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SPRING APPROACHES

Well, we are in the second week of this half term and it's been good to start a week without a calamity of sorts, after our power failures and then last week's unexpected snowfall! Thank you to all of our families for your patience and understanding through those trying times. Here's hoping that as Spring advances we will put these trials behind us!

Last Thursday was our annual Governors' Day in School, when we welcomed nine governors to take part in lessons and speak to groups of children. You will receive a special newsletter written by the governors about their experience, but in our meeting at the end of the day, it was lovely to hear that governors could see the results of everyone's continuing hard work on our key school improvement priorities, which this year include writing, foundation subjects, outdoor learning in the Early Years, the Arts, and diversity. The children were fantastic as ever-excellent learning behaviours, good manners, kindness to others and articulate and thoughtful when talking to governors about our school. We are all really grateful to the governors for the time and commitment they give in order for us to work to continue to improve as a school, for the benefit of all the children.



Finally, you should all have received a letter confirming that Westgate will no longer be a designated polling station. Once again, I'd like to thank everyone who supported us in asking for this change by contacting our local elected members. It's a great example of local democracy in action. Thanks too, of course, for the elected members who represented our interests to Leeds City Council.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Before half term, the children had a special assembly connected to Safer Internet Day. We try to teach children how to behave responsibly online through the e-Safety curriculum across school. This includes thinking carefully about what they say online, as it is so easy to be unkind and for that unkindness to reach a large number of people quickly and to escalate or become amplified. It is therefore upsetting to hear that a number of our parents have expressed concern about negative comments passed by other parents about members of Westgate staff online, for example in WhatsApp and other social media groups.

Please remember that all of our staff work very hard indeed and that all of their efforts are focused on trying to give all of the children the best education possible. Of course there will occasionally be times when as parents you feel frustrated or do not share staff's point of view. However, I would ask everyone to consider what they post online, and ask yourself whether what you post, in closed groups and elsewhere, is something you would like to read about someone you care for, or something you would like the subject to read about themselves. All of our staff are approachable and are happy to listen and respond to concerns which are raised respectfully. Raising issues on social media, however, will rarely if ever lead to a solution. Above all else, I would urge everyone to model the behaviour we ask of children online and **#BeKind**.



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Easy Fundraising has now raised over **£520** with just 48 members! If you shop online and don't already support us in this way, please consider signing up this year - it costs you nothing and is an easy way to raise money for FOW! Thanks to everyone who used **Ragbag** to have a clear out last month - your generosity earned us another **£56!** The big event this term is the **Easter Fair on Saturday 28/03/20**-keep looking out for information about when to bring things in or sign up to help. We are accepting the following:

- Tombola items from 09/03/20
- Toy Sale items from 17/03/20
- Bottle Stall items on 26/03/20
- School uniform items - all year round
- Raffle prizes - as and when

Thank you! ☺

WESTGATE WINDFALL

February's winners are:

1st: (£140) TBC

2nd: (£35) TBC

3rd: (£17.50) TBC

We currently have **70** 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. This term it has paid for the whole school to see Mimika, subsidised the Y3/4 Roman Experience Day, and part-funded new resource stations for the Early Years outdoor area.



NSPCC- SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE



Last week, classes from Y1 to Y6 held their sponsored Buddy's Workout in their PE lessons, to raise money for the NSPCC. This is to say thank you for the recent assemblies that the charity led for Reception to Y6, and the workshops they led for Y5/6. The focus of this work is to empower children to keep themselves

safe and to recognise situations and behaviour from others that might lead to harm. Buddy's Workout was postponed because of our recent power cuts: any sponsor monies should be returned to school by **Friday 13/03/20**, as on Monday 16/03/20 Kate from the NSPCC will return to Westgate, in order to thank the children for their fundraising efforts. Thank you for your support ☺

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY OTLEY

In half-term, I met with representatives of the above group to look at our school site and think about ways we can improve it, both in terms of making it more wildlife-friendly and in terms of resilience to climate change. Extremes of heat are going to become more common and more prolonged, so we are looking to how we can use planting to increase shade and absorb pollution, while respecting the conservation area and the listed status of the KS1 building. It was an exciting meeting! The group have put together a funding bid for the work they want to undertake across the town so we have our fingers crossed that their bid is successful. We hope that part of the work will involve some workshops for children later this year, to help them think about how we can all look after local wildlife.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



All of our families should now be set up on SIMS Pay. It is essential that if you are not yet registered, you come into the office where Mrs Bleasdale will go through the steps with you on your device so that you can pay online, as we are now a **cashless school** for almost all payments. We are fast approaching the end of the financial year, so prompt settlement of any outstanding fees or charges would be greatly appreciated so that we can close the school budget ready for the new financial year to begin in April.

TRAVEL TRACKER



Here are this month's Travel Tracker statistics by class:

Class	Active Journeys	Position
Nursery	64%	8 th
Reception	87%	3 rd
Y1	78%	5 th
Y2	75%	7 th
Y3	76%	6 th
Y4	90%	2 nd
Y5	81%	4 th
Y6	91%	1 st
Total	80%	



In February, **201** children earned their Travel Tracker badge by choosing an active form of travel at least once every week for the whole month. Well done!

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for next term. They are also to be found on the calendar

when you log on to the VLE.

03/03/20 Y3 Youth Music Prom Concert
 03/03/20 Consultation evening 15:45
 05/03/20 Consultation evening 17:00
 05/03/20 World Book Day
06/03/20 Y2 Class Assembly 09:00
 10/03/20 Nursery Stay & Play (pm)
 12/03/20 Y1 Class Assembly 09:00
13/03/20 Deadline for NSPCC sponsorship money
 16/03/20 Y3/4 Roman Day
16/03/20 NSPCC Thank You Assembly
 17/03/20 Y5/6 Tag Rugby event
 19/03/20 Nursery Stay & Play (am)
20/03/20 FOW Toy Sale
 24/03/20 Y4 Piano Fantasia Concert
 26-27/03/20 D:Side Drugs Education Workshops
 26/03/20 Y4 Class Assembly 09:00
26/03/20 Non-Uniform Day (FOW Bottle Stall)
 27/03/20 Y5 Leeds Lieder Concert
 28/03/20 FOW Easter Fair
 01/04/20 Easter Concert 14:00
 03/04/20 Break up for Easter
 20/04/20 Back to School
 21/04/20 HLC Orchestral Day (selected Y4-6 pupils)
 22/04/20 Big Pedal starts
30/04/20 Class photos
 05/05/20 Big Pedal ends
 07/05/20 Polling Day/ Training Day (Autism Level 2) school closed to pupils
 08/05/20 Bank Holiday
 11/05/20 w/b Y6 test week
 16/05/20 Otley Show

18&19/05/20 Judo Taster lessons Rec- Y6

21/05/20 Maypole 09:15

22/05/20 Break up

01/06/20 Back to school

04-05/06/20 Y5 Whitby residential

10-12/06/20 Y6 Herd Farm residential

13/06/20 Headingley Youth Music Festival (Choir & Orchestra)

17/06/20 Reception Induction 19:00

18/06/20 Nursery Stay & Play (am)

20/06/20 Otley Carnival

22/06/20 Y3/4 Vikings Jorvik Trip

23/06/20 Nursery Stay & Play (pm)

25/06/20 Sports Day 10:00 Rec/ KS1; **12:30**

Nursery; 13:45 KS2

25/06/20 Nursery Induction

29/06/20 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

30/06/20 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

02/07/20 Y5 Whitby Class Assembly 09:00

06/07/20 Anyone Can Day

08-10/07/20 Y6 PHGS Induction Days

09/07/20 Whole School Induction Day

14/07/20 Talent show 13:45

15/07/20 Leavers' Play/ Party 19:30

17/07/20 Y6 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

17/07/20 Break up

20/07/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

07/09/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

08/09/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

09/09/20 Back to School

Green events are changed or new since last time.

Blue events involve Nursery- if your child does not normally attend on that day, please let Miss Robinson know if your child will attend for this event.

RECYCLING AT WESTGATE

Just a reminder from Eco-Team that we offer some recycling facilities for families and that these raise money for school at the same time! You can recycle:

- used batteries (all year round)
- printer cartridges (all year round)
- clothes, shoes and home linens (termly Ragbag collection)

We have also teamed up with Leeds City Council to offer a recycling facility for unwanted electrical goods later this year- look out for more details in due course!



