

Volume 12, Edition 1, 10th September 2014
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WELCOME BACK!

The new school year has started really well, with everyone looking smart and happy in their school uniforms in the lovely sunshine. Particular welcome goes to all our new Nursery starters; Leah in Y1, joining us for the first time; Ted in Y6, returning after a year in New Zealand; and everyone starting full-time school in Reception, including George, Ross and Wilfred who have joined us from other Nursery settings. I am sure everyone will do their very best to make the children and their families feel part of Westgate very quickly.

We also welcome new staff members Mrs Durrant and Señora Ruiz, who teach Music and Spanish (respectively) on Wednesdays, and are pleased to welcome back Mr Pollhammer as TA in Y4 and Y6.

Over the summer staff have worked hard to get classrooms looking lovely and ready for the new academic year, and Mr Wardman has spruced everywhere up so school looks very smart. We have also had new classroom doors fitted in KS2, which have been great for reducing noise disruption from the hall in lessons. Finally, Canvasman in Otley has fitted bespoke panels for the gazebo, creating a snug space for playtimes for the children.

The introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals has gone smoothly so far, with our new staggered lunch-times working very well and a pleasing increase in the uptake of school meals for children in Y2 and below.

We are continuing to develop ICT and our web facilities, so have also taken delivery of additional laptops for the children's use. In addition, we have a brand-new Learning Platform provided by eSchools and a new linked school website. Over the course of the year we will be developing its use, both as a learning and teaching tool for the children and as a communication tool for parents. We hope it will further enhance what we offer at Westgate. More information to follow!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

HARVEST FESTIVAL



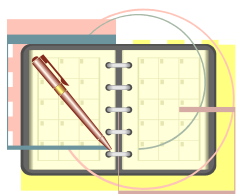
We will once again be joining Rev Graham Buttanshaw for our Harvest Festival at All Saints Parish Church in Otley. The service will take place on **Friday 26th September at 14:00**. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us for a service including readings from the children and a range of Harvest songs. Families are kindly asked to donate tinned, packet and dry goods to the food collection, which Rev Buttanshaw has asked is donated to Caring for Life this year. Food donations should be brought into school at morning registration on the 26th so that it can be displayed in church for the service.

The service includes all children from Reception up to Year 6. We hope to see many of you there.

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are really pleased with how the implementation of this new initiative has begun, with happy lunch-times in full swing. We are however looking to continue to improve the take-up of school meals and one of the ways we would like to do this is to work with children and parents on the food we offer. If you would like to be part of a stakeholder group who meet on a termly basis to discuss school meals, please contact Ms Carpenter via the School Office. Thank you! ☺

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please note the following on your calendar:

12/09/14 Swimming starts for Y4

12/09/14 FOW Uniform Sale after school

15/09/14 Y6 Bikeability training begins

15/09/14 Friends of Westgate meeting 19:30 in The Fleece

19/09/14 Ms Carpenter leaves for Shanghai

22/09/14 Y5/6 trip to Saltaire

22/09/14 Y2 visit Otley Library

26/09/14 Harvest Festival 14:00 at All Saints Parish Church

02/10/14 Y4 Class Assembly 09:05

04/10/14 Ms Carpenter returns

07/10/14 Y2 to Ilkley Literature Festival

08/10/14 Y2 Bookshow workshop

09/10/14 Reception Curriculum Evening at 18:00

12/10/14 FOW Sponsored Orienteering

14/10/14 Free Range Choir perform Sing Freedom for Y3-6

17/10/14 Black History Month Assembly at 14:00

21/10/14 Parents consultation evening

23/10/14 Y2 Class Assembly 09:05

23/10/14 Parents consultation evening

24/10/14 Training Day for FS only: School closed for Nursery and Reception only

24/10/14 Break up for half term

03/11/14 Training Day: school closed to pupils

04/11/14 School opens

04/11/14 FOW Westbourne Spice Curry Evening

05/11/14 Individual school photos

14/11/14 FOW Beetle Drive 18:00

25/11/14 Y5 Class Assembly 09:05

26/11/14 Nursery Induction Meeting 15:45

27/11/14 Walk the Walls 15:30

04/12/14 Y6 Class Assembly 09:05

04/12/14 Governing Body meeting

07/12/14 Otley Victorian Fayre

10/12/14 Foundation Christmas performances 10:45 and 14:00

11/12/14 KS2 Christmas performance 18:00

12/12/14 KS2 Christmas performance 13:45

15/12/14 KS1 Christmas performance 14:00

16/12/14 KS1 Christmas performance 10:00

17/12/14 Nursery Christmas party

17/12/14 School Christmas Dinner

18/12/14 Christmas Parties

19/12/14 School closes for Christmas 15:15

(No WOOSH after school on this day)

05/01/15 Training day: school closed to pupils

06/01/15 School opens

ROAD SAFETY

Members of staff have reported this month that a small number of children have been seen playing across Bradford Road/ Piper Lane, running across the road near the bend. Recently, a driver had to make an emergency stop to avoid hitting a child. This road (and this spot in particular) is dangerous and children should cross at the crossing, which was put in after active campaigning from our governing body several years ago. If your child plays out near this road- or indeed any busy road in Otley, please reinforce Road Safety messages at home and make it clear that they must not run through gaps in traffic if they want to stay safe.



WESTGATE WINDFALL

August's winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

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.



SHANGHAI

As reported in a previous newsletter, Ms Carpenter is taking part in a Department for Education research project about maths education this year, which involved visiting schools in Shanghai to learn about their mathematics curriculum. Ms Carpenter will therefore not be in school from 19th September to 3rd October. During her time away, Mr Hackney will of course be deputising and will be available if you need to speak to him about anything to do with school. Communication relating to Child Protection concerns should be directed to Mrs Mullens or Mrs Smith.



HOLIDAYS IN TERM-TIME



A polite reminder: holidays are not usually authorised in school time (and never in September). Unauthorised absences equivalent to 5 days, consecutive or not, are referred onto the Attendance team and a fixed penalty fine of £60 per child, per parent may be issued, rising to £120 if not paid promptly.

Where a child has been reported as absent due to illness but we have good reason to suspect that they were in fact on holiday, this will also be referred on if parents are unable to provide proof of illness. Please do not put school or your child in this position: children find it very difficult to be dishonest about holidays and Otley is a small town. This is all part of national and local policy. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

This Friday at the end of the school day there will be a uniform sale. We have lots of good quality items at bargain prices, including a wide selection of jumpers, cardigans, skirts, trousers, shorts, blouses, shirts, dresses, hoodies and PE kit.

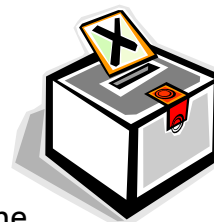
Our next Friends of Westgate meeting is on **Monday 15th September at 19:30 in The Fleece**. Come along if you would like to get involved in shaping the work of the Friends. It is a crucial part of the school community, and supports school fantastically well through a range of fundraising and social events. But it only runs if people get involved so come along- we are a friendly and supportive bunch and new faces are always welcome!

We currently have a couple of vacancies: treasurer and publicity officer. It is really important these roles are filled so if you feel able to offer a small amount of time to ensure that the Friends can continue to run effectively this year, please consider standing for one of them.



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION RESULTS FROM LAST TERM

You may remember that, following Cindy Copcutt's resignation last term as her daughter came to the



end of Y7 at PHGS, we asked for nominations for the position of parent governor. As only one nomination was forthcoming, **Thea Pitman** was duly elected unopposed. Here is her personal statement:

"I have taught Spanish/Latin American Studies at the University of Leeds for the past 14 years. As a consequence I have a keen interest in the teaching of foreign languages and cultures at all stages of the education system and would be very happy to help promote this aspect of the curriculum in whatever way I can. Other aspects of my job have involved the promotion of the equality and diversity agenda across the university, as well as lobbying on behalf of a group of often marginalised students by representing their interests on Senate. I have two children currently at Westgate Primary School, Louis and Alice, and my oldest son also attended Westgate. As Alice is now in full-time school, this is an ideal time for me to take on this extra role and contribute to the continuing success of the school."

We are also very sad to have said goodbye to Dave Winspear as parent governor, who has been a valuable member of the governing body for the last 2 years and has been a great support to the school. Unfortunately Dave and his family have relocated out of Otley and so he has resigned. However, due to new legislation, the governing body must reconstitute this year. As this needs to be discussed by the full governing body, we will not be holding an election at this time.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Music fees for children continuing music tuition are now due. Parents of children beginning an instrument for the first time however, are not required to pay until the 4 week trial period is over, in case the instrument does not suit your child. Fees are £30 per term for lessons, and a further £15 per term if you are hiring an instrument too (£25 per term for cello hire). Mrs Lord is also sending out dinner money forecasts for those who have requested

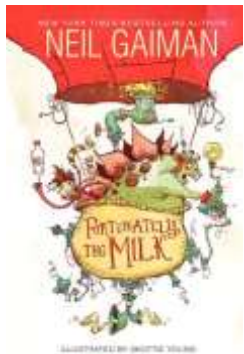


this: if you would like to receive a half-termly/ termly forecast, let her know and she will send one out.

Fees for children in Y1/2 who take milk are also now due, at £4 for the term.

Finally, thank you to those parents who have updated contact details since the start of term. Mrs Lord has a rolling programme of data collection which works on a class by class basis. When your child brings home a data sheet this year, please ensure you complete and return it so that we hold accurate information. Thank you.

BOOK CORNER



This week's recommendation, for children of 8 and over, **'Fortunately the Milk'** by **Neil Gaiman**. It is the story of why it takes Dad a very, very long time to get back from the corner shop to buy some milk that he had forgotten to

get- despite it being on Mum's long 'to do' list before she went away on business. The story includes Professor Steg (a time-travelling dinosaur), some green globby things, the Queen of the Pirates, the famed jewel that is the Eye of Splod, some wumpires, and a perfectly normal but very important carton of milk. Parents might know Neil Gaiman as the writer of *Coraline* as well as a range of books for grown-ups.