



Volume 17, Edition 1, 10th September 2019

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WELCOME BACK

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back, along with some new names and faces, in the last week. I hope all of our families have had a fun and happy summer holiday. As well as all of our reception and nursery starters, we have said hello to a new pupil, Harvey, in Y4. Miss Jeffery has also joined us as TA in Y3/4. Many children already know her as she has been working at WOOSH in the last twelve months too. Finally, our school dog, Zoey, joined us today for the first time since her initial visit last term; she will be working in school every Monday, primarily with Mrs Eley.

Our first two days as a staff last week (Monday- Tuesday) were spent in whole-school training focusing on: curriculum design, mindfulness and understanding best practice for children with autism spectrum condition. We learned lots and are looking forward to the year ahead.

This newsletter is a bumper edition, setting out information for the year ahead. Please make sure you take note of the important information contained within! Included is some information about ways you can help us by supporting fundraising, through Westgate Windfall, Friends of Westgate and Easy Fundraising. In the last four years, our school budget (funding from the government) has reduced by over £86,000, or £145 per pupil, so we really do appreciate financial support more than ever, to enable us to ensure our children can still enjoy a range of exciting and inspiring educational visits and visitors, and have access to high-quality learning resources. Thank you for any support you are able to give.



It's not long until our first big school event: **Harvest Festival**. This will take place at **Otley Parish Church (All Saints) on Monday 7th October at 14:00**. Parents and carers of children from Reception upwards are welcome to come along to join us and any donations of food should be given to your child's class teacher at the start of school that morning. Food donations will be split between Otley Food Bank and PAFRAS (Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers) in Leeds. We can accept tinned and

packet/ dried goods. Thank you in advance for supporting the collection and I hope you are able to join us to hear the children's readings and singing.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We are very sad to be saying farewell to Susan Carson as a parent governor this term as she has decided not to seek re-election, due to changes in her other commitments. Susan has been a much-valued governor for 4 years and we are now seeking nominations for her replacement. A separate letter is coming home with this letter, 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 are: Neil Richardson, Andrew Ross, James Gould, Vicky Mirfield and Anne Hodgson, child minder, is also a governor. You could speak to one of them when you see them in the playground. I hope that many of you will give some thought to volunteering to support school in this way. Thank you ☺



SCHOOL UNIFORM



As ever, the children have started the term very smartly. Just a polite reminder that children should wear black shoes for school. Some children we know are still wearing summer footwear, which can also be red or white, but new school shoes for the winter should be **black**. We have also started the term with a big push on ensuring clothing and bags are named and carefully looked after in the cloakrooms: we are hoping for fewer items in lost property this term as a result! Thank you for your support with this.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS



We continue to use electronic means as our main method of communication. This means that the default position is that newsletters and letters are sent via email to people with parental responsibility and *not* as a hard copy. This is to counteract the ongoing problem that no matter how it is managed, many children lose letters between being given them by their class teacher and getting home. 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! If you have the eSchools app on your smartphone, all letters home will be kept in there and you will never lose one again. Letters with a slip to be returned will always also come home as a hard copy (unless, of course, they are mislaid).

Texts are sent to the first named contact *only*, except in the case of separated parents. Again, if you have the eSchools app on your smartphone, instead of receiving texts as SMS messages, you will receive them as a push notification in the app.

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.

RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY AT WESTGATE

Just a reminder that you can continue to **recycle printer cartridges** from home or work, and **batteries**, via school. We will also continue to offer clothes/textile recycling on a termly basis. 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 over the summer to reduce wastage further.



Thank you for your support!
Eco Team

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME AND ATTENDANCE

A reminder for Parents and Carers 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.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

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 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!

23-27/09/19 Bike to School Week
 26/09/19 KS1 Skylar's Missing Note performance
 27/09/19 School Council Election deadline
 30/09/19 w/b Y6 Bikeability Training
 07/10/19 Harvest Festival
 09/10/19 Rec Curriculum Evening 19:00
 15/10/19 Individual school photos
 22/10/19 Consultation evening 17:00
 24/10/19 Consultation evening 15:45
 25/10/19 Break up
 04/11/19 Back to school
 08/11/19 EYFS Training Day- school closed to Nursery & Reception pupils only
 11/11/19 w/b Anti-Bullying Week
 12/11/19 Y1 Otley Science Festival visit
 13/11/19 Y5 Otley Science Festival visit
 14/11/19 Y3 Otley Science Festival visit
 15/11/19 Children in Need day TBC
 19/11/19 Nursery Induction 15:45
 01/12/19 Otley Victorian Fayre
 03/12/19 LSMA Xmas concert
 09-15/12/19 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week
 12/12/19 FS Xmas performance 11:15/ 14:00
 12/12/19 KS2 Xmas performance 19:00
 13/12/19 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45
 13/12/19 Xmas Tree choir concert 20:00
 16/12/19 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00
 17/12/19 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00
 18/12/19 School Xmas Dinner
 20/12/19 Xmas Parties
 20/12/19 Break Up
 06/01/20 FOS Training Day – School Closed
 13/01/20 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30
 17/01/20 Y1 School Council Election deadline
 20/01/20 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30
 11/02/20 Safer Internet Day
 14/02/20 Break Up
 24/02/20 Back to school
 24/02/20 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight
 25/02/20 Nursery Induction 15:45
 03/03/20 Consultation evening 15:45
 05/03/20 Consultation evening 17:00
 05/03/20 World Book Day
 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
 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

08/05/20 Bank Holiday

11/05/20 w/b Y6 test week

16/05/20 Otley Show TBC

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

17/06/20 Reception Induction 19:00

20/06/20 Otley Carnival

25/06/20 Nursery Induction 15:45 & 17:00

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

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

06/07/20 Anyone Can Day

14/07/20 Talent show 13:45

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

17/07/20 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

17/07/20 Break up

20/07/20 Training Day

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 the last set of dates that we published.

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Look out for a welcome back newsletter which will give you an update about our work very soon. We hope to welcome new faces and old to help us continue our work to support the school in making sure all of our children have the best experiences and resources to support their learning, and also make the school the happiest, most welcoming community school it can possibly be.



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 (£135 per annum or £45 per term); instrument hire (£15 per term/£25 per term for cellos). 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. As of this month, we are a cashless school, meaning that almost all payments can only be made electronically via SIMS Pay. Ask us if you need support in setting up your account. We were experiencing technical difficulties last week but these should now be sorted!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

July's winners are:

1st: Rachel Preston (£134)

2nd: Sue Taylor (£33.50)

3rd: Deb Lee (£16.75)

August's winners are:

1st: Jayne Chilton (£140)

2nd: Katie Burnett (£35)

3rd: Nic Wharton (£17.50)



As of September we 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. **Average monthly prizes last academic year were £136.83, £34.21 and £17.10!** This term, School Fund is partly or wholly subsidising a number of events, including KS1's performance of Skylar's Missing Note, as part of Leeds International Piano Competition, and 3 classes' trips to Otley Science Festival. None of these exciting and inspiring experiences would be possible without the contribution that Westgate Windfall makes.



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 this year we have raised **over £470**. We are contributing to capital projects such as the redevelopment of the Foundation Stage outdoor area and the installation of cycle shelters this term.

Use this link to sign up and earn donations for FOW:

<http://efraising.org/53kkJyzBvi>

SCHOOL CLUBS

A letter is coming home this week for children in Y1 upwards with information about this term's extra-curricular clubs on offer. I am very grateful for the time and expertise that is offered, both by staff and by parent volunteers. I am sure you will agree it is a good selection of activities!

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 must be booked beforehand.

SCHOOL TRAVEL



We are in the process of getting contractors to begin work on resurfacing the area at the front of school so that we can install bike and scooter shelters for everyone to use. We are delighted that we were able to secure funding from Otley Town Council to help make this project possible. Coming up, it is national **Bike to School Week beginning on 23/09/19**. We would like as many families as possible to ditch the car for the week and walk, scoot or cycle to and from school. We have another new, exciting project to encourage more children to walk, scoot or cycle, which the children will find out about on Friday... more details to follow! 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.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Would you like to help support the work of our school by becoming a regular volunteer? Or are you thinking about beginning or resuming a career in school and want to gain classroom experience? We have a need for volunteers, for example to hear children read or help them to practise spelling, handwriting or maths facts. You might want to volunteer for an enrichment activity, such as sport, gardening, craft or art. If you would be interested in coming into school to help in a voluntary capacity, check out our Volunteer Policy and application form on our school website, under 'Community'.

TT ROCKSTARS

All children from Y3 up at the moment are working hard on their times tables... and Y2 will soon be doing the same! Each child has access to Times Tables Rock Stars at home and it is an ideal way to practise, along with chanting aloud. To practise at home, playing games to improve their 'rock status', your child will just need to log in with their unique username, either on a PC or via the free app.

The national expectation is that children should know their multiplication facts up to 12x12 by the summer term of Y4, and that they should be able to answer questions correctly in 6 seconds or less. The only way children will reach this level of proficiency is by regular practice at home as well as our daily Rockstars work at school. Please ensure that your child practises regularly - little and often is the key and preferably daily. More information will be coming home separately to parents of children in Y4. Thank you- and keep on rockin'!



<https://trockstars.com/>

ALDI KIT FOR SCHOOLS

Those of you that shop at Aldi may already be aware that they are running a 'Collect and Win' scheme for schools. Please send in any stickers you collect for us (when you spend £30 or more) to add to our collection, so that we can receive a new School Sports Kit and be entered into the prize draw to win £20,000 for school! Find out more at getseteatfresh.co.uk/kitforschools Thank you for your support! ☺

CHILDREN'S MAYOR

You may remember from just before we broke up for the summer holidays we announced that Gracie in Y6 has been selected to be one of twelve final candidates for [Leeds Children's Mayor](#) this year!



She has been busy out campaigning all summer, taking her manifesto to a range of family events across the city and local area. Gracie is standing on a pledge to introduce a voluntary pen pals scheme to link up school children and older people in residential and sheltered accommodation.

We will find out the outcome of the election on 1st October, at a special reception for all the candidates at Leeds Civic Hall...

Go, Gracie!

WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT/ CARER SURVEY, JULY 2019

Here is the summary of the survey responses from last term. We received a small number of comments too, relating to: homework (1 comment); end of key stage assessment information (1 comment); clubs for KS1 (2 comments); clarity of information about school events (1 comment); and parents evening (1 comment), as well as some lovely comments expressing appreciation for the work of our school. These have been helpful for us to reflect on and will be taken into account in the coming year. Thank you to everyone who responded. There is still an unclaimed prize for the bearer of the winning ticket, 190!

	Total responses: 125	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at Westgate.	76%	22%	2%	0%	0%
		63%	29%	5%	4%	1%
2	My child feels safe at Westgate.	80%	18%	0%	0%	1%
		64%	28%	4%	3%	1%
3	My child is making good progress at Westgate.	73%	26%	0%	0%	0%
		53%	35%	7%	4%	2%
4	My child is well looked after at Westgate.	78%	20%	2%	0%	0%
		59%	31%	6%	3%	1%
5	My child is taught well at Westgate.	76%	22%	0%	0%	2%
		52%	35%	7%	3%	3%
6	My child receives appropriate homework for his/ her age.	53%	34%	3%	1%	6%
		41%	42%	10%	4%	3%
7	Westgate makes sure children are well behaved.	66%	30%	1%	0%	2%
		49%	36%	7%	5%	3%
8	Westgate deals with any cases of bullying effectively.	46%	24%	1%	2%	25%
		37%	28%	7%	6%	22%
9	Westgate is well led and managed.	72%	24%	0%	0%	2%
		53%	30%	7%	7%	4%
10	Westgate responds well to any concerns I raise.	65%	29%	1%	1%	3%
		50%	30%	9%	7%	5%
11	I receive valuable information from Westgate about my child's progress.	61%	33%	2%	1%	1%
		47%	37%	10%	5%	1%
12	I would recommend Westgate (this school) to another parent.	Yes	97%	No	2%	
			86%		14%	

Shaded rows indicate national response rates for all maintained and academy schools over the last 12 months as of April 2019, according to Ofsted.