

Volume 17, Edition 5, 18th December 2020
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

We have made it to the end of the most unusual term in school I have ever known! I am so proud of the children for their hard work and enthusiasm for learning this term, and we can really see the results of this, together with the staff's dedication and hard work, in the children's progress. Last month we saw our best ever phonics results for Y2, for example.

We've been fortunate to have only a tiny number of positive cases of COVID-19 in our school community, with only Y6's bubble having to collapse earlier this half term. The way you have stuck to the rules around social distancing, self-isolation and testing, together with the extensive measures we have in place in school, have helped us to keep everyone safe.

I will be on call for school track and trace until Christmas Eve. Please refer to the letter I sent out about what to do if your child or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19 after today, and the updated Quick Guide reflecting the government changes to self-isolation periods. If you are unsure, you can find all of the school information about COVID-19 [here](#) on the school website.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in [messages for the staff](#): these have put a smile on everyone's faces and are hugely appreciated.

This week, all the children have enjoyed a range of festive activities. As well as Christmas arts and crafts, the whole school enjoyed taking part in a **pantomime**, Rapunzel, online. Y5&6 sang in the Leeds Schools' Music Association **Christmas concert** online, and of course all of the children, from Nursery to Y6, have performed a wide range of **Christmas music** which we are delighted to have been able to share with you remotely thanks to Mrs Durrant, Mrs Chilton and the Early Years Team. On Wednesday we all tucked into a delicious **Christmas dinner**, courtesy of our hardworking kitchen team who have been determined not to let the current restrictions affect school food unduly.

This month, we are proud to have been able to help families who are struggling with Christmas gifts, food vouchers and frozen food deliveries. Otley 2030 have also offered to help with fresh fruit and vegetable boxes, and yesterday I took over 20 large shopping bags of donations to Otley Food Bank from the whole school- a reminder that it really is better to give than to receive and a salutary lesson on the true meaning of Christmas. We also raised £191.85 for our school charity, Martin House, on Christmas Jumper day. Thank you so much for your generosity.

2021 marks Westgate's 150th anniversary (the KS1 building- the original mill school- was built in 1871) so later in the year we hope to be able to mark this with much celebration. Look out for information as the year progresses.

Thank you for your kindness and support this year. On behalf of the whole school, I would like to wish all of our families a happy, safe, healthy and restful Christmas.

Here's to a bright new year, and the prospect of things beginning to improve in the coming months.



Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

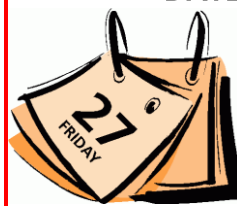
Anything in a red box in this newsletter requires action on your part. Thank you ☺

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Just a reminder that if your child has achieved something out of school that they would like to share in our weekly celebration assembly, for example a sporting achievement of any kind, you can email a photo of them with their badge/certificate/ trophy etc. and a couple of sentences explaining what they have done, to head@westgateprimary.co.uk (subject line: celebration assembly) and I will include it in the next Celebration Assembly!



DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned for the next two terms. They are also to be found on the calendar when you log

on to the VLE.

04/01/21 Back to school
 12/01/21 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30
 18/01/21 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30
 08/02/21 Booking for Consultation Evening opens at 16:00
 09/02/21 Safer Internet Day
 12/02/21 Break Up for half term
22/02/21 Training Day (L2 Good Autism Practice) – School closed to pupils
 23/02/21 Back to school
 22/02- 05/03/21 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight
 25/02/21 Nursery Induction mtg
 04/03/21 World Book Day
 09/03/21 Consultation Evening
 11/03/21 Consultation Evening
 27/03/21 FOW Easter Fair
 31/03/21 Easter Concert 14:00
 01/04/21 Break up for Easter
 02/04/21 Bank Holiday
 19/04/21 Back to School
29/04/21 Class Photos (whole school)
 03/05/21 Bank Holiday- School closed
 10/05/21 w/b Y6 test week
 22/05/21 Otley Show
27/05/21 Maypole 09:15
 28/05/21 Break Up for half term
 07/06/21 Back to school
 08-09/06/21 Y5 Whitby residential
 15/06/21 Reception Induction mtg 19:00
 16-18/06/21 Y6 Herd Farm residential
 19/06/21 Otley Carnival
 22/06/21 Nursery Induction mtg 15:45
 28/06/21 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6
 29/06/21 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5
 20/07/21 Talent show 13:45
 21/07/21 Leavers' Play/ Party 19:00
 23/07/21 Leavers' Assembly 09:00
 23/07/21 Break up
 26/07/21 Training Day- school closed to pupils
 27/07/21 Training Day- school closed to pupils
 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.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Westgate is still doing very well in our weekly Travel Tracker. The figures for the whole of the Autumn Term are as follows:

Class	Active Journeys	Position
Nursery	77%	8 th
Reception	95%	3 rd
Year 1	88%	6 th
Year 2	90%	5 th
Year 3	91%	4 th
Year 4	87%	7 th
Year 5	98%	1st
Year 6	96%	2 nd
Whole School	91%	

Don't forget you can use Waitrose Car Park at the beginning and end of the school day, for stress-free Park & Stride. Active travel is good for children, good for our local area and good for the planet. Well done, everyone, and thank you for your continued support!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

November's winners were:
1st: Mr & Mrs Shearer (£128)
2nd: L Rich (£32)
3rd: L Fortune (£16)

As of now we have **64** 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!**



READ ON TO THE LAST PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IF YOU ARE FINDING FINANCES A STRUGGLE AT ANY POINT.

information will be managed confidentially. **We are here to help.**

SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

Our local community is continuing to work hard to ensure that nobody should struggle to feed themselves over the Christmas break. Working with the local authority and the town council, we should see everyone who needs it receiving food to see them through the school holiday.

I am sure that the news that we go into Tier 3 this week will be a further blow to some families' incomes. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get 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)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals. Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022. If you find yourself newly eligible for a range of benefits, [your child will be eligible for FSM](#), and free school milk, too- don't hesitate to contact the school office to let us know so we can make sure you receive your entitlement. All