



Volume 14, Edition 1, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

[www.westgateprimary.co.uk](http://www.westgateprimary.co.uk)  
[admin@westgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@westgateprimary.co.uk)

### WELCOME BACK

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back, along with some new faces, in the last week. As well as all of our reception and nursery starters, we have said hello to Carmen & Sonny in Y4, Summer in Y2, along with Mrs Norton in Nursery and Mrs Gulley in Reception! Of course, we are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Pearson (formerly Piercy), following her wedding this summer. I hope all of our families have had a fun and happy summer holiday. Our first two days as a staff last week (Monday- Tuesday) were spent in whole-school training focusing on the effective use of textbooks to support maths teaching. This complemented all the development work we have done since the beginning of our involvement in the England-China exchange and I am sure our children will benefit enormously in the coming years as we continue to develop a teaching for mastery approach to mathematics.

It's not long until our first big school event: Harvest Festival. This will take place at Otley Parish Church (All Saints) on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 14:00. Parents and carers of children from



Reception upwards are welcome to come along to join us and any donations of food should be given to your child's class teacher at the start of school that morning. Food donations will be split between Otley Food Bank and PAFRAS (Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers) in Leeds. We can accept tinned and packet/ dried goods. Thank you in advance for supporting the collection and I hope you are able to join us to hear the children's readings and singing.

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### PACKED LUNCHES

A big thank you for the changes, big and small, that parents are making to their children's packed lunches as a result of the adoption of the new cluster packed lunch policy from the beginning of this term. We have seen a huge increase in the number of '5 a day' fruit and vegetables in lunch boxes, and an overall decrease in items that are high in sugar, fat and salt. I've also had many, many positive chats with children about their food. Thank you for not sending in items on the red list of foods. We have had queries about individual items- mainly cereal bars and fruit bars, both of which can be high in hidden sugar, even though they are marketed as healthy options. All children are provided with water so drinks should not be provided.

A reminder too that, as mentioned in the newsletter at the end of last term, children should no longer bring sweets to school to give out to the class, for example, on their birthday, as this contradicts our new policy. Thank you for your understanding.

### SCOOT TO SCHOOL WEEK

Scoot to School Week will start the week beginning the 19th September. This is an initiative from Leeds City Council to encourage more children to scoot to school and be more active. Different classes will be encouraged to scoot on particular days: Monday 19th Y1; Tuesday 20th Y2; Wednesday 21st Y3; Thursday Y4; and Friday Y5 and 6. All children who scoot to school on their class's day will receive a scoot to school sticker and 5 house points for scooting to school. The class who scoots the most will receive a class certificate in our celebration assembly.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

We recently had a full health & safety audit from Leeds City Council. While I am delighted to say that we passed with an outstanding grade, it highlighted some small areas for improvement. Next week you will see a new sign to go with the KS2 climbing frame, which makes clear parents' responsibility and liability when children use this before and after school without



staff supervision, and for whom it is suitable. Please also accept my apologies for the part which is waiting for repair- as soon as the part on order is delivered it will be back in action. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for this academic year. They are also to be found on the calendar when you log on

to the VLE. Make sure you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

20/09/16 FOW Social Event 19:30 The Fleece  
22/09/16 Y5/6 Trip to Saltaire  
29/09/16 Harvest Festival  
04/10/16 Reception Curriculum evening 18:00  
05/10/16 School Photos (Individual)  
17/10/16 EYFS Training Day- school closed to Reception & Nursery *only*  
18/10/16 Consultation evening 17:00  
20/10/16 Consultation evening 15:30  
21/10/16 Break up  
31/10/16 Back to School  
11/11/16 Takeover day  
17/11/16 Walk the Walls  
17/11/16 Y6 Robinwood/ SATs meeting 18:00  
18/11/16 Children in Need day  
22/11/16 Nursery Induction Meeting 15:45  
04/12/16 Otley Victorian Fayre  
07/12/16 FS Xmas Performance 10:45/ 14:00  
08/12/16 KS2 Xmas Performance 18:00  
09/12/16 KS2 Xmas Performance 13:45  
09/12/16 Xmas Tree Choir Concert 19:00  
12/12/16 KS1 Xmas Performance 14:00  
13/12/16 KS1 Xmas Performance 10:00  
14/12/16 Nursery Xmas Parties  
14/12/16 School Xmas Dinner  
15/12/16 Xmas Parties  
16/12/16 Break Up- no WOOSH after school  
02/01/17 Bank Holiday- School closed

03/01/17 Family of Schools' Training Day- school closed to pupils  
04/01/17 Back to School  
07/02/17 Walk the Walls  
10/02/17 Break Up  
20/02/17 Back to School  
21/02/17 Nursery Induction Meeting 15:45  
23/02/17 Governors Day in School  
28/02/17 Consultation evening 15:30  
02/03/17 Consultation evening 17:00  
14/03/17 Y5 Whitby meeting 18:00  
29/03/17 Easter Concert 14:00  
31/03/17 Training day- school closed to pupils/ Break up  
17/04/17 Bank Holiday  
18/04/17 Back to School  
26/04/17 Class Photos  
01/05/17 Bank Holiday- School closed  
08/05/17 w/b Y6 test week  
20/05/17 Otley Show  
24/05/17 Nursery (am/ Flexi1) Maypole 11:15  
25/05/17 Maypole 14:00  
26/05/17 Break up  
05/06/17 Back to School  
08-09/06/17 Y5 Whitby Residential  
12-14/06/17 Y6 Robinwood Residential  
17/06/17 Otley Carnival  
20/06/17 Reception Induction 14:00  
27/06/17 Nursery Induction Meeting 15:45  
03/07/17 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6  
04/07/17 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5  
05-07/07/17 Y6 Induction at PHGS  
06/07/17 Whole School Induction Morning  
12/07/17 Nursery Sports Day  
13/07/17 Sports Day  
20/07/17 Leavers' Play/ Party 18:30  
21/07/17 Talent show 14:00  
24/07/17 Last day for Nursery  
24/07/17 Leavers' Assembly 09:00  
25/07/17 Break up- no WOOSH after school  
26/07/17 Training Day- school closed to pupils

## WESTGATE WINDFALL

August's winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: E Cochrane
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: D & A Ridgway
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: R Sells



We currently have 56 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.

## SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS



We continue to use electronic means as our main method of communication. This means that the default position is that newsletters and letters are sent via email to people with parental responsibility and *not* as a hard copy. 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. Letters with a slip to be returned will always also come home as a hard copy (unless they are mislaid).

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.

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



FOW needs to ensure it continues and attracts new parents to help with the important role that a PTA plays in daily school life. With this in mind an open evening is being held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September at 19:30 at the Fleece in Otley. Light refreshments and a complimentary glass of wine will be provided and it's your chance to see what FOW do, seek answers to any questions you may have and make any suggestions you would like to give for future activity. All welcome!



## CHINA

北京

Ms Carpenter has been invited to Beijing next month, to take part in a conference at Beijing Normal University about teacher professional development. While she is there she will also spend time in a primary school to learn with primary mathematics teachers and will be working with one of the teachers she worked with when she visited Shanghai in 2014. Therefore, Mr Hackney will be deputising in her absence from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, ably supported by Mrs Hattersley.

## FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



A reminder that some payments are due: School milk (£7 per term); School meals in KS2 (£2.30 per day/ £11.50 per week/ £75.90 till half term); Nursery flexi lunches (£4 per week); music tuition (£35 per term); instrument hire (£15 per term/ £25 per term for cellos). Please also ensure that we are informed promptly of any changes of contact details (address/ phone number/ email address) so that we can update our records and ensure you receive communications correctly.

## 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.



## WOOSH



Just a reminder that Westgate Out of School Hours (WOOSH) provision 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.

## SCHOOL CLUBS

A letter will come home tomorrow for children in Y1 upwards with information about this term's extra-curricular clubs on offer. I am very grateful for the time and expertise that is offered, both by staff and by parent volunteers. I am sure you will agree it is a comprehensive selection of activities!

## HOMEWORK



Homework is a topic which provokes a range of very different responses- from staff, children and families alike. There's too much/ not enough being the most common ones, often simultaneously. As teachers we meet each term to discuss the progress of all children in our class in detail. From these conversations, it has become clear that one of the barriers to children making good progress is a lack of recall and use of basic skills, and a lack of regular reading at home. As a result, we are shifting the focus of our homework onto regular reading, work on spelling and recall and use of maths facts (number pairs that make numbers to 10 and 20, multiplication facts to 12x12). The newly focused homework policy will therefore re-launch later this half term. Teachers will provide you with further information

in due course. In the meantime of course, reading regularly with your child, practising phonic sounds or spellings, and practising maths facts together, are all very worthwhile activities as you are going about daily life at home. Thank you for your support.

## PARENT/ CARER SURVEY RESULTS

Attached to this newsletter is the summary of responses from last half-term's annual parent/ carer survey.



Comments were overwhelmingly positive and there were a few that identified for us areas where school could be a little more consistent between year groups, so we will work on that this year. Thank you to everyone who responded and congratulations to Susan Carson who was the lucky winner of the prize draw!



Thank you to Livia and Carys in Y5 who have been busy at home raising funds for our school charity, Martin House. By donating their pocket money and collecting donations from family members, together they have raised £23.52. Well done girls, for thinking of children in need of Martin House's very special care and acting so generously.

	<b>Total responses: 116</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
1	My child feels safe at Westgate.	82.8%	17.2%	0.0%	0.0%
2	My child is making good progress at Westgate.	69.8%	29.3%	0.0%	0.0%
3	Westgate meets my child's particular needs eg through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support when needed</li> <li>• challenge when needed</li> <li>• group and individual intervention when needed</li> <li>• seeking additional advice from professionals when necessary</li> <li>• providing care and guidance</li> </ul>	60.3%	38.8%	0.0%	0.0%
4	Westgate ensures my child is well looked after.	76.7%	23.3%	0.0%	0.0%
5	My child is taught well at Westgate.	74.1%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
6	Westgate helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	72.4%	27.6%	0.0%	0.0%
7	There is a good standard of behaviour at Westgate.	66.4%	33.6%	0.0%	0.0%
8	My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour.	60.3%	37.9%	0.9%	0.0%
9	Westgate deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	60.3%	33.6%	0.0%	0.0%
10	This school helps me to support my child's learning, e.g. through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum information on the VLE</li> <li>• Learning Logs</li> <li>• Reading books and homework</li> </ul>	62.9%	35.3%	0.0%	0.0%
11	Westgate responds well to my concerns.	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
12	Westgate keeps me well informed, e.g. through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discussions at parents evening</li> <li>• communication via, letter, email, text and the school website</li> <li>• sharing individual Education Plans (IEPs) if my child has SEN</li> <li>• Walk the Walls</li> <li>• Open Door policy</li> </ul>	75.9%	24.1%	0.0%	0.0%
13	My child is encouraged to be an active, responsible citizen in the local community and beyond, e.g. through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Council</li> <li>• Fundraising events for good causes</li> <li>• The school's work on equality and diversity related to the Stephen Lawrence award</li> <li>• Visits and visitors to and from the local community</li> <li>• Being encouraged to take personal responsibility</li> </ul>	71.6%	26.7%	0.0%	0.0%
14	I have opportunity to contribute to school's development through consultation (for example through surveys; meetings; invitations to join working parties; giving feedback to staff which is acknowledged)	65.5%	32.8%	0.0%	0.0%
14	<b>I would recommend Westgate to another parent.</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

*\*Where percentages do not total 100%, this is either because of the effect of rounding, or because parents chose not to answer that question.*