

# Westbrook Lane Newsletter



## Staff changes

We are pleased to welcome two new LSAs to our team: Miss Siddons, who will be working in Class 1 and Mrs Tomlinson who will be based in Class 3.

## Class News



Year 4 have been exploring portraits in their art work. The children have produced their own self-portraits, both in their own style and that of the artist Amedeo Modigliani. As you can see, it has made for two contrasting styles of art work. They have also developed their skills in using watercolours and oil pastels to create different effects.



Class 6 thoroughly enjoyed their drama workshop which explored evacuation during WW2. They all immersed themselves in the role of a child being evacuated, and responded thoughtfully to the activities. They were surprised to learn that some children did not want to go home to their parents after the war had ended. Nancy said, 'I loved learning about life during the war, and how it was different back then to how it is now.'



## Premises update - building work over October half-term

We are having a perimeter fence installed over the half-term holiday. We have chosen a design that is, hopefully, not too intrusive; we really value the rural look of our site, and staff and parents have worked hard to maintain the grounds with this in mind. The fence will look like the one in the key stage two playground. It will also include new pedestrian and vehicular access gates. In order to keep the premises secure from trespassers, the front pedestrian gate will be at the bottom of the steps instead of the top. However, it will be set back slightly to allow safer access for those visitors with pushchairs; wheelchair access will continue to be via the school drive.

As part of our COVID-19 H&S measures, we have implemented a one-way system around the school premises to minimise the risks due to parents congregating. As we are now directing people through the staff car park, this area has to be supervised as it is usually only for vehicle access for staff and deliveries. As such, we do not regard it as a safe exit for children, as it is now, as delivery companies can arrive at any time. Once the new gates are installed, we will not need a member of staff to supervise it; supervision is currently taking 80 minutes a day, which is having a negative impact on staff workload.

The new gate will include a vehicle gate, which will remain closed during the drop off/pick up times, and a pedestrian gate which will remain open during drop off/pick off times. I will monitor this after half-term to ensure it is a suitable control measure, with the intention that the area will not need full-time supervision thereafter.

Please can adults remember to keep their children with them, and on the paths, when going through the car park; do not allow them to run off through the gate unsupervised as, unlike at the front pedestrian gate, there is no safety barrier on the street. Thank you for your help with this one way system, and for your support with the staggered start/end times.

## COVID-19 update

I would like to thank all the parents for following the routines for the new staggered start/end times. There has been a lot of positive feedback about how smooth the process has been and how calm it feels. I know that the staff have said that the younger classes are coming in much more focused and ready to learn. The new Reception Class children have settled remarkably quickly, particularly as there are now no parents coming into the classroom: this was always a very busy, and often overwhelming time for children. We have been really impressed with how quickly they are getting busy upon entry to school.

I would also like to thank all the staff for working so hard to follow all the restrictions placed upon us in order to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, whilst continuing to make Westbrook a welcoming and happy place to be! Teachers and support staff continue to work in bubbles with minimal crossing over of classes, in line with the risk assessment. We also have some music and sports teachers working in school - in line with the Leeds risk assessment and risk assessments from their own professional bodies. Although they are allowed to visit different classes, we have timetabled the provision to minimise this e.g. Junior Jam are providing music for the year 5 and 6 bubble, Leeds Rhinos are only working with year 3, Sam Mercer is only working with Reception class this half-term, and the Inspiration Tree coach is only in the year 5 and 6 bubble. All other professionals who work with the staff and children follow the latest government guidance and the control measures set out in the risk assessment, and only visit the site when other methods of communication are not possible. Our risk assessment can be found at <https://www.westbrooklanepriamaryschool.co.uk/key-information/covid-19-1>

Mr Hooson has sent out a survey for parents and carers about access to remote learning. It is really important that everyone responds so that we can create the most effective remote learning approach. We will provide remote learning in the following circumstances:

- on a one-to-one level, when a child or family have to self-isolate as someone has symptoms and they are waiting for a test result. This may only be for a few days whilst they wait for the test result; in this case, teachers would send home any work that had been planned for the next few days - if it was suitable. If not, alternative work would be provided in a different format.
- on a class level, when a bubble has been collapsed and children and staff have to remain at home for up to 14 days; in this case, teachers would send home any work that had been planned for the rest of that week, and possibly the second week depending on the nature of the teaching and learning involved. Parents and carers may be directed to remote learning via Oak Academy or White Rose maths and Pobble English. Individual class teachers will direct the specific teaching and learning tasks through Class Dojo.

We know that for some families, home learning was a very stressful undertaking in spite of reassurances from myself and class teachers. The majority of parents were satisfied with the home learning during lockdown; however, some felt the work was not directed enough or there was not enough of it, and others felt it was too prescriptive and there was too much. We appreciate that every family has varying levels of access to devices, and capacity to support learning, which makes it very difficult to provide a 'one-size fits all' approach. Therefore, it is reassuring to read in the government's guidance on the three alert levels, that schools will remain open in all alert levels. We are hoping we will not have to return to the high levels of home learning we endured during the summer term, although we are aware that the advice is subject to change at short notice.

## FAQ

### 1. Can someone else collect my child from school?

A childcare bubble is where someone in one household can provide informal (i.e. unpaid and unregistered) childcare to a child aged 13 or under in another household. This must occur on an exclusive basis - always the same two households.

### 2. What are the current local restrictions?

The alert level and local restrictions in place can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-covid-alert-levels-by-area> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

## Parking issues

Some parents have been having problems accessing the disabled parking bay outside school since our return this year. We have contacted Leeds Trinity, as I know at least one car parked there belonged to a student and they have reminded their students about the restrictions. We have also contacted the PCSO requesting monitoring of the parking in the disabled bay. We are hoping this problem will be resolved; however, we are aware that we cannot assume the cars parked there always belong to students, and we cannot contact all members of the public. I have spoken to some of the parents affected by this and offered some temporary solutions, and we will continue to monitor the situation.

