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www.westgateprimary.co.uk

admin@westgateprimary.co.uk



CHRISTMAS WISHES AND THANKS...

I hope that you all enjoyed watching our Christmas performances last week; I would like to thank all our families for understanding the decision we took not to have a live external audience. We were all super proud of all the children, who sang their hearts out in each performance. I would like to thank all the staff who worked so hard with the children to help them to learn all their songs and actions, and ensured they looked so lovely in their costumes for their performances. Their enjoyment of the occasion is the most important thing and I hope they also enjoyed being able to watch themselves

and all their friends celebrate the meaning of Christmas on stage.

At the start of September, I and all the staff were looking forward to a term with much more normality after the previous 18 months. While I think we have managed to achieve that for the children, it has been an undeniably hard term in so many ways, including covering absences and providing remote learning, while at the same time doing everything we can to address gaps in learning from the last 2 years and keep everyone safe. I am sure all our families will join me in expressing their gratitude for the whole staff team's hard work, care and support for all the children at Westgate this term. Friends of Westgate have also been wonderful- indefatigable in their efforts to raise funds and create community events for our school- thank you to all of their amazing volunteers. In the same way, I would also like to thank all of our families for their support and understanding, when none of us- especially parents- has a lot left 'in the tank' so to speak. Westgate is a special place to be and that is because of the whole school community. Thank you, everyone.

With warm wishes for a happy, healthy Christmas holiday, and a hopeful new year 2022.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

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

COVID-19

Up to date information about COVID-19 and school, including letters sent home, can be found on the school website under the tab '[COVID-19 INFORMATION](#)'. Thank you to everyone for their understanding when we ask you to seek a PCR test, and for your vigilance with regard to symptoms. By being careful we hope to protect as many people's Christmas break as possible. Your support is much appreciated.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for this term and next. They are also to be found on the calendar of the school website. Please check in case there are any changes from provisional dates given out at the end of the last academic year... and make sure you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

04/01/22 Training Day- school closed to pupils
 05/01/22 School open to pupils
 10/01/22 Booking for Learning Passports (SEND pupils only) opens
 11/01/22 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30
 17/01/22 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30
 18/01/22 FOW meeting at The Black Horse 19:30
 07/02/22 Booking opens for consultation evening
 16/02/22 Learning Passport mtgs (SEND pupils only)
 18/02/22 Break Up
 28/02/22 Back to school
 22/02- 07/03/22 Fair Trade Fortnight
 01/03/22 Governors Day in School
 03/03/22 Nursery Induction 15:45
 03/03/22 World Book Day
 07/03/22 FOW Rag Bag collection day
 08/03/22 Consultation evening 15:45
 10/03/22 Consultation evening 17:00
 15/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play am
 16/03/22 Reception Stay & Play am
 17/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm
 22/03-01/04/22 Big Walk & Wheel
 26/03/22 FOW Easter Fair
 30/03/22 Easter Concert 14:00
 01/04/22 Break up for Easter
 18/04/22 Bank Holiday
 19/04/22 Back to School
 19/04/22 booking for Learning Passports (SEND pupils only) opens
 28/04/22 Class photos
 02/05/22 Bank Holiday
 09/05/22 w/b Y6 test week
 13/05/22 Training Day **School Closed** First Aid at Work all staff
 18/05/22 Learning Passport mtgs (SEND pupils only)
 19/05/22 Whole school road safety training
 21/05/22 Otley Show
 26/05/22 Maypole 09:15
 27/05/22 Break up
 06/06/22 Back to school
 07/06/22 FOW Rag Bag collection day
 09-10/06/22 Y5 Whitby residential
 13/06/22 Rec- Y3 scooter training
 14/06/22 Y4-6 scooter training
 15/06/22 Reception Induction 19:00
 16/06/22 Clean Air Day
 15-17/06/22 Y6 Herd Farm residential
 18/06/22 Otley Carnival
 21/06/22 Nursery Stay & Play am
 22/06/22 Reception Stay & Play am
 23/06/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm
 20-26/06/22 Refugee Week
 21/06/22 Nursery Induction 15:45
 27/06/22 Y6 transition road safety training

27/06/22 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

28/06/22 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

18/07/22 Talent show 13:45

22/07/22 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

22/07/22 Break up

25/07/22 Training Day (disaggregated)

26/07/22 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 or amended since these dates were last published.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

November's winners were as follows:

1st: K Tanner (£134)

2nd: L Shackleton (£33.50)

3rd: Drs Heppenstall & Ross (£16.75)

As of November we have 67 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 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. Average monthly prizes last academic year were £142.17, £35.54 and £17.77!



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

It is essential that we have up to date contact details for all parents- this includes mobile telephone, email and address details. If you have recently moved, changed your number or email address, you can update this through the SIMS Parent app or else call school to provide us with your new details.

Thank you

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Just a reminder of the wealth of information that is freely available on our [school website](#), including:

- Policies
- Curriculum information
- Admissions
- Inclusion and equalities information
- End of Y6 results & our OFSTED report
- Newsletters & school news items
- Governance matters, including meeting minutes
- General diary dates
- Latest COVID-19 school information

And much more!





FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

We've had a really successful term for fundraising- thank you to everyone for your support!

Here is a summary of confirmed funds raised this term:

- Street party £1624.29
- Toy/book sale £93.80
- Cake sale £326.30
- Halloween Trail £213.26
- Rag Bags £74.10
- Christmas cards £268.40
- Easy fundraising (Q3) £54.98

All monies raised are supporting school to pay for the new laptop charging trollies to go with the new pupil laptops we bought earlier in the year.

Pop along to support the FOW stall at the Bay Horse Court Bazaar this Sunday. The Chocolate Tombola is always very popular so get there early to avoid disappointment!

Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the coming year. Our next meeting is on 18/01/2022 at 19:30 in the Black Horse- everyone welcome to come along and add ideas for the coming year.

Thank you! ☺

HARDSHIP AND FOOD POVERTY



If you think that, due to changes in your circumstances, your child(ren) may now be eligible for FSM, please contact us via

info@westgateprimary.co.uk so that we can run an eligibility check. Your child may be eligible if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

We also know that there will be families who are not eligible for FSM who may still be struggling. Please don't hesitate to email Ms Carpenter in confidence, as we can refer to Otley Food Bank and there may be other ways we can help too.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



While many of us are looking forward to Christmas, this time of year can often put significant additional strain on family

relationships, even without the added worry of the pandemic. If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind, or if you are concerned about somebody else, there is help out there. [Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse](#) webpage has lots of information that you can access without leaving an online trail, including emergency housing support. There is a 24 hour helpline 0113 246 0401 as well as daily online chat from 13:00- 15:00 through [Leeds Women's Aid](#).

Finally, if you are concerned about your abusive behaviour towards your partner, [Respect Phonenumber](#) (0808 8024040) can offer support to change.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR
SUPPORT THIS YEAR.
WISHING YOU ALL A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR: SEE YOU IN
2022!**

