 Westgarth Primary School 01642 485560

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**Tuesday 1st October 2019**

Dear Families,

**Inspiration By Perspiration!**

As you are aware, one of our key curriculum drivers is resilience, and, last week, we were delighted to welcome Al Sylvester MBE to speak with the children about his amazing life story, the challenges he has undertaken and lessons he was able to share about perseverance, teamwork and resilience.

Al is a well known former RAF Mountain Rescue Service team leader who was actively involved with over 400 operational rescues. In addition, his life of adventure has taken him to some of the most extreme environments on the planet; including the South Pole, Aconcagua, Mt Kenya and the base camps of Mount Everest and Annapurna. More information can be found at:

<https://www.inspirationbyperspiration.com/inspiration-by-perspiration>

**Cross Country Success**

We are so proud of all the Westgarth runners who did an excellent job in the second round of the ongoing cross country tournament, with 20 runners going through to the next round! The resilience the children showed was brilliant and Westgarth won 1st prize out of all four schools! Talented runners who stood out: Shane R Y3; Emily C Y3/4; Charlie A and Taylor D Y5; Max T, Libby P and Lily F Y6. Fantastic!

**Mental Health Consultation**

Healthwatch South Tees is working to make sure local health and care services are meeting the needs of local people.  They do this by asking people what matters most to them and what improvements could be made. As we all know there are more young people struggling to maintain good mental health.  Healthwatch South Tees is currently asking parents to tell them what they think the causes of poor mental health in young people (up to the age of 25) are.  They are also seeking your ideas for ways to prevent young people from developing poor mental health. You can participate by completing the survey below:

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NGDCXJS**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NGDCXJS)

**Parental Questionnaire**

Thank you to those parents and carers who completed our questionnaire last term; the full results of which are attached below.

Suggested improvements included the following:

* Breakfast clubs; Further afterschool clubs; Use of Facebook/Instagram; Better use of outdoor space; Further parents’ evenings; Communication- more notice for trips, sports events etc.; Adult chairs for parents’ evenings

There are no plans to introduce a school breakfast club. We do not currently have the staffing capacity to run a childcare facility, nor do we wish to compete with local childcare providers. If any parents or carers would like information about childcare provision in our area, there is excellent signposting available at the People’s Information Network: <http://www.peoplesinfonet.org.uk/kb5/redcar/directory/home.page>

We appreciate that enrichment activities are a big feature of our school, and some parents/carers are perhaps unaware of the wide range of out of school clubs and activities already run and organised voluntarily by staff, including: residential visits; chess; reading; cycling; global care; choir; Rise and Read; netball; athletics; crafts; art; cross country; football; cricket. We do also have external providers for multi-sports; dance and, more recently, boxercise. Some activities are more suitable for particular age groups, but, hopefully, your child will find an activity to enjoy over their time at Westgarth.

In terms of communication, we try to give as much notice as possible for as many events as possible: for example, the annual overview of school events published in September each year. There are also updates via the school website; weekly newsletter; Parentmail; and twitter.

Whilst we offer a detailed structured conversation each term, please do feel free to contact teachers at any point during the year if you wish to discuss your child’s wellbeing or progress. We would not want any parent or carer waiting until a formal meeting point if there is a question or concern. And we have taken note of the request for adult chairs ……. thank you for such a sensible suggestion!

**Book Fair**

Our autumn Book Fair will take place after school in KS2 Hall every evening from Thursday 3rd to Wednesday 9th October. We receive funding from every book sold to buy much needed new books for school, so thank you, in advance, of your support. A good time to start on those stocking fillers, perhaps?

Hope you all had a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead

Headteacher

**Parent Questionnaire Results**

 **2019-2020**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Agree**  | **Disagree**  |
| **1** | My child enjoys school. | 98% | 2% |
| **2** | The school keeps my child safe. | 100% |  |
| **3** | I am pleased with the progress my child is making. | 98% | 2% |
| **4** | The school meets my child’s needs. | 98% | 2% |
| **5** | The school keeps me well informed. | 93% | 7% |
| **6** | The school helps me to be involved and support my child’s learning. | 100% |  |
| **7** | I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or concerns. | 100% |  |
| **8** | Westgarth listens to, and responds to, the views of children and parents. | 100% |  |
| **9** | The school is led and managed well.  | 100% |  |
| **10** | My child is encouraged to be caring, sensible and independent.  | 100% |  |
| **11** | Behaviour is good. | 100% |  |
| **12** | Any known incidents of bullying in school are dealt with effectively. | 100% |  |
| **13** | There is a good range of classroom activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable. | 98% | 2% |
| **14** | Westgarth provides a good range of activities for children outside of lessons e.g. lunch-time, after school, PFA events, theme days, visits, residentials. | 98% | 2% |
| **15** | My child is encouraged to make a positive contribution to school and the community. | 100% |  |
| **16** | I would recommend Westgarth Primary to another parent/carer  | 100% |  |

Overall rating from parents: Excellent -84% Good -14% Satisfactory – 2% Unsatisfactory-0

**Please tell us things we do well:**

* Teaching- lessons are imaginative, creative, engaging and fun.
* Teachers “really know” the children
* Positive school ethos
* Approachable staff who listen to concerns
* Events- Open Afternoon, themed days, school visits, Sports

Day, residentials etc.

* Parent mail and Westgarth Weekly
* Transition week

 “ As parents we feel all staff are available to give us time.”

“Westgarth makes learning fun. Both my children love school!”

“Westgarth considers the child’s overall well-being over SATs etc, especially their mental health”

**Please give suggestions for further improvement:**

* Breakfast clubs
* Further afterschool clubs
* Use of Facebook/Instagram
* Better use of outdoor space
* Further parents’ evenings
* Communication- more notice for trips, sports events etc.
* Adult chairs for parents’ evenings