 Westgarth Primary School 01642 485560

 Redcar Road www.westgarthprimaryschool.co.uk

 Marske-by-the-Sea westgarthoffice@westgarth.rac.sch.uk

 TS11 6AE Tweet: @westgarthSchool

 **Friday 3rd July 2020**

Dear Families,

**Update on September**

As you will be aware, the government announced its intention for all children to return to school in September. Guidance as to how schools are to meet that intention was published just yesterday. Over the coming days, we will be revising, and adding to, our current risk assessment to take account of the government’s guidelines.

In summary, the overall aim of the guidance is to extend the current mitigating factors to allow for all children to safely return to school. The mitigating factors are:

* a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
* robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
* enhanced cleaning arrangements;
* active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
* formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school, wherever possible, and to minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

Strategies for reduced contact include:

* grouping children together in protective “bubbles”;
* avoiding contact between “bubbles” by staggering start and finish times, breaks and lunches;
* arranging classrooms with forward facing desks, where appropriate;
* staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible.

In addition, social distancing and reduced contact measures need to be in place to protect other adults on site – parents/carers, visitors and contractors.

We are sorry that more detail as to how this will impact on you and your children cannot be shared until the risk assessment is completed and approved. We will then issue a comprehensive Parent Guide to support you with new arrangements. In addition, parents and carers of children who have already returned to school have kindly offered some feedback and “Top Tips” to share with you about preparing your child to return to school.

Specific government guidance for parents and carers can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term#arriving-and-leaving-school-or-college>

We plan for the children to return to their current classes from **Tuesday 1st September** to **Friday 18th September.** We then have a PD Day when school will be closed to the children to prepare for their return to new classes on **Tuesday 22nd September.**

Mrs Beacham’s class will be taught by Mr Mitchell and Miss Rutherford. The children know Miss Rutherford from teaching them on Wednesday afternoons in Y3, and I know they will thoroughly enjoy working with Mr Mitchell.

We can assure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure that we can safely welcome back all of our children on 1st September. In fact, we can’t wait!

**School Meals**

Unfortunately, due to increases in the minimum wage for catering staff, and rising ingredient costs, our school meal price is set to increase by 10p to £2.25 per day from September. The price has been stable since September 2018, and, whilst we feel this still offers good value, we are sorry for the additional strain on families at this challenging time.

**Summer Break**

We can confirm that schools are not being asked to provide childcare for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children over the summer break, now that the government has moved the pandemic crisis to a new stage. I would, once again, like to thank all of the staff who worked through the Easter and half term break to keep school open in support of the national effort. However, we are all really looking forward to school returning to its educational, rather than childcare, function next term.

**Home Learning**

Thank you to teaching teams for offering to continue providing weekly jigsaws of home learning activities over the summer break. The jigsaws are entirely voluntary, but available for families who would like to continue with routines over summer. Please feel free to dip in and out of the activities. We do hope that the weather is kind and that families can spend time outdoors, or even on holiday.

Please note that Evidence Me, Purple Mash and twitter feedback will not be given over the summer break, in the hope that the staff can take a holiday too.

**PD Days**

A reminder that school is closed to all children for the following PD Days: **Friday 10th July, Monday 20th July, Monday 21st September.**

With our very best wishes to you all. Stay safe, and enjoy the weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead

Headteacher