



The Westminster
School

Newsletter

April 2021

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A message from the Head Teacher

This short term has been a brilliant start back for everyone. Our children and young people have transitioned back into school exceptionally well and school is returning to some normality. To see the return of the socially-distanced hustle and bustle of the school rather than the ghost-town that it was, fills my heart with joy. Attendance has been strong and is hovering around 85%. Shielding guidance ends on Wednesday 31 March 2021 and we are looking to welcome back those remaining few young people. I know this can be an anxious time, but we are still upholding high standards of risk management.

We are still maintaining our bubbles within school and I am thrilled we haven't needed to close down any class groups or pathways since our return. With lockdown easing, this means we can start returning to some of our more exciting curriculum activities including swimming and our Learning Outside the Classroom activities at Baggeridge Country Park. These community activities are going to enrich our curriculum offering and provide access to resources that our young people desperately need.

The school will be providing free school meal vouchers over the Easter break and you will receive these in the usual way. Although lockdown measures are now easing, please keep safe and inform us of any potential COVID-19 symptoms; we aren't out of the woods yet.

We are in the midst of planning for next academic year in the form of recruitment, curriculum redesign, class groupings and timetabling. Alongside all of this The Westminster Specialist College (SPI) will open in September 2021 for a small cohort of 12 young people. This is very much a pilot year, however the principles of a person-centred preparing for adulthood study programme remain at the heart of everything we do.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Easter break. We return to school on Monday 19 April.

Mr O M Flowers
Head Teacher



COVID 19 - Important

If your child or anyone in your child's home has coronavirus symptoms, however minor, including:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss, or change to, sense of smell or taste

or you have been contacted by the NHS Track and Trace service to say that your child or anyone in your child's home may have been in contact with someone who has COVID 19:

- Do not send your child into school.
- Contact the school to report the reason for the absence so we can instigate our testing and tracing procedures, if required.
- Please ring 119 to organise a test or go to www.nhs.uk to book a test online.

Pupil Transport Enquiries

If parents and carers are experiencing any issues with pupil transport, please contact Travel Assistance directly. The contact details for staff at Travel Assistance are as follows:

Email: travel_assistance@sandwell.gov.uk

Robert Shenstone	07392 285426
Dee Watson	07392 285423
Jagdeep Tiwana	07392 285414
Joann Hodgetts	07825 098219
Karen Beaumont	07392 285405
Rina Viridi	07392 285412
Sabby Gakhal	07760 172015

Red Nose Day - Comic Relief 2021

To celebrate Red Nose Day this year, pupils took part in a Red Nose Scavenger hunt throughout the week which full of lots of fun activities.

We raised a grand total of £292.00 selling red noses, wearing red and dressing as superheroes. We had some fantastic costumes! Thank you to everyone who donated.



COVID Track and Trace over the Easter Break

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, if your child develop any symptoms of COVID over the Easter break, please let the School know by calling 0121 281 3664. This will enable us to carry out track and trace within the School community.

A test should be arranged for anyone showing symptoms (eg persistent cough, high temperature, loss of smell/taste) through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Sandwell residents living with school children are able to obtain rapid home test kits at any time. These tests are NOT for people showing symptoms. Further details are available from <https://bit.ly/3fo2nLe>.

SEND Easter Camp
Multi-Sports

FREE CAMP

Week 1 Tuesday 6th - Friday 9th April 2021
Week 2 Monday 12th - Thursday 15th April 2021

Book your place: **BITILY/TAF-SMCS18**

GENERAL ENQUIRES CONTACT AJAY GILL:
Ajay.gill@albionfoundation.co.uk
07468 860 149

VENUE
PORTWAY LIFESTYLE CENTRE
Newbury Ln, Oldbury B19 3HE

AGES 8 - 18 YEARS OLD

10:30am - 3:00pm

SEND EASTER
Multi-Sports Camp
18+ YEARS OLD

Portway Lifestyle Centre
Newbury Lane, Oldbury B19 3HE
10:30am - 3:00pm

WEEK 1: 6th - 9th APRIL 2021
WEEK 2: 12th - 15th APRIL 2021

ES PER DAY

GENERAL ENQUIRES CONTACT AJAY GILL:
Ajay.gill@albionfoundation.co.uk
07468 860 149

The Westminster School 20/21 School Calendar

Contacting the School Leadership Team

If you have any questions or queries, please do email us on headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk.

This is the quickest way to contact the Head Teacher, the Deputy Head Teachers and Pathway Leaders.

We will respond to all emails as soon as we can.

Sep-20						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30				

Oct-20						
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Nov-20						
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Dec-20						
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Jan-21						
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Feb-21						
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Mar-21						
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Apr-21						
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May-21						
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31						

Jun-21						
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Jul-21						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

INSET Days - school closed to students
 Holidays



We're now registered with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), which means you can help us for **FREE**.

Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to shop with them - at no extra cost to yourself!

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely **FREE!** These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://bit.ly/31qQhJR>



Evidence for Learning is our school's chosen platform to capture and record evidence of your child's learning. This is used by all teachers throughout the school to evidence their achievements across all subjects.

Parent View Portal

The Parent View Portal can be accessed by any Internet-connected device (iOS, Android, PC, Mac, etc.)

This enables us to share evidence of your child's learning with you. We share the evidence with parents via the Parent View portal. To access the Parent portal you will be sent login details via two emails, the first email will contain your unique link to a secure webpage (please save it to your favourites or save the email for future reference) and the second email will contain your password.

If you ever need your password resetting, please email services@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk requesting a reset of your Evidence for Learning Parent View account. You will then receive a password reset email from TheTeacherCloud alternatively please let your child's class teacher know by providing them with your email address and we will ensure this is sent across to you.