



Volume 13, Edition 2, 30th September 2015

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AUTUMN DAYS...



On Monday this week, I took our harvest collection to Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Harehills, Leeds. I met Alex, a volunteer there who showed me round their small store. He told me that they provide food parcels, clothing, toiletries and a hot meal to around 150 people at every drop-in that they run. It was really easy to see how helpful our donation was going to be, so thank you once again to everyone who generously donated on Friday, as well as everyone who came to help us celebrate Harvest on Friday last week.

In other news, I would like to thank Ross Carson's mum Susan for her application to be a parent governor. I enclose her personal statement later in the newsletter. As the only person to respond, she is therefore elected unopposed but we still have a parent governor. This is a really important job which involves giving some time in the evening each term to look strategically at the work of the school. Many of our governors have a background in education so we are particularly interested in recruiting governors from *outside* the education sector, to provide a fresh perspective. Please contact school if you think you might be able to support school's work in this way. Full training is given to any new recruit. From my point of view, the discussions we have and the sometimes difficult questions asked help me to do a better job: every day is a learning day! Thank you for considering it.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

BAKE SALE IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN'S REFUGEE APPEAL

Children in Y5 are organising a Bake sale to raise money for Save the Children's Child Refugee Crisis appeal, which will take place after school on Friday 2nd October 2015. Any cake donations will be gratefully received and of course, don't forget to bring some cash at the end of school to buy some goodies to eat over the weekend! Well done to Emily, Esther, Hollie, Isobel and Maisy for thinking of the idea and organising the sale - we hope we raise a good amount to send to the appeal.



Save the Children®

PARKING ON SCARBOROUGH ROAD

Thank you to everyone who has respected the enforcement signs on our zigzags, meaning that Scarborough Road is now a much safer place for Westgate children before, during and after school. Mrs Hoare, our crossing patrol officer, has asked me to remind parents however that **Highway Code rule 243 states "Do NOT park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space"**. At the moment, there are many cars that have been parked very close to the junction at the top of Scarborough Road, in contravention of this rule. Please can parents respect this rule for the safety of children and other pedestrians crossing the road, and for motorists turning into Scarborough Road from Bradford Road/ Piper Lane.

Thank you ☺





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This year our theme for Black History Month is 'Dreams and Aspirations'. Throughout October each class will be studying people, past or present, who have made a difference and are positive

black role models. From the children's studies in class they will then present their work in a class page for the BHM school magazine. The magazine will be sold to the parents and money raised will go to BASIK (Build a School in Kenya). To celebrate Black History Month we also have a range of workshops booked. On Monday 19th October, Key Stage 2 have a Capoeira, a Brazilian dance - martial art workshop, which has its roots in slavery. On Tuesday 20th October, Reception will have an African mask making session. On the same day, Key Stage 1 will have an African dance and mask workshop and there will be a performance for the KS1 parents from 3-3.15 in the school hall.



WORLD FOOD WEEK

Leeds Catering Agency are fundraising in partnership with Unilever for World Food Day, with Unilever donating meals based on the ingredients used by school kitchens across the

local authority. They are hoping to hit their target of 200 000 meals. So, week beginning 12/10/15, there is a special menu for children having a school dinner celebrating food around the world. Please see attached for the menu choices that week. Children with allergies will be catered for in the usual way.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

September's winners are:

1st: Mrs D Lee (£104)

2nd: Mr Whalley & Ms Orr (£26)

3rd: Mr & Mrs Macdonald (£13)

We currently have 52 members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please see Mrs Finlay 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.



RETIREMENT

I am sad to announce that Mrs Saynor will be retiring from our school kitchen after 8 years here. Children may still see her however, as she has offered to volunteer in school hearing readers after she finishes! I would like to thank Mrs Saynor for her years of hard work and support for successful lunchtimes at Westgate.

EYFS CLOSURE FOR TRAINING

A reminder to parents of children in Reception and Nursery that school is closed to these classes only on **Monday 19/10/15** for our Family of Schools joint Early Years Training Day.

LEARNING PLATFORM LOGINS/ CONSULTATION EVENINGS

This week, new parents will receive their personal logins for the learning platform, which is accessible through the school website. It is essential that you check that your login works, as on Monday next week online bookings for Parent Consultation evenings will open at 4pm and this is the **only way** you are able to book an appointment. Once you have logged on, you should also be able to view information relevant to your child(ren), including their class page which gives you information about their current learning, the school calendar (personalised to you and your children) and any letters or messages sent to you. A free App can be downloaded onto your smartphone if you have one, which will ensure, through push notifications, that you never overlook or mislay another letter or text again! If you've lost your login- contact the school office and we can help!



PARENT GOVERNOR STATEMENT

From Mrs Susan Carson MBE:

"With both public and private sector experience to contribute, my nomination for a governor's position is motivated by a keenness to add value to the local community. As a retired Army officer I am very comfortable with responsibility, decision making, planning, strategy and policy, all of which I feel will be useful in a governor. I have committee experience and am well practised in getting the best

outcomes for individuals in a collective setting. I will be able to translate my skills as Finance Director of a small business into the school environment to assist in constantly improving the school. I have a practical, common sense approach and a strong sense of the right thing to do – however challenging that might be. Should I be fortunate enough to be elected, I will serve the school and its pupils with the drive and enthusiasm required to ensure Westgate continues to thrive.”

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Our first meeting welcomed new faces and old last week and we are looking forward to another successful year of fundraising and social events for school.

First up is the **Curry Evening at Westbourne Spice on 13/10/15**, about which you will have received a letter this week. Tickets are available after school near the gazebo, or via the school office and are great value: £12 for a two course buffet (1/3 of which comes to school) and 10% off your next visit too.

Next up is one of our famous Cake sales, on 15/10/15 after school. You will receive a cake plate soon- all contributions gratefully received!

Alison Ross takes on Cathy Macdonald's expert mantle and is organising the **Scholastic Book Fair** after school in the last week of this half term. School receives commission on a sliding scale: the more we sell the larger the percentage we get. Look out for competitions in which your child can win a voucher to spend!

Jo Newell is also organising another **RagBag collection for 03/11/15**: have a good clearout over half term of any old clothes, linen, pairs of shoes (tied together with a rubber band), bags and belts and bring them in on the Monday/ Tuesday morning.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Some important dates for parents of Y1/3/4 children: you are welcome to join us to watch your child's class assembly!

19/11/15 Y3 class assembly 09:05

24/11/15 Y4 class assembly 09:05

03/12/15 Y1 class assembly 09:05

NAMING UNIFORM



I am sorry to end the newsletter on a moan but I have lost count of the number of brand new school cardigans, jumpers and PE kit that I have

retrieved from the floors of the cloakrooms or hall since the start of term which do not have a name in. Named items are *always* returned to their owner- so to prevent having to splash out on continually replacing lost items, you **MUST** ensure that all of your child's school clothes are clearly named. You can buy labels and raise money for Westgate at the same time by going to <http://www.easy2name.com/> and ordering them online. Thank you.