



Volume 17, Edition 2, 19th October 2020
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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The half term is almost at a close and it has been a pleasure to spend it in school with staff and children. We have made a small number of tweaks to our plans as the weeks have gone one, but by and large things have gone well. This is in no small part due to not only the way that staff have implemented all the changes, but also the work you are doing as families, to stick to the rules and limit risk.



As I write this, we have been fortunate that, while individual children have had to self-isolate (either because they are awaiting a test result or because a family member has been symptomatic or tested positive), we have not yet had to send a whole group or class home. It's quite clear that this is, at some point this year, an inevitability, so we are grateful for every day that goes by in which we don't have to collapse a class bubble.

If your child has to self-isolate, you will receive a letter which details learning for every day that they are away from school. Teachers are planning this as part of their weekly planning and are drawing on nationally available resources to make this manageable. The work does depend on access to the internet so if this is an issue, please let us know when you receive the letter so we can make alternative arrangements.

We know that for some families it was difficult to get children to engage in learning at home during lockdown. This half term, each teacher has spent time with the whole class preparing them for what will happen if a child or a whole class has to self-isolate: what learning will look like, how it can be accessed, and what teachers expect to receive back from their pupils. In the event of the class bubble collapsing, the class teacher will have contact via the VLE and small group video streaming, to support children to engage in learning.

Last week, I spent time meeting with every class teacher (virtually!) to discuss where each class is in terms of learning. There were many positives and also some clear things to work on. We are committed to helping the children to catch up what they have missed, but we cannot do it alone. This week sees our first ever online parent/ carer consultation meetings. Teachers will be giving you information about how the school year has begun, what's going well and what your child needs to improve on: it's essential, now more than ever, that you support this at home.

Ensuring that your child

- Reads with/ to you and discusses their book with you every day*
- Practises phonics and/ or spellings every day*
- Practises number facts, including Times Table Rockstars (Y3-Y6) and Numbots (Reception- Y2), every day*
- Practises letter formation and handwriting regularly

** or as close to every day as you can manage*

This will make a big difference, and without these it will be much harder for your child to catch up, no matter what we do in school.

I am sure like me you are looking forward to the half term holiday. Thank you for all your support this term to make our return successful. Westgate is a great team!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

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

CONTACTING SCHOOL, REPORTING ABSENCES, ORDERING & REPORTING TEST RESULTS

- To report any school absence: Call 01943 462349 and leave a message (option 1). Do **not** email about absences as these messages may not be picked up in time.
- To order a COVID-19 test: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call 119 if you have no internet access. If you are unable to access a test, call school on 01943 462349.
- To report a COVID-19 test result in school hours (08:45- 16:00): Call 01943 462349.
- To report a COVID-19 test result out of school hours/ at the weekend: Call or text 07891 279271, including child's name.

Thank you

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

I'm sad to say that we have had no nominations yet for the parent governor vacancy. I am attaching again a letter about this, setting out in more detail what being a governor entails. We are looking for someone who can share their skills to support and challenge our school, as we continue to try to fulfil our mission statement, '**Striving for excellence, caring for children**'. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have questions about the role. Alternatively, current governors who are also parents at Westgate that you can talk to are: Laura Boddy, Sally Clough, Neil Richardson, Andrew Ross, and Anne Hodgson, child minder, is also a governor.



Thank you ☺

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Like so many other things, school assemblies are quite different at the moment. I'm recording them in advance so that classes can take part in them at a time that suits them, given that everyone has different start/ end/ break times. Each week ends with Celebration Assembly, in which teachers nominate individuals for a special mention because of their learning and behaviour in school. If your child has achieved something out of school that they would like to share in 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!



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



A reminder that the following payments are due: School meals in Nursery & KS2 (£2.40 per day/£12 per week for KS2, or £2.05 per day for Nursery); music tuition (£135 per annum or £45 per term); instrument hire (£15 per term/£25 per term for cellos); Nursery fees for Half Term 1. Following half term the invoices for Nursery Fees for Half Term 2, and the first round of WOOSH bills will be sent out. We will endeavour to do this electronically so please keep an eye on your in-box/ eSchools notifications! We are a cashless school: payments can only be made electronically via SIMS Pay. Ask us if you need support in setting up your account. Childcare vouchers are accepted for WOOSH & Nursery fee payments only. 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.

PROSPECTIVE PARENT MEETINGS



Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we are not able to conduct school tours for parents thinking of applying to Westgate for Reception 2021. We are instead offering the chance to meet virtually, when we will share information about our school and answer any questions parents may have. If you know of someone in this position for September 2021, please encourage them to contact the school office, who will be able to share a link to join one of the three meetings, on 19/11/20, 23/11/20 or 02/12/20 at 19:30.



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. Please make sure you

transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

20/10/20 Consultation Evening 17:00
 22/10/20 Consultation Evening 15:45
 23/10/20 Break up
 02/11/20 Back to school
 13/11/20 Children in Need day
 16/11/20 w/b Anti-Bullying Week
 17/11/20 Nursery Induction mtg 19:00
 19/11/20 Prospective Parents meeting 19:30
 23/11/20 Prospective Parents meeting 19:30
 24/11/20 FOW meeting 19:30
 02/12/20 Prospective Parents meeting 19:30
 07-13/12/20 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week
 16/12/20 School Xmas Dinner
 18/12/20 Xmas Parties
 18/12/20 Break Up
 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
 22/02/21 Training Day- 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 15:45
 09/03/21 Consultation Evening 15:45
 11/03/21 Consultation Evening 17:00
 04/03/21 World Book Day
 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
 03/05/21 Bank Holiday
 10/05/21 w/b Y6 test week
 22/05/21 Otley Show
 27/05/21 Maypole 09:15
 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.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

September's winners are:

1st: D&G Shearer (£132)

2nd: R Parker (£33)

3rd: J Chilton (£16.50)



As of September we have 66

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!**

LIVE MUSIC AT WESTGATE- HELP WANTED!



As a Music Champion school, we usually invite musicians to play to the children as part of our assembly schedule, so that all children get to experience a wide range of live music. In recent times, children have been treated to performances

by PHGS' Big Band, Otley Chamber Orchestra, Otley Bellringers, and Free Range Choir. Unfortunately, we aren't able to have the school all together in assemblies at the moment so pre-recorded assemblies are being broadcast to classrooms online. This is where you come in! We are looking for musical parents or connections who would be willing to film up to 20 minutes to share with children as an online assembly. This could be solo or in an ensemble (if you are able to make music together safely). The children would love to see and hear real musicians, explaining how their instrument makes its sound, how their ensemble works, playing some music and talking about why they enjoy making music- basically anything you'd like to share with the children! **We are open to all instruments and all genres.** If you think you could help out and share your music-making, this term or next, let me know via the school office or by email, head@westgateprimary.co.uk.

Thank you!

VIOLIN LESSONS

We are delighted to be able to offer another starter group of violinists for children in KS2. To express an interest, fill in [this form](#). Children who learn an instrument are expected to practise regularly. Lessons cost £135 for a full year.





FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

There are 3 ways you can help us to raise money at no cost to yourself when you shop online: [Easy Fundraising](#) for a wide range of online retailers- support FOW Friends of Westgate [Amazon Smile](#) for direct donations when shopping on Amazon- select Friends of Westgate <https://www.easy2name.com/> when buying name labels (select Westgate Primary School when prompted.) At our last meeting, Laura Boddy & Amy Webster were elected as our new co-chairs. You should have received information about how to purchase our Hallowe'en activity booklet and trail last week. Thank you for your support! We are continuing to work on ideas for fundraising: we are working towards helping school to upgrade pupil laptops this year. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 24/11/20 at 19:30 via Zoom.** Contact v.fuller@westgateprimary.co.uk for more details.

PARENT/ CARER CONSULTATION EVENING THIS WEEK



Just a reminder that the video appointments will take place online and are strictly timetabled by the software. This

means it is essential that you log in in good time for your appointments. If you are early, you will be held in a sort of online waiting room until your allotted time. The software does not allow appointments to overrun, so expect your appointment to end on time.

You will need to log in via <https://otleywestgate.schoolcloud.co.uk/> - you should have received an email with details of your appointment(s).

Thank you!