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### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We began this term with a training day for all teachers in our Family of Schools. We spent the day together at Prince Henry's with Alan Peat, a highly-regarded professional in the field of primary education, for a day of enjoyable and useful training about the teaching of writing. Teachers have already begun to incorporate some of our learning into their planning and teaching and we are looking forward to developing our learning further in the coming months. Last week we welcomed our new starters into Nursery, all of whom have made a really good start to their time at Westgate. The term ahead is busy and exciting for everyone, so here's to a brilliant 2020! We have a number of musical trips that have been booked for this term, which we have been able to fund through choir's December concert earnings or have been able to secure for free. Y3&4 have a Roman Day to look forward to, provided by the always fantastic [Roman Tours](#). As part of our PSHE curriculum, the NSPCC is coming to deliver [Speak Out, Stay Safe](#) workshops for Y5/6 and D:Side are making their annual visit to each class as part of our drugs & alcohol education and e-safety curriculum. There are three class assemblies this term and we have also now confirmed the date for school sports day in the summer term- please check out the diary dates later in this newsletter and transfer them onto your new calendars so that you don't miss out on any school events!

**Helen Carpenter**  
Head Teacher

### SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN- WOW!



Since September, all children from Reception upwards have been using the Living Streets Travel Tracker, which encourages active, sustainable travel to school for all pupils.

You may remember in a previous newsletter, for example, information about Park & Stride - where you can park further away from school (such as in Waitrose's Car Park) and walk the last part of your journey. Children earn a badge for each month they choose an active form of travel at least once a week. From this term, Nursery will also be taking part.

Class	Active journeys	Position
Reception	83%	2nd
Year 1	73%	7th
Year 2	77%	5th
Year 3	75%	6th
Year 4	83%	2nd
Year 5	81%	4th
Year 6	90%	1st
Whole School	80%	

We are delighted to announce that last term car use was down at Westgate from 24% to 20% and cycling was up from 1.21% to 4%. Overall, sustainable school journeys increased from 73.4% to 80%!

This is great news for our local area, for children's health and for the future of our planet. Well done everyone (especially Y6!) and thank you for your support... let's see if we can beat 80% as a school this term!

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



**Easy Fundraising** has now raised almost **£520** with just 47 members! If you shop online and don't already support us in this way, please consider signing up this year - it costs you nothing and is an easy way to raise money for FOW! Last term was very successful - thanks to our happy band of volunteers, new and old, for all their support and hard work in making a busy term such a success. Coming up this term, we have the **Easter Fair** on 28/03/2020 and the beginning of preparations for the **Carnival**. However, there will be more to plan and come along to - we'll be discussing our plans at tomorrow evening's meeting. Come along with any suggestions or help you can offer!

## WESTGATE WINDFALL

December's winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup>: J Chilton (£140)**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D Clough (£35)**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: D Tweedie (£17.50)**



We currently have 70 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.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for next term. They are also to be found on the calendar

when you log on to the VLE.

13/01/20 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30

14/01/20 FOW meeting in The Fleece 19:30

14/01/20 Y4/5 Basketball event

17/01/20 ParentGym taster session

20/01/20 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30

22-24/01/20 Mimika Theatre (whole school)

31/01/20 ParentGym 09:00

07/02/20 ParentGym 09:00

11/02/20 Safer Internet Day

13/02/20 Y2 Class Assembly 09:00

14/02/20 Y5/6 NSPCC 'Speak out, stay safe' workshops

14/02/20 ParentGym 09:00

14/02/20 Break Up

24/02/20 Back to school

24/02/20 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight

25/02/20 Nursery Induction 15:45

28/02/20 ParentGym 09:00

03/03/20 Y3 Youth Music Prom Concert

03/03/20 Consultation evening 15:45

05/03/20 Consultation evening 17:00

05/03/20 World Book Day

06/03/20 ParentGym 09:00

10/03/20 Nursery Stay & Play (pm)

12/03/20 Y1 Class Assembly 09:00

13/03/20 ParentGym 09:00

16/03/20 Y3/4 Roman Day

17/03/20 Y5/6 Tag Rugby event

19/03/20 Nursery Stay & Play (am)

24/03/20 Y4 Piano Fantasia Concert

26-27/03/20 D:Side Drugs Education Workshops

26/03/20 Y4 Class Assembly 09:00

27/03/20 Y5 Leeds Lieder Concert

28/03/20 FOW Easter Fair

01/04/20 Easter Concert 14:00

03/04/20 Break up for Easter

20/04/20 Back to School

22/04/20 Big Pedal starts

30/04/20 Class photos

05/05/20 Big Pedal ends

07/05/20 Polling Day/ Training Day (Autism Level 2) school closed to pupils

08/05/20 Bank Holiday

11/05/20 w/b Y6 test week

16/05/20 Otley Show

18&19/05/20 Judo Taster lessons Rec- Y6

21/05/20 Maypole 09:15

22/05/20 Break up

01/06/20 Back to school

04-05/06/20 Y5 Whitby residential

10-12/06/20 Y6 Herd Farm residential

17/06/20 Reception Induction 19:00

18/06/20 Nursery Stay & Play (am)

20/06/20 Otley Carnival

22/06/20 Y3/4 Vikings Jorvik Trip

23/06/20 Nursery Stay & Play (pm)

25/06/20 Sports Day 10:00 Rec/ KS1; 12:30

Nursery; 13:45 KS2

25/06/20 Nursery Induction

29/06/20 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

30/06/20 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

02/07/20 Y5 Whitby Class Assembly 09:00

06/07/20 Anyone Can Day

08-10/07/20 Y6 PHGS Induction Days

09/07/20 Whole School Induction Day

14/07/20 Talent show 13:45

15/07/20 Leavers' Play/ Party 19:30

17/07/20 Y6 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

17/07/20 Break up

20/07/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

07/09/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

08/09/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

09/09/20 Back to School

**Green** events are changed or new since last time.

**Blue** events involve Nursery- if your child does not normally attend on that day, please let Miss Robinson know if your child will attend for this event.



### WEATHER WATCH

As yet, we have had no warnings of wintry weather, but this is often the term when we see snow fall.

Hopefully it will be manageable, but in cases of heavy snowfall, difficult decisions about school opening may have to be made. In the event of any changes to school opening, we will endeavour to make a decision no later than between 07:00 and 07:30 wherever possible. Decisions to delay opening, or even to close, are never made lightly. All we can do is make the best decision we can, based on the information available at that time, which will include current and forecast weather conditions, and the ability of staff to get to school. I know that this can inconvenience parents and I would like to reassure you that every such decision is very difficult and never made lightly. As long as it is safe for staff and pupils, our preferred option is always to open. However, sometimes, this is not possible. Decisions will be communicated by text, on the front page of the school website and also via Leeds City Council and local radio... but hopefully this is the last you will hear on the matter for another 12 months!



### FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

All of our families should now be set up on SIMS Pay. It is essential that if you are not yet registered, you come into the office where Mrs Bleasdale will go through the steps with you on your device so that you can pay online, as we are now a **cashless school** for almost all payments. Nursery bills are coming home this week, WOOSH bills have already been distributed and music tuition fees are now due for the Spring term. Many thanks for your support.

*Keep reading - on the next page is valuable information about something we are offering to all parents this term...*

**From Mrs Eley:**

We are delighted to be running our next Parent Gym course this term. Parent Gym is a well-established, six-week programme that shares and explores practical tips and strategies to make family life easier and help your children thrive.

The programme usually costs £250 per parent, but we have secured 20 places for free for our parents at Westgate. These places are awarded on a first come first served basis and all parents are welcome to apply.

Each weekly session lasts two hours, and will take place in the Nurture Room on: **Fridays, from 9 – 11 am**

**Please join me this Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January for a taster session (45 mins)** – a shorter session for you to meet me and find out more about the sessions.

To confirm your place, please speak to Caroline Eley (Learning Mentor) or ask at the office.

***What Westgate parents had to say about our previous Parent Gym course:***

I attended Mrs Eley's first ParentGym course at Westgate School and it was invaluable!

It was packed with nuggets of information and tips on how to deal with situations that you and your child/children may be going through at present, and also suggested strategies for what to do if challenges arise in the future.

Mrs Eley created a safe space in the Nurture room for us to speak about anything we wanted to, and it was lovely to chat and listen to other parents each week about the subjects we were discussing. Each week we discussed a different topic (e.g. 'Behaviour') and we were given magazines to take home which were packed with valuable information.

I learnt so much within the 6 weeks, and was able to apply new parenting methods at home which had an instant positive effect on our family life.

I highly recommend the ParentGym course to anyone. The course is free so you have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

Thankyou Mrs Eley!

Lucy, parent of a child in Y1

I thoroughly enjoyed the ParentGym course with Mrs Eley. We spent six weeks talking through the different parts of parenting from showing love to discipline and everything in between. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed hearing other parents' issues and the way they tackled them. It was a very welcoming environment and I learnt so much from both Mrs Eley and the other parents. I am so glad I signed up to the course and I would definitely recommend it to other parents.

Christine, parent of children in Y1/2/3