



Volume 18, Edition 1, 15th September 2021

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WELCOME BACK, THANK YOU AND WELL DONE

The return of the children on Tuesday, together with some steps towards more normality, has really lifted everyone's spirits and set the term off to a great start. The buzz on the playground at the start and end of the day has been so lovely, and I would like to thank you for adhering to the new gate times.

Seeing the children playing with another class at break times, and eating with their key stage at lunch time, has been brilliant and it's been lovely to hear that children are excited to be more 'together' again as a school. The highlights of my week were definitely assemblies, however: the sound of 3 classes singing together in the hall is a very special thing and something we have all really missed.

An extra special welcome this month to the children and families who are new to Westgate: as well as children starting in Nursery & Reception, we have also welcomed Erin to Y6, Louis to Y3 and Isobel to Y1.



Last week we were notified that Westgate has been awarded a Gold School Travel Award! This recognises everyone's efforts to reduce car use on the school journey, so the award really belongs to all of our families who have responded to our work to promote cycling, scooting and walking. Don't forget that if you need to drive to carry on your journey after dropping off your child, you can park at Waitrose and walk the rest of the way (Park & Stride). There's more

information about school travel later in this newsletter.

Finally, the children looked so smart in their new PE T-shirts this week- thank you to everyone for your support in this matter.



Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

ANYTHING BOXED IN RED IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY REQUIRE ACTION ON YOUR PART. THANK YOU ☺

HARVEST FESTIVAL



We are keen to resume this annual tradition, but at the same time mindful of the ongoing risks posed by COVID-19. Therefore, this year we will be visiting the Parish Church as a school (Reception to Y6) and parents will be able to follow the service on the church's livestream online: a link will be sent out the day before. In this way the school will be able to be socially distanced in the church. We hope that you will be able to join us online for this special occasion and the first whole school event in 18 months.

We will be collecting food for the festival, which will be shared between [PAFRAS](#) and [Otley Food Bank](#). Non-perishable items such as tins, jars, packet and dried goods are all welcome and should be brought to school at the beginning of the school day on Friday 08/10/2021.

Thank you ☺

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150TH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

This half term, every class will be working with the artist Sharon Snaylam to create a large piece of artwork to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary. Each class will design and create a section to make an artwork which will be permanently displayed in the school hall. We are very excited about the project! In addition, this weekend families are invited to join Friends of Westgate for a 'street party' to mark our anniversary: more details below.



VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

We are delighted to be able to welcome volunteers into school once more, and we are recruiting! If you would like to help in school, for example by hearing children read, we would love to hear from you - and your support would be very valuable! Ask in the school office if you'd like to find out more. We can also support volunteer placements as part of a learning support qualification you are pursuing.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to use electronic means as our main method of communication. It is therefore essential that parents check emails regularly: we can ensure that letters are emailed to you but we can't make you read them!



- The SIMS Parent Lite app is essential to ensure you can easily update contact and medical details - this update function will be available until the 30th September 2021. It will then be available during the first two weeks of Jan 2022 for our annual Data Collection requirement. In between times, please call the office with any updates.
- Letters which require a response will include a hyperlink to complete an online form, rather than requiring a return slip.

- Parents wishing to advise pupil absences or change of collection details should do so via the school office by telephone NOT email, as we cannot guarantee they will be read in time.
- **Please note that parents should not email teachers unless it is absolutely essential.** Any messages during the school day should come via the school office as teachers will not ordinarily pick up emails while teaching. School policy is that emails are only sent, read or responded to between 08:00 and 18:00, weekdays only during term time. Teachers are usually available at the beginning and end of the school day and are often able to return telephone calls during breaks.

Finally, I will endeavour to include all the information you need in newsletters, rather than in lots of separate letters. Please read them and make note of information/dates relevant to you.

Thank you ☺

RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY AT WESTGATE

Just a reminder that you can continue to **recycle**:

- Crisp packets (via the bin adjacent to the car park)
- Printer cartridges (at the office)
- Batteries (via classrooms/ The Big Battery Hunt boxes)
- Clothes/ textiles (termly FOW Ragbag)

at Westgate, and help us raise money and win prizes for school at the same time. Try asking friends & neighbours, or at work, to boost our collections!

In school, we recycle as much of our paper, card, metal, glass and plastic as possible, as well as our food waste. Help us to reduce plastic use by trying to eliminate single use plastic from lunchboxes (cling film, plastic food bags) wherever you can. Thank you! We've also replaced taps and toilet paper dispensers to reduce wastage further. We're very proud of our first [Eco Schools Green Flag](#) and we want to carry on doing as much as we can to protect our planet for the future.

Thank you for your support!

Eco Team



HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME AND ATTENDANCE

A reminder for parents thinking ahead already to family holidays in the coming year, that holidays taken in term time are not usually authorised and parents taking children on holiday in school time risk a fine, in line with government and local policy. In addition, where a child has been reported as absent due to illness and we have good reason to suspect that in fact, he/she was on holiday, parents will be asked to provide proof that he/she was in fact poorly. Fines are issued on a 'per parent, per child' basis.



When requesting time off from school for any reason, parents must fill in an absence request form (available from the school office) and this should be done as far in advance as possible. It must be done via the school office rather than the class teacher, even if it is 'just' a request to leave before the end of the school day. Please also note that children's attendance is calculated by our information management system on their presence at registration. Absences for any reason other than an approved school activity that mean a child misses registration (morning or afternoon) will affect their overall attendance record. This is standard procedure for schools.

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 of the school

website. Please check in case there are any changes from provisional dates given out at the end of the last academic year... and make sure you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

20/09/21 Y5/6 150th Art workshop
21/09/21 Y3/4 150th Art workshop
24-26/09/21 Otley Festival of Kindness
27/09/21 Y1/2 150th Art workshop
28/09/21 Y3/4 150th Art workshop
28/09/21 Y2 trip to Tropical World
27/09/21 w/b Y6 Bikeability training
27/09/21 Bike to School Week
04/10/21 Y5/6 150th Art workshop
05/10/21 Nur/ Rec 150th Art workshop

07/10/21 Y4 Cricket trip

08/10/21 Harvest Festival
11/10/21 Y1/2 150th Art workshop
12/10/21 Nur/ Rec 150th Art workshop
12/10/21 Team Teach twilight all staff **(no pm WOOSH)**
13/10/21 Rec Curriculum evening 19:00
19/10/21 Y4 Organ workshop trip
19/10/21 Consultation evening 17:00
21/10/21 Consultation evening 15:45
22/10/21 Break up
01/11/21 Back to school
02/11/21 Individual Photos
11/11/21 Team Teach twilight all staff **(no pm WOOSH)**
12/11/21 Children in Need day
15-19/11/21 Anti-Bullying Week
16-18/11/21 Otley Science Week
16/11/21 Nursery Stay & Play am
16/11/21 Nursery Induction 15:45
17/11/21 Reception Stay & Play am
18/11/21 Nursery Stay & Play pm
21/11/21 Takeover Day
25/11/21 EYFS cluster training day **(school closed to Nur & Rec only)**
06-12/12/21 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week
08/12/21 FS Xmas performance 14:15- 14:45
09/12/21 KS2 Xmas performance 19:00
10/12/21 FS Xmas performance 11:00
10/12/21 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45
13/12/21 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00
14/12/21 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00
15/12/21 School Xmas Dinner
17/12/21 Xmas Parties
17/12/21 Break Up
03/01/22 Bank Holiday
04/01/22 Training Day teachers only
11/01/22 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30
17/01/22 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30
08/02/22 Safer Internet Day
18/02/22 Break UP
28/02/22 Back to school
22/02- 07/03/22 Fair Trade Fortnight
03/03/22 Nursery Induction 15:45
08/03/22 Consultation evening 15:45
10/03/22 Consultation evening 17:00
03/03/22 World Book Day
15/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play am
16/03/22 Reception Stay & Play am
17/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm
21/03-01/04/22 Big Walk & Wheel
26/03/22 FOW Easter Fair
30/03/22 Easter Concert 14:00
01/04/22 Break up for Easter
18/04/22 Bank Holiday
19/04/22 Back to School
28/04/22 Class photos
02/05/22 Bank Holiday
09/05/22 w/b Y6 test week
13/05/22 Training Day First Aid at Work all staff:
School closed to pupils
19/05/22 Whole school road safety training
21/05/22 Otley Show
26/05/22 Maypole 09:15
27/05/22 Break up
06/06/22 Back to school
08-09/06/21 Y5 Whitby residential

13/06/22 Rec- Y3 scooter training
 14/06/22 Y4-6 scooter training
 15/06/22 Reception Induction 19:00
 16/06/22 Clean Air Day
 15-17/06/22 Y6 Herd Farm residential
 21/06/22 Nursery Stay & Play am
 22/06/22 Reception Stay & Play am
 23/06/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm
 18/06/22 Otley Carnival
 20-26/06/22 Refugee Week
 21/06/22 Nursery Induction 15:45
 27/06/22 Y6 transition road safety training
 27/06/22 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6
 28/06/22 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5
 18/07/22 Talent show 13:45
 20/07/22 Leavers' Play/ Party 19:00
 22/07/22 Leavers' Assembly 09:00
 22/07/22 Break up
 25/07/22 Training Day (disaggregated)
 26/07/22 Training Day (disaggregated)
 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.
 Green events are new or amended since these dates were last published.

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



We are hoping that this year we will be able to run more face to face social and fundraising events. The first item on our calendar is the 150th anniversary street party this coming Saturday afternoon. From 14:00 till 17:00 your family can join us in the playground to celebrate our school community. There will be a barbecue and a licenced bar for you to buy refreshments and you are encouraged to bring your own 'street party' picnic too. We hope you can join us!
 In the meantime, you can still help us raise money to help school, just through any shopping online you do. There are 3 ways you can raise money at no cost to yourself when you shop online. Firstly, Easy Fundraising- see the separate article below about this. Secondly, [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=ast_seller) – a way to get Amazon to donate 0.5% of everything you spend to Friends of Westgate. They are both really easy to do, on a PC and on a smartphone, and there really is no cost to you. Lastly, if you are buying name labels, you can raise commission for school by purchasing them from <https://www.easy2name.com/> and selecting Westgate Primary School when prompted.

After the success last year, we will be running a Christmas Jumper sale again later this term, so put any outgrown festive

knitwear to one side and look out for more information to follow.

This year we are making a substantial contribution to the school to support the purchase of new laptops for pupil use. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill some key posts, and always welcome new supporters: **our next meeting is on Tuesday 13/10/20 at 19:30 via Zoom.** Contact l.boddy@westgateprimary.co.uk for more details.



If you'd like to support the work of Friends of Westgate without any cost to you, **Easy Fundraising** could be the answer! By signing up and using the app and/or using the web browser reminder, you can get a wide range of retailers and service providers to donate to FOW when you shop online - money that comes from them, not you! So far we have raised **over £900**. Our next big project is to support the school to update pupil laptops, and continue to replenish classroom reading materials. **Use this link to sign up and earn donations for FOW:**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofwestgate/?invite=4OK2Z3&referral-campaign=s2s>

WESTGATE WINDFALL

July's winners are:

1st: Kevin Jacobs £136

2nd: Jacob Davis-Tanner

3rd: Sam Kelly £17

August's winners are:

1st: James Gould £138

2nd: Zoe Hollis £34.50

3rd: Karon Osborne £17.25



As of August we have 69 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!** This summer, School Fund has contributed £7,000 to replace the laptop charging trolleys. The project would not have been possible without the contribution that Westgate Windfall makes.

WOOSH



Just a reminder that Westgate Out of School Hours (WOOSH) provision is available to children in

Nursery to Y6, from 07:45 to 08:50 in the morning and from 15:15 to 18:00 in the afternoon. Charges are £3.00 for a morning session, and £8.50 after school, or £6.50 for further siblings. It may also be counted as part of a child's free 30 hour Nursery entitlement, if you wish. **Both sessions must be booked online a week in advance, and bookings that are cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice will be chargeable.** Please complete the weekly form that comes via email each Tuesday if you want to make a new booking for WOOSH.

Finally, please note that on 12/10/21 and 11/11/21 there is no WOOSH after school due to essential staff training.

record their journey to school. They can earn a badge for every month where they walk, scooter, cycle or 'park & stride' at least once a week. The closure of Scarborough Road at the beginning and end of the school day, through the School Streets initiative has made it easier and safer than ever to choose a more sustainable school journey.

Coming up, it is national [Bike to School Week](#) beginning on 27/09/21. We would like as many families as possible to ditch the car for the week and walk, scoot or cycle to and from school. Good luck and have fun!

If you are unsure of the safest route for you to travel to school, please get in touch or check on our [website](#), as there are many safe ways to get to school while being active and improving our local environment and air quality.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



A reminder that some payments will soon be due: School meals in Nursery & KS2 (£2.40 per day/£12 per week for KS2, or £2.05 per day for Nursery); music tuition (£157.50 per annum, £52.50 per term or £26.25 per half term); instrument hire (£17.50 per term/£25 per term for cellos).

Dinner choices are sent out weekly via email and should be completed by 5pm on the Thursday before. You may find it useful to set a weekly alarm on your smartphone to remind you to go through the menu with your child: involving them in the choices ensures you choose something they will eat and reduces food waste. If you do not respond by the deadline, your child will automatically be allocated 'red' choices for the week.

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.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



If your child has achieved something outside of school- perhaps a sporting achievement, musical or other out of school activity, we like to recognise this in our weekly celebration

assemblies. They take place on a Thursday or Friday. Simple send a photo and brief blurb about their achievement to head@westgateprimary.co.uk and I will ensure that it is incorporated into the next celebration assembly!

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Just a reminder that you can find a wealth of information about our school on the main school website.

Whether it's information about the curriculum, school policies, special educational needs & disability (SEND), sustainability, school meals, the latest COVID-19 information or news about what is happening at school (or a host of other topics), almost anything you could wish to know is to be found at www.westgateprimary.co.uk.

Happy browsing! If there's something you need to know which isn't on there, don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office.

SCHOOL TRAVEL

This week, we have restarted the [Travel Tracker](#). Each morning, children complete a quick online survey in class to

