

Volume 13, Edition 1, 9th September 2015

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### HAPPY NEW (SCHOOL) YEAR!

Welcome back to everyone after the summer holidays- I hope you all had a lovely time and a bit of a rest if you had a break of any sort.



School is looking even more lovely than on a normal September return to school. As well as the usual deep clean that Mr Wardman and Ms Osborne have undertaken, we have also had classrooms in Y2 to Y6 decorated, a new large gym frame installed in the school hall, and most excitingly, photo-voltaic panels installed on the KS2 building. On Sunday, we were not only completely self-sufficient for electricity consumption, we were also putting 2kW back into the National Grid. We can monitor our consumption and output simply in school, so we very much hope that as well as being of long-term financial

benefit to the school, this will be a good learning opportunity for our children.

We are of course delighted to welcome to school new members of our school community: as well as all of our new starters in Nursery and Reception, we also welcome Harrison to Y2, Patrick and Johnny to Y4, Mrs Brogden to Nursery as Early Years HLTA, Mrs Colannino to Reception as class teacher and SENCo, and Ms Romaine to Y2 as class teacher.

Sadly, Mrs Ireland is poorly at the moment with glandular fever and so will not be back at school until a little bit later this term. You can imagine how frustrated she feels not to be in school at the start of the school year but rest assured she will be fighting fit soon. We all wish her a speedy recovery!

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

A reminder for parents and carers thinking ahead already to family holidays in the year ahead, that holidays taken in term time are not usually authorised and parents taking children on holiday in school time risk a fine, in line with government and local policy. In addition, where a child has been reported as absent due to illness and we have good reason to suspect that in fact, he/she was on holiday, parents will be asked to provide proof that he/ she was in fact poorly.

Fines are issued on a per parent, per child basis.

When requesting time off from school for any reason, parents must fill in an absence request form (available from the school office) and this should be done as far in advance as possible.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

### SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We will continue to use electronic means as our main method of communication. This means that the default position will be that newsletters and letters are sent via email to people with parental responsibility. This is to counteract the ongoing problem that no matter how it is managed, many children lose letters between being given them by their class teacher and getting home. It is therefore essential that parents check emails regularly: we can ensure that letters are emailed to you but we can't make you read them! If you have the eSchools app on your smartphone, all letters home will be kept in there and you will never lose one again.

Texts are sent to the first named contact *only*, except in the case of separated parents. Again, if you have the eSchools app on your smartphone, instead of receiving texts as SMS messages, you will receive them as a push notification in the app.

Finally, I will endeavour to include all the information you need in newsletters, rather than in lots of separate letters. Please read them and make note of information/ dates relevant to you.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



As usual, we try to provide as many dates as possible as soon as possible, in order to help busy parents juggling modern family life. Please find below the dates for the

academic year set so far- get your pen out and transfer them to a calendar before you discard this newsletter!

11/09/15 Woodwind lessons begin  
 14/09/15 Cello lessons begin  
 15/09/15 Brass lessons begin  
 17/09/15 Violin lessons begin  
 18/09/15 Guitar lessons begin  
 07/10/15 18:00 Governors meeting  
 08/10/15 18:00 Reception Curriculum meeting  
 13/10/15 FOW Westbourne Spice Curry Evening  
 19/10/15 EYFS Training Day: School closed to Nursery & Reception only  
 20/10/15 Consultation evening  
 22/10/15 Consultation evening  
 23/10/15 Break up for half term  
 02/11/15 Back to school  
 20/11/15 National Takeover Day  
 24/11/15 15:45 Nursery Induction Meeting  
 26/11/15 15:30 Walk the Walls  
 03/12/15 18:00 Governors meeting  
 06/12/15 Otley Victorian Fayre  
 09/12/15 10:45 & 14:00 FS Christmas Performance  
 10/12/15 18:00 KS2 Christmas Performance  
 11/12/15 13:45 KS2 Christmas Performance  
 14/12/15 14:00 KS1 Christmas Performance  
 15/12/15 10:00 KS1 Christmas Performance  
 16/12/15 School Christmas dinner  
 16/12/15 Nursery Christmas parties  
 17/12/15 Rec-Y6 Christmas parties  
 18/12/15 Break up for Christmas  
 04/01/16 Training Day- school closed to pupils  
 05/01/16 School opens  
 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 School opens  
 23/02/16 Nursery Induction Meeting  
 25/02/16 Governors Day in School  
 01/03/16 Consultation evening  
 03/03/16 Consultation evening  
 17/03/16 Chevin Learning Partnership Musical Extravaganza at Yeadon Town Hall  
 24/03/16 Walk the Walls  
 25/03/16 Bank Holiday  
 28/03/16 Bank Holiday

30/03/16 14:00 Easter Concert  
 01/04/16 Break up  
 18/04/16 Back to school  
 02/05/16 Bank Holiday  
 09/05/16 (week commencing) KS2 SATs week  
 16/05/16 (week commencing) KS1 SATs week  
 12/05/16 Governors meeting  
 25/05/16 11:15 Nursery am/ flexi 1 Maypole  
 26/05/16 14:00 Maypole Dancing  
 27/05/16 Break up  
 06/06/16 Back to school  
 13-15/06/16 Y6 Robinwood Residential  
 15-16/06/16 Y5 Whitby Residential  
 18/06/16 Otley Carnival  
 21/06/16 14:00 Reception Induction Meeting  
 30/06/16 Governors meeting  
 04/07/16 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6  
 05/07/16 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5  
 06/07/16 12:30 Nursery Sports Day  
 07/07/16 10:00 KS1/ Rec Sports Day  
 07/07/16 13:45 KS2 Sports Day  
 13/07/16 Reserve Nursery Sports Day  
 14/07/16 Reserve Sports Day  
 19/07/16 18:30 Leavers Play and Party  
 21/07/16 09:00 Leavers Assembly  
 21/07/16 13:30 Talent Show  
 22/07/16 Break up

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

Many thanks to Kevin Jacobs and Sarah Drake for offering to co-chair Friends of Westgate this year! Our first meeting this year will be on **Wednesday 23/09/15 at 19:30 in The Fleece** and all are welcome- old faces and new! Upcoming events this term are the **Westbourne Curry Night** for parents and carers on 13/10/15, and the **Beetle Drive** in November. The Friends will also be organising our annual **Scholastic Book Fair** in the last week of this half term and also the children's **Christmas cards**. Just before the summer, Bec Bardgett also organised for us to **fundraise through name labels** (an essential piece of kit for anyone who has ever seen the amount of unnamed lost property that accumulates in school!) You can order online: go to <http://www.easy2name.com/> and when you check out, select 'Westgate Primary School LS21' as your fundraising group.

### WESTGATE WINDFALL

August's winners are:

1<sup>st</sup>: L Airey (£96)

2<sup>nd</sup>: M Smallshaw (£24)

3<sup>rd</sup>: K Burnett (£12)

We currently have 48 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.



### FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Musical instrument tuition fees will be due before half term. The fees are £30 per term, with £15 per term if your child hires an instrument from school (except for cello, which is £25 per term). Cheques are payable to Westgate Primary School. Instrumental lessons will be as follows:

Monday: Cello with Ms Laverick

Tuesday Brass with Mr Eddison

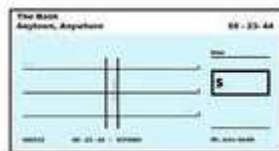
Thursday: Violin with Mrs Huby

Friday: Guitar with Mr Rossiter and Woodwind with Mrs Kenwood-Herriot.

Dinner money forecasts are available from the school office: if you don't normally receive one but would like one, please let Ms Fuller know in the school office.

If your child pays for school milk, the charge is £4 per term and cheques for both school dinners and school milk should be payable to Leeds City Council.

*Later this term we hope to offer online payments for parents via the VLE- details to follow.*



### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are always grateful of help in the classroom and on school trips. If you feel you would like to volunteer some of your time, for example to listen to readers or help with practical activities please contact Ms Carpenter via the school office in the first instance. This can also be a good first step to exploring a career in a primary school. Thank you to all the people who currently volunteer- your work is much appreciated!



### AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A letter will come home next week about the clubs that are available for children to sign up for. We aim to offer a range of opportunities to enrich children's school experiences, including sport, music, creative activities and baking, for different year groups. A huge thank you to all the staff who volunteer to run clubs in their own time.

### WOOSH



Our Westgate Out of School Hours (WOOSH) provision continues to go from strength to strength and is

available to children in Reception to Y6, from 07:55 to 08:50 in the morning and from 15:15 to 18:00 in the afternoon.

Charges are £2.20 for a morning session, which is not bookable in advance, or £7.50 after school, which must be booked beforehand. Discounts are available for siblings. Sessions offer a range of activities to choose from and after school includes a hot snack. Most of the staff are current TAs at Westgate. Please ask at the school office if you would like to register your child to use this service.

### SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY



"Leeds Children's Speech & Language Therapy (CSLT) is in the process of reviewing how we deliver speech & language therapy (SLT) to children and young people in Leeds. This is in line with

a national drive to ensure that NHS services are delivered as efficiently as possible and demonstrate the best possible outcomes. We are therefore seeking parent/ carer views on a refreshed model of SLT for children and young people. You can share your thoughts and feedback with us by:

- Completing our questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/LCHServiceLocations](http://www.surveymonkey.com/LCHServiceLocations)
- Contacting the service for a paper copy of the survey on 0113 305 5307/8/9
- Texting your comments to 07860 021024

The deadline is noon on 05/11/15. Further information is also available on our website: [www.communityhealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt](http://www.communityhealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt). Thank you very much for your time."