



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear West Park Families

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable half-term and that you are looking forward to all of the excitement that the next few weeks bring. Things are starting to feel very autumnal as the nights draw in and the temperature starts to drop. We are also getting used to dodging the sporadic torrential rain showers that have popped up during the last couple of weeks. Sadly, this resulted in a Halloween washout and it was devastating to see two sodden 8 feet tall dinosaurs squelch around the area on the hunt for a few small bags of Haribo sweets!

Water also brought about a significant additional challenge as we approached the end of last half-term. A significant water leak was reported in Spondon and very quickly this impacted on the water supply across our site. This resulted in no access to drinking water, toilets etc and thus we had no option than to close the school. Ensuring that 1485 pupils get home safely in the middle of the school day is no small task and I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding during this time. Thanks also to our amazing staff team who all pulled together to answer telephones, talk to families on mobiles, escort pupils off site and even conduct traffic! We have certainly had our fair share of interesting challenges to overcome over the last couple of years!

Settling In Evening

Due to the water situation we had to postpone our Year 7 settling in evening. This has now been rescheduled for Thursday 17th November. This will provide an opportunity to speak to the form tutor online using our platform, SchoolCloud. Please sign up for appointments using the information provided to Year 7 families.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Our first Year 11 parents' evening takes place on Tuesday 8th November, again utilising SchoolCloud. This provides an important opportunity for parents and carers to communicate with subject teachers prior to the upcoming mock GCSE exams and BTEC exams. Staff are looking forward to meeting you on the evening.

PE Uniform

We are absolutely delighted that our pupils wear their PE kit so proudly when they engage in a range of exciting activities within the PE curriculum. Occasionally a pupil will forget to bring their kit and we have an amazing kit store in place to ensure that this does not impact on their learning.

However, it is important that there is a system in place to ensure that this is not a regular occurrence. This system has been slightly amended as detailed below:

When pupils borrow kit for the third occasion an e-mail is sent out to parents/carers to make them aware of the situation. This alerts parents/carers so that any issues with kit can be resolved. Should pupils borrow kit on five occasions they will receive a kit detention. The majority of parents/carers have appreciated and responded to the e-mails, to assist the department in getting their child prepared for lessons. Feedback has suggested that calling home on the fourth occasion, as per the policy, has been too soon after the initial e-mail. Therefore, the policy is being amended. Going forward, a phone call will only be made on the unlikely occasion that a child borrows kit for the eighth time and every three occasions following that.

Local Parking – Derby Homes

Please be aware that the parking at Locko Court and by the Derby Homes flats on Church Street/West Road is private parking. We have had communication from local residents as they have had their access blocked during school pick up times causing significant distress. This may not be West Park families but I have no doubt that you will support our endeavours to build positive relationships with our neighbours.

Remembrance

On Friday 11th November we will be holding a 2 minutes silence across the school at 11.00 a.m. We will move breaktime on the day to facilitate this. All year groups will have an assembly this week detailing the significance of remembrance. On Friday 11th November we invite members of local cadet forces/community groups, to wear their uniforms to school. This had a significant impact last year and it was fantastic to see so many of our pupils wear their uniform with such pride. I look forward to representing West Park at the St Werburgh's and Methodist Church remembrance services and to meeting different members of our community on remembrance Sunday.

Children in Need Spotacular

Friday 18th November is Children in Need day and at West Park we will be doing our bit to get involved. This will be a non-uniform day; the theme this year is SPOTS with a voluntary £1 donation through ParentPay going to the Children in Need appeal. Pupils are invited to wear something spotty – spotty pyjamas, spotty onesies, spotty clothes etc. Further activities will also take place across the day as detailed below. Please encourage your child/children to bring in some loose change and to get involved in the various events:

1. Cake sale in T-Block *(Year 8 will be running this)*
2. Cover Pudsey in Coins in Reception – *(Year 7 will be running this)*
3. Penalty shoot-out and keepie up challenge in the Sports Hall *(Year 10 will be running this)*
4. Guess the number of sweets in a jar to win the jar. *(Year 11 will be running this)*
5. Live music in the Hall – Thanks to the Music department. *(Year 9 will be helping with this)*

As we move into the winter months there is no doubt that the cost of living crisis will continue to impact on a large number of West Park families. Unfortunately, as a school we don't have all the answers to what is a very complex and challenging situation. However, we are determined to do everything that we can to support families and to ensure that pupils are able to focus on learning and continuing to progress.

Our Eco-shop is now well established and we are supporting members of the community with over 300 kgs of food going through the shop weekly. This provision is open to all, with 10 items of food available for a voluntary donation of £2. In the shop there is also free access to sanitary products, school uniform and adult reading books.

This winter will be a time for us all to pull together and I am determined to ensure that West Park families are not left on their own. If you are struggling, please get in touch and we will do our best to offer support and/or signpost other services.

Take care everyone and keep working with us to get the best for our amazing children.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott McGregor', written in a cursive style.

Scott McGregor
Head