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VIVE LE TOUR!

AU REVOIR A TOUT LE MONDE ET BONNES VACANCES!

What a fantastic half term this has been in so many ways. The excitement of le Tour de France and Le Grand Départ coming, not just to Otley but right past Westgate, has created a fantastic atmosphere in school. As you know, we've taken part in a number of events to mark this special occasion:

- The whole school entered two t-shirt competitions (one run by Otley Methodist Church and one run by Otley Town Council) for children in Otley. In the first, Ben Davis in Y4 was overall winner for the town, with Tilly Maughan, Ben and Molly Hird all judged to be best in their age range for Westgate. In the second, George Lunn in Y4 was overall winner, with Ben and Ellora Green being 2 of the 3 runners-up in the town!
- We've had artwork displayed in Stephen Smith's as part of a Tour de France display.
- Mrs Pollhammer and Y2 have created a yellow flower and bicycle display for le Tour which is displayed on our railings on Ilkey Road- and it won a £50 gardening voucher in a competition run by Yorkshire in Bloom and the RHS!
- Children in Y5 and Y6 took part in a Virtual Velodrome cycling event at St Joseph's
- 150 children took part in singing workshops with Hope & Social, having learned their Grand Départ song, the Big Wide; then 60 children sang on stage with them at an open-air gig in Otley; and finally, 20 children joined them onstage at Leeds Arena to sing The Big Wide to open the Opening Ceremony of Le Tour!

This week sees lots of end of year events: Leavers' Play, Party and Assembly (tissues at the ready, please!); Sports Days; School Reports coming out. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe summer holidays- long may the warm summer weather continue. Thank you to everyone for the kind wishes and gifts that come into school at this time of year. And finally, we are all looking forward to seeing most of you again in September, but if your child is moving schools in September, we wish them all the very best in their new school. Bonnes Vacances!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Most people who will have a child in Reception, Y1 or Y2 in September have now returned their slip to indicate whether or not their child will be taking up their entitlement to a free school meal from September. Thank you! Please could you return the slip if you have not yet done so.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, lunch-times will be staggered from September in order to accommodate the additional serving time required.

Reception and KS1 will have lunch from 12:00 to 13:00, while KS2 will have lunch from 12:25 to 13:20.

In addition, please note that the charge for meals in Y3-Y6 will be £2 per day from September. We are working with the catering agency to ensure a high quality of school meals which will hopefully encourage more children to take up their entitlement. Watch this space for ways to get involved in this next year!



SHANGHAI MATHS RESEARCH PROJECT

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Last month we had some very exciting news! We will be taking part in The England-China Maths Education

Innovation Research Project 2014-15. This will involve Ms Carpenter going as part of a Department for Education group of teachers and head teachers from across the country to Shanghai next term to learn about maths teaching there, followed later in the year by teachers from Shanghai visiting the UK to work with colleagues to develop the teaching of mathematics. We are hoping this will be a fantastic professional development opportunity which will benefit the whole school and above all else, our children.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please note the following for next term:
01/09/14 Training Day: School closed to pupils

02/09/14 Back to School

24/10/14 Training Day for Foundation Stage

24/10/14 Break up for Half term

03/11/14 Training day: School closed to pupils

04/11/14 Back to school

19/12/14 Break up for Christmas

WESTGATE WINDFALL

July's winners, as drawn by our Finance Officer, Kris Rossington, are:

1st: Mr & Mrs Ridgeway (£98)

2nd: Laura Martin (£24.50)

3rd: Geoff Charlesworth (£12.25)

We currently have 49 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.



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

A reminder that the last day of the school year for Nursery children will be Monday 21/07/14. For all other children it will be 22/07/14 and in a change to previous years, we will finish at 15:15. There will be no WOOSH after school, however (morning WOOSH will operate as normal). Thank you.

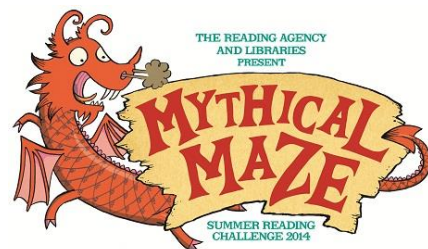
HOLIDAYS IN TERM-TIME

Please note as you think about booking holidays in the coming academic year that holidays are not usually authorised in school time. Unauthorised absences equivalent to 5 days, consecutive or not, are referred onto the Attendance team and a fixed penalty fine of £60 per child, per parent, may be issued, rising to £120 if not paid promptly.

Where a child has been reported as absent due to illness but we have good reason to suspect that they were in fact on holiday, this will also be referred on if parents are unable to provide proof of illness.

This is all part of national and local policy: thank you for your understanding in this matter.

BOOK CORNER SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2014



What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays. You can sign up at your local library, then read six library books of your choice, collecting stickers and other rewards along the way – all FREE. And now, all year round, the Summer Reading Challenge website helps you keep track of your reading, find new books to read, take part in competitions and play games. Visit <http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> or Otley Library for more details- and get reading!

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FOOTLOOSE Dance School now have spaces available for beginners, intermediates and advanced!

Our Freestyle Dance Summer School is now running on Tuesday nights at 6.45 at The Studio, Club Energy Gym, Otley. Age 8+ and only £4 a class.

Keep fit throughout the summer holidays, have fun and make new friends!

We have now been established 10 years and have classes running throughout the whole year.

For more information contact Shannon Stringwell on 07949 818760