



Volume 18, Edition 10, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

[www.westgateprimary.co.uk](http://www.westgateprimary.co.uk)

[admin@westgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@westgateprimary.co.uk)

### CARNIVAL TRIUMPH!

On Saturday, Otley Carnival saw the culmination of lots of hard work on the part of Friends of Westgate, when over 100 children and adults were part of Westgate's Circus-themed carnival entry. From Nursery to Y6, children were dressed as lions, tigers, jugglers, clowns, strongmen, acrobats and mime artists, and the designer & mastermind, Zoe Hollis, held our Big Top aloft as the centrepiece. Everyone's hard work paid off when we found out Westgate won, not only the school walking float category, but also overall winner! There were so many fantastic entries, we were delighted to have been selected. You can see some



shutterstock - 327490226

pictures from the afternoon on the school website in the 'News' section.

Huge thanks go to everyone who took part, everyone who helped to make costumes, and especially to Zoe for pulling it all together.

**Helen Carpenter**  
Head Teacher

PS If you don't want to keep any costume items, i.e. trousers, ties, bowler hats, we will happily accept them at school, now or when you've finished with them, to add to our production costume store. Thank you!

### SCHOOL FINANCES AND FURTHER STRIKE ACTION

You may already know that the NEU has called for 2 further days of strike action, on 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July. I want to explain to you why I am once again joining this industrial action, despite the inconvenience & disruption this causes children and families.

Our school budget setting meeting in April was the most challenging meeting I have ever experienced in my 12 years as head teacher. The simple truth is that school funding seems to be broken. Every part of our spending at Westgate has been cut to the bone but it is still not enough. We have some challenging times ahead as a school. The funding we have received in recent years has not kept pace in real terms with inflation/ increased costs, and it comes on top of years of underfunding which we have previously been able to absorb through careful spending, an historic budget surplus, successful external funding bids and of course, the amazing financial support from Friends of Westgate and Westgate Windfall.

As you may imagine, as head teacher, I feel extremely angry, frustrated and upset. Nobody in education wants to withdraw their labour, but I'm afraid it feels like there is no other choice right now, if we want to stand up for children and schools, and what they need and deserve. I will therefore be writing to you later this week with details of how the action will affect Westgate. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this difficult matter.

**ANYTHING BOXED IN RED IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY REQUIRE ACTION ON YOUR PART. THANK YOU ☺**

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME: TIMBER FROM DISMANTLED PLAYHOUSE. COLLECT FROM IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL BOILER HOUSE ON SCARBOROUGH ROAD.**

## Y1/ RECEPTION DROP OFF & PICK UP



Our site can present challenges because of its age, and one of these is the space outside the Reception & Y1 doors at the end of the day. To enable the handover of children to go safely and smoothly, please can adults collecting their child from either class move into the main playground as soon as you have them, so that the area does not become more congested than it needs to be.

Thank you ☺

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



It's been a busy and successful year for FOW, and we're not finished yet! Obviously our proudest moment so far is the weekend's carnival entry, but we're still busy up to the end of term. We have a school disco coming up on 06/07/23 and Matthew Fortune is busy pulling together Y6's Year Book for the end of their time at Westgate next month. Our recent cake sale raised £200 for our sponsored child through ActionAid and Rag Bag raised £85!

Our latest purchase for school has been a new playhouse for the EYFS outside area and we have plans for more in the coming months. We know that our fundraising is more important than ever to school, so we really do appreciate your support. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 29/06/23 at 19:30- everyone is welcome!**

## WESTGATE WINDFALL

May's winners are:

1<sup>st</sup>: Mrs S Kelly (£128)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms N Wharton (£32)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Mr R Sells (£16)

As of May we have 64 members. 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. 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. **Average monthly prizes last academic year were £132.50, £33.13 and £16.56!** School Fund contributes to the cost of trips, visitors, special events and equipment, which would not be possible without the contribution that Westgate Windfall makes.



## ANTI-IDLING BANNER COMPETITION

Last Thursday was National Clean Air Day, and Eco Team used this day to launch a competition to design a banner to encourage motorists to stop idling their engine while stationary. Here are some facts about idling your engine that you may not know:

- It wastes petrol/ diesel and therefore money
- It adds more exhaust fumes to the atmosphere which increases air pollution
- Air pollution can cause asthma, allergies, heart & lung disease and even cancer
- Children are more at risk because their lungs are still developing.
- Idling your engine for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and costs more than turning it off and restarting it.
- Air pollution is often higher inside a car than outside it.
- Stopping idling will help to improve the air quality around us.

**The winning entry will be made into a banner for school! Closing date: 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

## FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



As we approach the end of term, please can parents / carers ensure they are aware of (and have settled) any outstanding monies due to school, including dinner money, music tuition and trip fees.

Reminder texts will be sent out periodically. If you have any issues, please contact the office on [admin@westgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@westgateprimary.co.uk)

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for the rest of this academic year. They are also to be found on the school website's calendar. Please make sure you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

19-23/06/23 Disability Awareness Week  
19/06/23 Y3 Herd Farm Stone Age trip  
19/06/23 Y2 Back Chat Brass workshop  
19/06/23 Nursery Stay & Play am  
20/06/23 Reception Stay & Play am  
20/06/23 Y2 Skipton Castle trip  
21/06/23 Leeds Arena concert  
22/06/23 Y6 transition pedestrian training  
22/06/23 Y4&6 Ilkley Tennis Tournament  
22-23/06/23 Y5 Whitby residential trip  
22/06/23 Nursery Stay & Play pm  
25/06/23 Otley Family Cycle Day, Garnetts Field  
26/06/23 Health & Wellbeing Fortnight  
26/06/23 Y5 High School Experience Day  
20/06/23 Nursery Induction 15:45  
26/06/23 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6  
27/06/23 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5  
28/06/23 Y6 Junior Band day at PHGS  
29/06/23 Sports Day: KS2 10:00; **Nursery 12:30;**  
KS1 & Rec 13:45  
**29/06/23 Friends of Westgate meeting 19:30**  
04/07/23 Y6 Rounders/ Cricket festival at PHGS  
05/07/23 Rec Harlow Carr trip  
**05/07/23 NEU Industrial Action**  
06/07/23 Summer Disco 17:45 Nur- Y1; 19:00 Y2-  
Y6  
**07/07/23 NEU Industrial Action**  
12-14/07/23 Y6 induction days at PHGS  
13/07/23 Whole school induction/ transition  
day  
13/07/23 Reception induction morning  
14/07/23 Y4 Leeds 2023 Children's Day  
17/07/23 Talent show 13:45  
18/07/23 Leavers' Play 19:00  
19/07/23 Leavers' Party 19:00  
21/07/23 Leavers' Assembly 09:00  
21/07/23 Break up  
24/07/23 Training Day (disaggregated)  
25/07/23 Training Day (disaggregated)  
If your child does not normally attend  
Nursery when a blue event is taking place,  
you are welcome to bring them along.  
Further details will be available from Miss  
Robinson.  
Green events are new since the last  
newsletter.

## DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

This week we have lots of visits and activities aimed at increasing children's awareness and understanding of disability. We are welcoming the charities Guide Dogs for the Blind, MENCAP and Hearing Dogs, learning Makaton (a form of sign language especially used with young children that we use in school), trying out a range of Para Sports led by PHGS Sports Leaders and learning about visible differences. The programme of visitors and activities has been drawn together by Mrs Hattersley and the Equalities Working Group and it promises to be a brilliant week.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING FORTNIGHT



Next week sees the start of Health & Wellbeing Fortnight, which is as full as ever! Mrs Hooper has arranged a whole host of activities, including working with Northern Ballet Theatre, visiting Ilkley Tennis Club, Zetsurin Karate, cycling training, family bike maintenance and of course, Sports Day. Please note that this year, Rec/ KS1 Sports Day will take place in the afternoon, and KS2 in the morning, which is a change from the usual timetable. Nursery will still be over lunch time as previously, however.

## NUMBER TRAIN

We are delighted that this half term we are hosting Number Train sessions every Friday morning in Nursery. Number Train is an EYFS activity which focuses on early number understanding, using story, song, art and movement. If you have a child of 2.5+ years old, there are groups outside of school that are available in Otley from September. You can find out more on their website,  
<https://www.numbertrain.co.uk/>



**Number Train®**