

Volume 12, Edition 4, 19th November 2014

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FAREWELL

As many of you know, at the end of this month we will say a very sad farewell to Mrs Mitchell as she leaves us to join her husband in Sydney, where he has just taken up an exciting new post. Mrs Mitchell came to us as a newly qualified teacher in 2009 and have been a class teacher in KS2 ever since. In recent years she also took on the role of SENCo and many of you will also know her through this aspect of her work. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her well on this exciting next stage of her life. We have appointed Mr Daniel Thurgood to be our Y4 class teacher from January 2015, while I will take on the role of SENCo until a permanent replacement is recruited.



We are also sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Lord as our admin assistant at the end of November. As with Mrs Mitchell, she will be sorely missed as a key part of our school admin team, but family commitments mean that she will also leave us on the 28th November. We have recruited Ms Vicki Fuller to the post and Mrs Lord will be handing over the role to her before she leaves. I am sure everyone will make both new members of staff very welcome.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

Last month's Scholastic Book Fair took a record-breaking £934, meaning a maximum commission rate and **£560** to spend on books for school. This is fantastic! Thank you to everyone who manned the stall and who made a purchase- and especially to Cathy Macdonald, our Book Fair mastermind. The Friends have been very busy this term so far, with the recent Westbourne Spice curry evening welcoming over 60 guests and raising **£266** in total.



Thanks to Debbie Parapia for organising the evening and to everyone who came along. Last week's Beetle Drive also saw about 70 children and family members spend an hour having fun with dice, paper and pencils, and it raised **£79** even though it is primarily a social event.



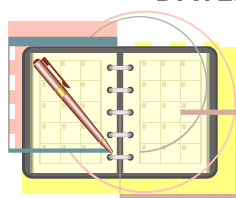
Thank you too for your Christmas card orders, ably co-ordinated by Liz Bownes. The next big event is of course the Victorian Fayre stall on 7th December; as well as selling M&S mulled wine on the stall outside Jack Fulton's, **homemade produce and craft items for the stall will be gratefully received from 1st December**. You can see some of what the Friends' fundraising contributes to Westgate if you come along to one or more of our Christmas productions next month, as they have kindly donated money towards more costumes for the children. The big focus for fundraising this year is for stage lighting, which we are working toward for the end of the school year.

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL



We raised **£154.30** this year through the sale of poppies and other items. The Otley district as a whole has raised over £14000 this year. Thanks too, to Joe Bradford, a former Westgate pupil who played the Last Post for us in assembly on Remembrance Day.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



A reminder of key dates coming up:

25/11/14 Y5 class assembly 09:05
27/11/14 Reception trip to Leeds Art Gallery

04/12/14 Y6 class assembly
04/12/14 Jewish visitor to Y3/4
07/12/14 Otley Victorian Fayre
10/12/14 Foundation Xmas productions* 10:45 & 14:00
11/12/14 Choir singing at Christmas Tree Festival, Otley Parish Church 11:45
11/12/14 KS2 Xmas production* 18:00
12/12/14 KS2 Xmas production* 13:45
15/12/14 Choir singing at Waitrose 11:00
15/12/14 KS1 Xmas production* 14:00
16/12/14 KS1 Xmas production* 10:00
17/12/14 Nursery Xmas parties am/ pm
17/12/14 School Christmas dinner day
18/12/14 Last day for Nursery children
18/12/14 Xmas parties YR to Y6
19/12/14 School finishes at 15:15; no WOOSH after school on this day
05/01/15 Training day- school closed to pupils
06/01/15 School Opens
**A letter about tickets for Christmas productions will go out at the start of December; donations for these will go to our school charity, Martin House Hospice.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Christmas dinner is served on Wednesday 17th December this year. Children who usually take a school dinner don't need to do anything; they will get one automatically. Children who usually take a packed lunch will have received a letter inviting them to join us for this festive meal at the start of this week. On the day, all children will automatically be given a turkey dinner unless we have recorded on our system that they are vegetarian; in which case they will receive the meat-free option. Allergies will also be catered for in line with normal procedure.



This Friday sees children at Westgate 'taking over' key roles in school for the morning. This is the first time we have taken part in Takeover Day and is part of the work we do to encourage children to be responsible and to prepare them for the world of work. The day has been organised by Mrs Senior as part of her work leading **Investors in Pupils**. Children have had to apply for jobs using an official application form, and School Council assisted with the selection process. Children will take on a range of roles, from head teacher onwards, including teachers, teaching assistants, school administrator, superintendent and lunch time supervisory assistants. A full report of the morning will be created to share with the school. You can find out more about this initiative here:

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover_day

WESTGATE WINDFALL

November's winners are:

1st: Mr Charlesworth (£92)

2nd: Mrs Mullens (£23)

3rd: Tina Minns (£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.



LEEDS HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Just a reminder that if you would like to support this appeal by donating a small gift, please remember the deadline for this is **Thursday, 4th December.**

Thank you for anything you are able to donate as we try our best to give to those less fortunate. The appeal supports children in six hospitals and hospices, including our school charity, Martin House Hospice.



LEARNING PLATFORM



If you have logged on to the school website this term you will have noticed a new look, as we have changed our provider and created a Learning Platform. Many of our classes have now got their logons and have begun to use the Learning Platform and we have more next steps planned for this half term. Firstly, we will begin to use the Learning Platform to send parents texts and emails, in the same way as we currently use Teachers2Parents. Secondly, we will be rolling out parent logons, on a gradual basis. It is really important when you receive your logon details that you logon and let us know if you have any difficulties with this.

Future developments for families will include: online parents evening booking (hopefully next term!) and at a later date, electronic payments.

Your parent logon will enable you to look at everything your child can see/ does. You can appreciate that these new developments take time to do properly and, like any IT development, may have the occasional teething problem. Please bear with us as we are confident that the new Learning Platform will bring huge benefits in terms of learning and communication.

CHILDREN IN NEED



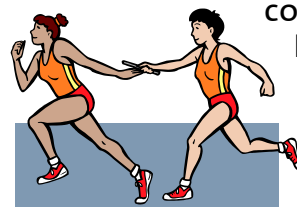
Well done to School Council for organising a simple but effective fundraiser last Friday. The children all looked great- either in non-uniform or dressing-up costumes. Together with Mrs Lester's cupcake sale in the staffroom, we raised **£272** in total for this very worthwhile cause.

SPORTS NEWS

Ashfield hosted the Otley schools' cross country meet last half term and Westgate runners did us proud. Well done to: Reception Boys - 1st Ross, 3rd Ethan; Y1 Girls - 28th Holly; Y2 Boys - 4th Oscar, 8th Jacob, 19th Raphie; Girls - 18th Eva, Ella; Y3 Boys - 6th Henry, 12th Robin, 21st Aston; Girls - 4th Skye, 12th Hollie; Y4 Boys - 19th Seth; Y5 Boys - 3rd George, 11th

William, 17th Daniel; Girls - 2nd Erin, 3rd Lilia, 5th Abigail; Y6 Boys - 1st Jenson, 3rd Jake, 7th Daniel, 15th Ted, 17th Kieran 21st Dan, 22nd Finn, 23rd Linus, 24th Sam. Overall, Westgate collected 93 points and are 6th in the table.

Mr Hackney's indoor athletics team competed recently at Ralph Thoresby and, despite significant changes to the organisation and structure of the competition, were successful in securing a place in the Leeds School Plate competition. Well done to all the children in Y5 and 6 who took part! More news of their progress through the competition will follow in future newsletters- watch this space.



BOOK CORNER

Septimus Heap by Angie Sage is this week's

recommendation- for readers aged 9-11, boys and girls. It's funny, it's exciting, it's set in a magical medieval world. The evil Necromancer DomDaniel is

plotting his comeback and a Major Obstacle resides in the Heap family. Life as they know is about to change, and the most fantastically fast-paced adventure of confused identities, magyk and mayhem, begin.



FOR SALE!

A number of items are available for an appropriate donation to School Fund (minimum donation £5). Please call in to the school office if you are interested in any of the following:

- A rainwater butt
- A freestanding CD rack
- A vintage galvanised watering can
- A small cloakroom handbasin
- A side/ console/ hall table in beech

They were all previously in storage in the school cellar and are no longer required. We also have quite a lot of scrap timber which is not required and is free for collection!