-catering.co.uk/>, or if you're having trouble booking a lunch, contact **Sharon Martin at Pabulum Catering on 01252 360569**.

Westlands Primary School is a creative learning environment where all children are supported to achieve their best.

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Director of Primaries: Mr M Wilson

Swale Academies Trust Registered Office: Ashdown House Johnson Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1JS

Registered in England No. 7344732

## Parent Forum

At Westlands Primary School we value the contribution that parents and carers have to make to the school community. Through the **Parent Forum** we actively seek views and ideas from the parent/carer group. As we start a new academic year with new families who have joined us I would like to set up a new Parent Forum.

The group meets 6 times per year with me, the Headteacher, and other Senior Leadership Team members. The meetings take place at the school during the school day. I realise this may exclude some working parents from joining the group but your views and suggestions can be passed on to the Parent Forum group to be shared on your behalf.

If you would like to be part of the Parent Forum please write to me or email me at [officeprimary@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:officeprimary@westlands.kent.sch.uk) to share your interest no later than Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. If you have been part of the Parent Forum before and you'd like to continue please also write/email to express your interest. We would like representatives from parents/carers from a range of year groups so would really encourage everyone to consider being part of this valuable group.

## PTFA

We have a small PTFA who are looking to expand this year. They have planned and run many successful events over time and have been a valuable asset to the school, raising funds for many different school resources.

The PTFA is currently facing a shortage of members which means that it is increasingly difficult for them to plan and run the events we have all enjoyed. There will be an AGM on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of September at 4pm**, at Westlands Primary School. If you would like to join the PTFA please confirm your attendance with the main office. If you are able to be an active member of the PTFA but cannot make the meeting please still contact the office to register your interest. You may bring your children along to the AGM if you would like. We are currently faced with the possibility of dissolving the PTFA due to lack of support.

## Keeping our children safe on the school site

All members of the school community are role models to the young children coming on to the school site. To enable all children to feel safe we respectfully ask that you follow some basic ground rules when you're on the school site:

- **No dogs, no smoking and no riding bicycles or scooters (as per the signs we have up on the gates).**
- **Speak calmly to all adults and children, using respectful language – aggressive tone/vocabulary is not tolerated.**
- **Please do not park on the yellow zig zags outside the school. These are in place to help the children arrive and leave the school safely.**

## Website

We try to ensure our website is up to date with anything and everything you might need to know about the school, the curriculum, upcoming events, lunches, term dates etc. We post most letters on our website and we no longer send newsletters out. If you need hard copies of anything please contact the school office. If you notice anything that is missing please let us know and we'll try to fix it.

## And finally...

The very last item to share with you is that our Deputy Headteacher, Miss Chant, got married over the summer and is now Mrs Pettett! Many congratulations to her!

Yours sincerely,

Louise Hopkins  
Headteacher