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EASTER TIME



The Easter holidays seem to have raced ever closer towards us and are now practically upon us. When we return after the holiday, Nursery parents will find out where their child has been offered a Reception place for September. Anybody with concerns upon receiving their offer is welcome to come and speak to me about it, and you should also speak to Admissions about your next steps.

We have recently welcomed Clement to Y1, having just moved to Otley with his family. Thank you to everyone for making him welcome, and well done to Clement for settling in so quickly!

After Easter we have two new members of staff joining us for the summer term: Mrs Williams will be working part-time in Nursery and Mrs Dawrant will be working in Reception. We are looking forward to welcoming them to our Early Years and wider staff team!

I also have some sad news to share. Mrs Charlesworth, our HLTA, is leaving us in one month's time. She has been successful in securing an exciting new position with Jet2. We are all delighted for Gina, but very sad to see her go. Next term will therefore see us putting in place temporary cover measures, as well as plans for a permanent replacement in time for September. In the meantime, I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Charlesworth the very best for her new adventure.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



We had a great time at the recent curry night at **Westbourne Spice**, raising **£175** in the process! If you did come along, don't forget you can use your ticket to claim 10% off your next food bill at Westbourne Spice! Our big event this half term was of course the **Easter Fair** on Saturday.

Our pre-fair taster event, the **Toy Sale**, raised **£134**, despite the disruption caused by the weather. Early indications are that the Fair has raised **over £2000**, but the exact figure will be confirmed after Easter. Huge thanks and well done to Karen Mellor and her team for a great day!

Thanks to Donna Easton for volunteering to take on the **Friday Toy Library**, taking on Laura Coleman's good work. Donna is auditing all our stock over the Easter holidays ready to re-launch at the start of next term!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find out more about our Otley Carnival entry, but suffice to say we are looking forward to getting our teeth into **Wild Westgate**! Look out for the letter inviting you to take part, and if you can lend a hand with creating the float and costumes, do let us know! After Easter, look out for a letter about the **Family Bingo Night on Friday 11th May**- we are hoping to see lots of families for this new event. Thanks to Mrs Senior for offering to run the night! Our fundraising at the moment is focused on helping school to replace the climbing equipment in both playgrounds, so your support, donations and money are all really appreciated- by the Friends of Westgate and by everyone at school too!

PARKING

It seems that a number of parents have recently been ignoring the needs of our neighbours when it comes to parking at the beginning and end of the day, not just on **Scarborough Road** but other local roads, including **Richmond Terrace, Bradford Road, Ilkley Road** and on **Inglewood**. Residents have complained about parents parking and blocking access to their property. The defence of 'I'll only be 10 minutes' or 'I'm in a rush' isn't reasonable: in the recent past we have had residents who have been late for hospital treatment appointments because they have been unable to get their car out. Parents' behaviour reflects on our school as whole so please, as representatives of Westgate, be considerate and park responsibly. Thank you ☺



POLLING DAY CLOSURES

Nursery and Reception Parents will no doubt be sharing my frustration at the disruption caused to children's education by Leeds City Council's ongoing refusal to reconsider the use of our school as a polling station. I am in the process of writing to all of our elected members to outline in detail the effect this has on families, children and school, and will be sharing this with Reception and Nursery parents. I would encourage any parent who feels similarly to write to their elected member(s), in order to make it clear the strength of feeling on the matter.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

In order to complete our banking in good time for the end of the financial year, please can we ask that any payments you plan to make this week are paid by the end of the working day on Tuesday (tomorrow) if at all possible? This includes Nursery fees, dinner money, residential or trip contributions and music fees. Thank you!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

March's winners will be announced in the next newsletter. At the moment, prizes are as follows:

1st prize- £128;

2nd prize- £32;

3rd prize- £16.

We have **64** members at present and the more members we have, the more each prize is worth! If you would like to join the monthly draw, please see Mrs Bleasdale in the office for application details. You can pay by standing order or cash/ cheque in advance. All proceeds go to Westgate School Fund, which is used to purchase resources, to fund visitors to school and to subsidise trips for all pupils.



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP: GET INVOLVED!



We are seeking 2 parents to join our Equality and Diversity Working Group. The group consists of one Governor (me), 3 members of staff and 2 parents. Our role is to ensure that the school teaches our children about all aspects of equality and diversity, and engenders a culture of inclusivity. We do this by means of a simple action plan. It is not a time consuming task; we meet once a term for 40 mins at 2.30pm, and there is no homework. All we really need are your ideas. If you think you could support our children in this way, please let the office know.

Susan Carson (governor)

OTLEY CARNIVAL NEWS

From a fantastic shortlist, **Teddy** in Reception's entry was chosen by School Council to be our Carnival theme this summer: **Wild Westgate!** We hope this great idea will help us to lasso a prize from the judges on the day.

We were also delighted to hear that **Oscar** in Y5 has won the Carnival Programme Cover/ Poster competition! His design will be seen all around town and on the day. Well done to Oscar and Teddy!



SPORTS REPORT



Last week, Year 4 had a morning of Skipping training delivered by Jodi from Skipping School. The children learned many new skills such as speed bounce, double bounce, butterfly and even had a go at the pretzel! This was in preparation for a competition in which the children will be taking part in May and I'm really pleased to see that many of the children are now practising their new skills at break and lunchtimes. Keep it up Year 4!

Mrs Hooper

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for the next two terms. They are also to be found on the

calendar when you log on to the VLE.

27/03/18 Y2 local walk to Parish Church

28/03/18 Easter Concert 14:00

29/03/18 UK Day Y1/2

29/03/18 Break up for Easter

30/03/18 Bank Holiday- school closed

16/04/18 Back to School

19/04/18 HLC Orchestral Day

03/05/18 Polling day- Nursery closure

07/05/18 Bank Holiday

10/05/17 Class photos

11/05/18 FOW Family Bingo Night

14/05/18 w/b Y6 test week

19/05/18 Otley Show

20/05/18 ESTA Strings Play Day

22/05/18 Maypole 09:15 **Please note change in time to previous years**

24-25/05/18 Y5 Whitby residential

25/05/18 Break up

04/06/18 Back to school

13-15/06/18 Y6 Herd Farm residential

16/06/18 Otley Carnival

19/06/18 Reception Induction 14:00

20/06/18 Y6 Mini-Olympics

21/06/18 LSMA Summer Concert

26/06/18 Nursery Induction 15:45

02/07/18 Y5 high school experience day

02/07/18 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

03/07/18 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

05/07/18 Sports Day

09-11/07/18 Y6 High School Induction

10/07/18 whole school induction am

19/07/18 Leavers' Play/ Party 18:30

20/07/18 Talent show 14:00

23/07/18 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

24/07/18 Break up

SANDALS/ SUMMER SHOES

A reminder for parents who might be buying summer footwear over the Easter break:

Sandals should be **red, white or black**.

They should be suitable for running about in at playtime– so mules or flipflops are inappropriate.

Trainers, high-tops and baseball boots/ shoes are not school uniform and should not be worn to school.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.