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WRIGGLY-SANTA-SPECIAL-IN-A-BARN

This newsletter goes out at the start of a bumper few days for Christmas performances. Today sees all of Foundation Stage children performing (for most of them, their first school production) Wriggly Nativity. Following hot on their heels are KS2 with The Santa Special tomorrow evening and Friday afternoon, closely pursued by KS1 performing Born in a Barn on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning next week.

I must say a particularly large thank you too to Crickette Harkness for her wizardry with a needle, having made a whole new set of much-needed animal costumes for KS2. They are amazing! I hope that, whichever performance you attend, you will be as proud as I am of all the children for their lovely singing and great acting. The productions are the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of staff too, co-ordinating rehearsals, curating props and sorting out costumes. I hope you will agree that the end result is worth it all! With just over a week to go before the end of term and as it is the last newsletter of 2015, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.



STOP PRESS!

Children can wear their Christmas Jumpers for School Christmas Dinner day next Wednesday, for a donation of 50p to Martin House.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



First of all, a huge thank you to Vicky Mirfield, Kevin Jacobs and Jane Barr who masterminded and ran the Friends of Westgate **Victorian Fayre Stall**. It was a great success, making a whopping **£643.90** after expenses - a record! Thanks too, to those who helped out on the stall, who donated chocolate for the chocolate tombola and of course to those of you that came and spent some money with us on Sunday. Earlier this half term, though not primarily a fund-raising event, the **Beetle Drive** was well-attended and made **£87.12**. Finally, thanks to Liz Bownes who organised the children's **Christmas Cards sales**. This made a fantastic **£265**! Attached to this newsletter is a final chance to order tickets for the **pantomime** in January - any ticket orders should be sent to the school office **by this Friday**. I think you will agree that after such a successful term, the Friends have earned a break over Christmas: however never fear as Laurel Chambers is already planning the **School Discos** for 21/01/16!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Just a reminder in case families are buying school shoes over the Christmas holidays: school shoes should be **black**. There have been a number of children wearing **red** shoes or boots to school in recent weeks and these are *not* part of our uniform guidelines. Thank you for your support in this matter.

SCHOOL SAVINGS CLUB

Karen Mellor has



received her training from Leeds City Credit Union and the Savings Club will begin the second week of next term on Tuesday mornings. If you would like your child to join but haven't yet done so, you can get an application form from the School Office at any point. Children receive an annual dividend payment and collect rewards based on the frequency of their deposits, rather than the size of their deposits, in order to encourage regular saving and good personal finance habits. We are grateful to Karen for volunteering to run this great new initiative on behalf of Friends of Westgate.

FOUNDATION STAGE OUTDOOR AREA

We are delighted that, due to an underspend on the solar panels, we have been able to invest in developing the outdoor area for our youngest pupils. This half term has seen the installation of long planting beds, a textured pathway, a road 'hump' and, most exciting of all, a Mud Kitchen! We are looking forward to the children using the new facilities next term.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

December's winners are:

1st: Mr & Mrs Heath-Walker (£104)

2nd: Mr & Mrs Davies (£26)

3rd: Mrs G Mullens (£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.



TOY LIBRARY

Just a reminder that Toy Library is open to families of children in Nursery to Y2, after school on Thursdays in the Y1/2 Shared Area. Come along and see what is on offer to borrow for a small annual subscription of just £1- a bargain! Thanks to Sarah Drake and Helen Jackson for running this on behalf of Friends of Westgate.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Next term is looking busy already! Once you've caught your breath from Christmas, make sure you put these dates on your family calendar 2016:

04/01/16 Training Day: School closed to pupils
05/01/16 Back to School
16/01/16 FOW Panto Trip
25&26/01/16 Show Racism the Red Card
01/02/16 Y5/6 Scooter & Pedestrian Training
09/02/16 Walk the Walls
12/02/16 Break up for half term
22/02/16 Training Day: School closed to pupils
23/02/16 Back to School
23/02/16 Nursery Induction meeting
25/02/16 Governors Day in School
29/02/16 Nursery to Y4 Pedestrian Training
01/03/16 Parent/ Carer Consultation Evening
03/03/16 Parent/ Carer Consultation Evening
03&04/16 D:Side Drugs Education Reception to Y6
16/03/16 Y1/2 visit the Mosque
17/03/16 Choir at Chevin Learning Partnership concert, Yeadon Town Hall
25/03/16 Bank Holiday: School closed
28/03/16 Bank Holiday: School closed
30/03/16 Easter Concert
01/04/16 Break for Easter holiday
18/04/16 Back to School
18/04/16 National Offer day for Reception places Sept 2016
27/04/16 Class Photographs
05/05/16 Local Election Polling Station:
School closed to Nursery only
09/05/16 Y6 SAT test week
18/05/16 Y6 Junior Safemark Training
27/05/16 Break up for half term
06/06/16 Back to School
13/06/16 KS1 Phonics Screening Check week
13-15/06/16 Y6 Robinwood Residential
15/06/16 Y5 Whitby Residential
27/06/16 Y5/6 Visit to the Gurdwara
21/07/16 Last day of school for Nursery
22/07/16 Break up for the Summer Holidays

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!



The Snow Queen" Pantomime – Leeds 16/01/16

Friends of Westgate are able to offer the opportunity to see this great production at The Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds, including coach transport there and back from Westgate, for just £12 a head, on January 16th 2016. This value for money offer is subject to a minimum of 50 tickets being sold. If fewer than 50 tickets are sold, the offer will be £12 for adults and £8 for children, without transport included.

We will be attending the Matinee performance so departure will be approx. 10:45 for the 12:00 show.

The trip is being organised by Friends of Westgate so will not be escorted. Children will need to be supervised by parents or appropriate others and children attending will not be restricted to those attending Westgate school.

Anyone interested in what looks like being a thoroughly enjoyable event and what may be the first opportunity to introduce your child(ren) to the unique experience of live theatre should return the slip below to the school office by 11th December 2015.

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FAO Kevin Jacobs c/o the School Office

I would like __ (number) tickets @ £12 each for The Snow Queen on 16/01/16. I understand that children must be supervised by an adult. I enclose £_____ (any cheques should be payable to Friends of Westgate)

Signed: _____ (parent/ carer) Date: _____

Name: _____ contact number: _____

