

# Westwood Update

## July 2020

To our Dear Westwood Family,

We hope you are really well?

It has been great to see so many come back into school for the 'Check in and Catch up' over the last few weeks! It has been such a positive experience for us all! The best bit is seeing our wonderful children's faces - such a joy! It really has lifted our spirits and we hope it has been just as heartwarming for those parents who have chosen to send their children back. If you haven't, of course we have respected your decision and look forward to seeing you in September! Before we get to that part, just a few reminders for this week and an update.

### Jubilee Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

As you know, Westwood is closed on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. But we couldn't let the Jubilee pass without a Virtual celebration! You have all been invited to take part in the Virtual Jubilee Celebrations- You will have received your Zoom invite via email. Details are also on Instagram and Twitter - Come on and join in; don't forget to send us your pictures too!!

### Staff reminders and changes

As you will know, Mrs Brown will be taking up a temporary / acting Deputy Head post from September 2020. Mrs Brown has worked incredibly hard in key stage 2 since her arrival in 2014 and has been their department manager since September 2018. I am sure you will congratulate Mrs Brown on her appointment and she will be a great addition to the Senior Leadership Team.

As some of you may know, Miss Bennett in Year 3 is having a baby! Miss Bennett will be on maternity leave from September 2020 until January 2021. I am sure you will send your very best wishes to Miss Bennett and her bump! Miss Davies, one of our long term supply teachers, will be covering Miss Bennett's class until her return.

We also say goodbye to Mr Gordon in Year 2 at the end of term in July. As you know Mr Gordon came to Westwood to extend his teaching experience in the Foundation Phase. We would like to thank Mr Gordon for his hard work despite having his experience cut short! I know he has worked very hard supporting the parents and children in year 2 since we closed in March. He will be returning to his old school.

We say hello to Mr Northall, who is our new Year 1 teacher. I know that the current Reception children have received a short video introducing himself as their teacher for next year. We are very happy to welcome Mr Northall to our Team from September 2020.

### Awards

Despite Covid, we have selected winners for our annual Tony Oates Award, 2 learners from each class; The Mike Beech Sports Award for Year 6, and the coveted 'Fred Birk's Memorial Award for Year 6 too. On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July the Year 6 children will be having a farewell session and all Year 6 parents know about this as Mrs Brown and Miss Mattar have been in contact with the Year 6 families. On Friday Morning during our farewell session, we will be presenting the Tony Oates Awards to 2 learners from Year 6; The Mike Beech Sports Award to one Year 6 pupil, and the coveted 'Fred Birk's Memorial Award to a lucky Year 6 too. We will write via email to inform the Year 6 parents of the award recipients for Year 6. Our plan is to represent these awards later in the Autumn Term (where we hope there will be a bit more normality!) and invite Parents of the award winners back to Westwood, where we will also present the remaining Tony Oates awards to the rest of the school for this academic year, as we hopefully will be allowed to have parents on site. We will write to the parents of those children who have been awarded the Tony Oates Awards from the current Nursery to Year 5 in the Autumn Term.

### September 2020

I wanted to write to you with a little update on September organisation. Today, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July in the late afternoon, we have had the Welsh Government guidance with regards to organisation of all schools for September 2020. This guidance has been published on the back of the announcement from Kirsty Williams last week. We are having discussions with Flintshire County Council and Buckley Consortium Schools on the basis of the guidance from today. We are very hopeful that we will have a plan to share with you with regards to September 2020 by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. I know you will have many questions and want to get organised yourself. I really do thank you for your patience; we are as keen as you to finalise details and ensure that you are kept informed as soon as possible to allow you to plan for your child's return in September. PLEASE KEEP A CHECK ON YOUR EMAILS AND UPDATE US ON ANY CHANGES OF DETAILS! I will write to you again at the end of the week with this plan. So until then...

Thank you for all your support as always. Stay strong! Stay positive! Stay Happy! Stay Safe!

**Mrs Williams & Team Westwood** 😊