

Volume 12, Edition 8, 4th March 2015

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We are delighted to have welcomed Mrs Hooper back to work this week! It's lovely to have her back at Westgate: I would also like to say an enormous thank you to Mrs Ireland for continuing to work alongside Mrs Hooper for the next few weeks to provide the smoothest possible transition for the children. I also know how much Reception parents appreciate the fantastic start to school Mrs Ireland has given their children. Her last day with Reception will be Thursday 26th March, and between now and then she will gradually reduce her days in Reception and move back to her role with Mrs Mullens in Y2. All in all, as well as Mrs Ireland, Mrs Mullens, Mrs Boyes and Mrs Eley have all increased their hours to provide cover during Mrs Hooper's maternity leave, ably joined by Mrs Cook. I would like to thank everyone involved for their commitment to the school, enabling us to cover her absence in this way. Last week saw many of our governors join us for a day in school. This is always a really special day and you will receive the annual newsletter from the governors about their experiences. As with the staff, our governors do a fantastic job, helping us to continue to improve and do the best job we can and their support is much appreciated. Sadly, Pippa McPherson has stepped down as chair of governors this time. I would like to thank Pippa for the support she has given to the school during her time as chair and am glad she will continue as a governor. Rob Wilks has been elected to replace her as chair and I am sure he will continue her good work. Next Monday sees us welcome Ms Yuan and Mr Ji to Westgate. They will begin to teach maths to Y3 and Y5 on Tuesday and we are expecting lots of visitors while they are here- over 80 teachers coming to observe lessons and share our experiences! Finally, a big thank you to everyone for booking online for consultation evenings this week: while there were some initial individual teething problems (comparatively few for such a big change) these have now been sorted out.

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING
TOMBOLA, SOFT TOY AND BOOK
DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER FAIR!**

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

WILL THERE BE ENOUGH SCHOOL PLACES IN OTLEY IN TEN YEARS' TIME?

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group, of which I am a part, has recently established focus groups to explore in more detail some of the issues raised in the initial consultation which was undertaken last year. One of the issues was, unsurprisingly, the need for an increased number of primary school places over the next ten years or so. We do want to ensure that parents have a voice in this, so if you have a minute to answer 5 short questions online, there is a survey where you can have your say. You can follow this link:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DJ8SBBN> or follow the QR code. We do really want as many responses as possible so feel free to share the link with other people you feel might wish to respond. The Neighbourhood Plan is a way that local people can have a say about future planning decisions relating to their town, shaping the way it develops (although it can't contradict or overturn existing plans).



OTLEY CARNIVAL UNDER THREAT



As you may have seen in the local press the Police have

decided not to give cover to implement the road closure that allows the Parade to pass through the town – this means it would have to employ an outside traffic management company to put the essential road closure in place and this would be so expensive that the Carnival could very soon become unaffordable.

The Carnival Committee is asking if people will take a few minutes to contact the Police Commissioner for West Yorkshire and ask him to do what he can to persuade the police to reverse this decision. You could write to the Commissioner or email him and his contact details are :

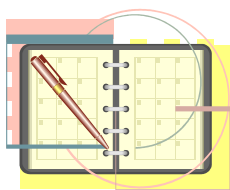
Mark Burns-Williamson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner West Yorkshire, Ploughland House, 62 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1DL or email: markburns-williamson@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Thank you ☺

DATES FOR THE DIARY

All events at school are uploaded to the school website and learning platform:

public events can be found on the website while personal/ group reminders are personalised on your child's calendar once you have logged on to the learning platform.



Please note the following additional dates for the rest of this term and next term:

03/03/15 Y2/4 Fair Trade workshop
04/03/15 Chinese New Year lunch menu
05/03/15 Y3 class assembly
05/03/15 Y2 Skipping Festival
06/03/15 BIG YELLOW FRIDAY
12/03/15 Chevin Learning Partnership Music Concert at PHGS
23/03/15 Y5 visit the Mosque
24/03/15 Y6 visit the Mosque
25/03/15 British Science Week lunch menu
27/03/15 Non-uniform/ Bring a bottle
28/03/15 FOW Easter Fair
30/03/15 Decorate an Easter Egg competition

01/04/15 Mad Hatter's Tea Party lunch menu

02/04/15 Training Day: School closed to pupils

03/04/15 Easter Holidays

20/04/15 Back to School

27/04/15 Friends of Westgate meeting 19:30 in the Fleece

01/05/15 Training Day: School closed to pupils

04/05/15 Bank Holiday: School closed

07/05/15 Polling day: School closed to NURSERY only

16/05/15 Otley Show

20/05/15 Nursery am/ Flexi1 Maypole Dancing 11:15

21/05/15 Maypole Dancing 14:00 YR to Y6 and Nursery pm/ Flexi2

22/05/15 Break up for half term

01/06/15 Back to school

11-12/06/15 Y5 Whitby Residential

15-17/06/15 Y6 Robinwood Residential

19&23/06/15 Artforms workshop

20/06/15 Otley Carnival

29/06/15 Buddhist visitor to Y3/4

29/06/15 Y6 Bowling at Wharfemeadows

30/06/15 Reception Induction Meeting

6 -7/07/15 Y6 Transition days at PHGS

06/07/15 whole school transition morning

15/07/15 Nursery Sports Day

16/07/15 Sports Day YR-Y6

16/07/15 Y6 Leavers' Play and Leavers' Party

20/07/15 Westgate Talent Show

21/07/15 Break up for the summer at 15:15;

No WOOSH after school; School closed to Nursery children on this day.

BIG YELLOW FRIDAY THIS WEEK!

We are raising money for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, on behalf of Henry Silverwood in Y3. If you would like to donate a cake for the sale after school, please bring it in on Friday morning. Children can come in non-uniform and wear something **yellow** for a £1 donation.



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

The Bake sale raised £340 for Bliss- a fantastic amount. Thank you everyone! Last Friday saw the Toy Sale, the taster event before the Easter Fair, raised £102.06. Thank you to everyone who donated, organised and bought on the day! This half term's main event is indeed the **Easter Fair, on Saturday 28th March**. Tombola prizes are now being gratefully received and any child bringing in a Tombola donation will receive a raffle ticket... and the raffle prizes are always great! In addition, for a donation of a bottle (of anything within reason) for the bottle stall, the children can come in non-uniform on Friday 27th March.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

March's winners are:

1st: Fiona & Godfrey Burke (£96)

2nd: Rebecca Gilray (£24)

3rd: Tina Minns (£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

A polite reminder that music fees are now overdue and must be paid by the end of this week. Thank you. The fees are £30 for the term, plus £15 if you hire a school instrument (or £25 for cello hire).



For reference, please note that cheques for everything except school meals and school milk should be made payable to

Westgate Primary School. Milk and meals payments should be made payable to Leeds City Council.

HARRY'S PIRATE BALL

Saturday 25th April, 2015
at The Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley

Tickets £40 each
(includes drink on arrival)

Arrival 7pm
(sit down for 3 course meal at 7.45pm)

Dress: Black tie
(DJs optional)

Carriages 1am



You may remember from local news items last April that Harry Buckley, a pupil at the Whartons Primary School, sadly lost his 2 year battle with Neuroblastoma at the age of 6 years old. Harry's mum Sarah and a group of friends are organising a charity ball in memory of Harry and in aid of Candle Lighters and Nuzzlets Farm at The Craiglands Hotel on Saturday 25th April 2015.

Sarah chose the charities because of the wonderful support they gave to Harry and his family throughout his illness and because of the amazing work they continue to do for other children and their families. Harry loved pirates so, although black tie rather than fancy dress, the ball will have a pirate theme and fun is sure to be had by all!

Tickets and some tables are available and if you would like to attend please contact Steph Wood at stephmat@talktalk.net.

AND FINALLY... DECORATE AN EASTER EGG COMPETITION



A little advance warning for the crafty-minded. This year's Easter competition will be a decorate an Easter

Egg competition! The day to bring in entries will be **Monday 30th March**, at the start of the school day in time for judging.