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www.westgateprimary.co.uk

admin@westgateprimary.co.uk

IT'S A GRUMPY-SHEEP-NURSERY-RHYME-NATIVITY-AROUND-THE-WORLD (AKA CHRISTMAS IS COMING)

This newsletter is slightly delayed this week, coming out on a Friday instead of a Wednesday... purely because the week is so busy! By the time the day has ended today, Foundation Stage and KS2 will both have given two beautiful performances, of Nursery Rhyme Nativity and Children Around The World respectively. Next week sees KS1 performing The Grumpy Sheep on Monday at Tuesday. I am very proud of the standard of musicianship at Westgate, but in rehearsals this year I have been particularly struck by the quality of children's singing right across school. I hope that all of you who have come to see one or more performance have also enjoyed the children's singing and acting.

Our contributions to the Leeds Children's Hospital Appeal were very gratefully received by the charity organisers when they came to collect at the beginning of this week: many thanks to everyone who was able to give something to this local appeal.

Finally, a big thank you to all of our families for your support over this long and busy term. At this time of year we see many festive good wishes and generosity in school: thank you to everyone. We all wish our children and their families a very happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in January for an exciting 2015!



STOP PRESS! Children can wear a Christmas jumper and/ or hat at **School Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 17th December**, for a 50p donation to Martin House.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

LEARNING PLATFORM

By the end of this term, all parents should have received their logon for our new Learning Platform. If you haven't already, it is really important that you logon and check that it works: you should be able to see basic information for each of your children. In addition, you can download an app (available for both Apple and Android devices) which is a basic communication tool.

Things worth noting about the app:

- It is limited functionality which mainly allows you to receive text messages and emails as push notifications instead.
- The system automatically detects if you have an app that you have logged into, and will then only send texts and emails to the app and not to your text or email inboxes (so if you download the app and want to have instant access to these notifications- only download it to a device you have with you all the time, such as your phone).
- Next term we will be booking parents evening appointments **ONLY** through the learning platform. You will not be able to do this through the school office. It is therefore doubly important that you have tried logging on before this.

Children have their own logons: for Nursery to Y2 this consists of a 4 symbol sequence, while in KS2 children have a username and password. If you or your child changes and then forgets their password, this can be easily reset in school.



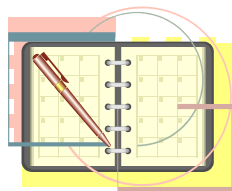
FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



Please note that the school office will no longer accept cash payments for dinners, music lessons or trips that are not in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class or attached to a slip indicating the payment details. Envelopes can be provided on the odd occasion when you do not have one to hand. If you require a dinner money forecast, please let Ms Fuller in the office know. Forecasts can be provided on a half-termly or termly basis: just let us know which you prefer.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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



17.12.14 Christmas Dinner Day
17.12.14 Nursery Christmas Parties
18.12.14 YR-Y6 Christmas Parties
19.12.15 Break at 15:15 for Christmas
05.01.15 Training Day: School closed to pupils
06.01.15 School opens- Welcome to Mr Thurgood in Y4
07.01.15 Athletics Team at St Mary's Menston, 13:30
12.01.15 ASPIRATIONS WEEK
12.01.15 Friends of Westgate 19:30 The Fleece
20.01.15 Robinwood meeting for Y6 18:00
21.01.15 FS Owl Experience Visit to school
13.02.15 Break up for half term
23.02.15 Back to school
26.02.15 Governors day in School
03.03.15 15:30 Parent consultation evening
05.03.15 KS2 D:Side drugs education
05.03.15 Parent consultation evening 17:00
06.03.15 FS/ KS1 D:Side drugs education; KS2 Internet Safety
09.03.15 Two teachers from Shanghai arrive
18.03.15 Shanghai teachers leave
26.03.15 15:30 Walk the Walls
28.03.14 Easter Fair 10:00
31.03.15 Easter Concert 14:00
01.04.15 Break up for Easter
02.04.15 Training day: School closed to pupils
20.04.15 Back to School

WESTGATE WINDFALL

December's winners are:

1st: Katie Burnett (£92)

2nd: Mr & Mrs Cockerham (£23)

3rd: Natalie Lord (£11.50)



We currently have 46 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.

WOOSH



Just a couple of reminders for families who use WOOSH:

There is no after-school provision on Friday 19th December.

If you book an after-school place which you then need to cancel, this should be done directly through our club leader, Mrs Chilton, on **07949 603317**. While Mrs Chilton won't be able to answer her phone during lessons while she is working at school, you can always send her a text. Please note that if you have booked a place and not cancelled it, this is chargeable even if your child has not attended the session. This is to protect against incurring additional staffing costs based on expected numbers, as we have strict staffing ratios which we adhere to each day. Thank you ☺

STAFFING UPDATE

In January we are looking forward to welcoming Mr Thurgood to our staff team, as our new Y4 teacher. We are very grateful for the way Mrs Smallshaw has stepped in to teach the class since Mrs Mitchell emigrated. Mrs Smallshaw's last day with us for a while will be on Wednesday next week, as she is going to Australia herself to visit family! Ms Carpenter and Mrs Charlesworth will therefore be teaching the class for the last two days of term. Unfortunately, Mrs Mullens will not quite have completed her convalescence at the start of next term, so Mrs Cook will continue to teach Y2 until her return a little bit later in the half term. Again we are very grateful to Mrs Cook for looking after Y2 so well in Mrs Mullens' absence.