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WELCOME BACK

I hope everyone managed to have a great half term holiday, whether you had day trips out, went away for a few nights or spent it at home chilling or getting stuff done around the house!

Y6 pupils have now had their places for high school confirmed, and Reception places for Nursery pupils will follow in about 6 weeks' time. We are of course open to applications for Nursery in September too, so please encourage anyone you know who is thinking about a nursery place for their little ones to get in touch.

Last week we welcomed most of our governing body in to school for the first face to face **Governor Day** since February 2020. The governors spent time with children and staff in every classroom, in the playground and dinner hall at break and lunch time, and also spoke to Eco Team, Digital Leaders, Peer Mediators and a group of children about the arts at Westgate.

Governors could clearly see the impact of our work to improve writing across school, to further deepen and strengthen our broad curriculum, and to implement the new Early Years framework. Teachers spoke positively too about the work we are doing as a school to support them to achieve a measure of work-life balance. I am so proud to be part of this staff team, but I will leave it to the governors themselves in their newsletter to parents to tell you more about their visit. Governors are volunteers who lend their time and expertise to help us to improve through accountability and we are grateful for their dedication.

Last week also saw Westgate celebrating World Book Day. We try to make the day about celebrating reading and books, which this year meant we revisited Book in a Box. Children's creativity in celebrating their favourite books was a pleasure to see and you can see pictures of the results on the school website in the 'Latest News' section. Every class got to visit the exhibition and the children were wowed by each other's artwork. Well done, everyone!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

Anything in a red box in this newsletter may require action on your part. Thank you 😊

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



School council met last week to discuss their charity fundraising ideas for this half term. They were keen to mark **Red Nose Day on Friday 18/03/22** and voted for the suggestion of a **pyjama & teddy day**, for a suggested minimum donation of £1, if your child would like to take part.

They were also keen to do something to support people in Ukraine affected by the war there at the moment. They are planning to run a **chocolate tombola** after school in the last week of this half term, so look out for more information. All proceeds will go to the DEC appeal. We know that we have members of our school community whose families are directly affected by this crisis so we hope we will raise a good sum to help.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a summary of dates for your diary for the remainder of the school year:

08/03/22 Consultation evening 15:45
 10/03/22 Consultation evening 17:00
 14/03/22 Closing date for Travel Tracker badge competition
 15/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play am
 16/03/22 Reception Stay & Play am
 17/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm
 17/03/22 Y6 Trip to Saltaire
 18/03/22 Red Nose Day- PJs & teddy day
 22/03-01/04/22 Big Walk & Wheel
 24/03/22 Y4 Trip to Jorvik/ DIG
 25/03/22 Non-uniform day/ bring a bottle
 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
 19/04/22 booking for Learning Passports (SEND pupils only) opens
 27/04/22 Friends of Westgate mtg 19:30 Black Horse
 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
 18/05/22 Learning Passport mtgs (SEND pupils only)
 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
 09-10/06/22 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
 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.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

February's winners were:

1st: Mr G Fisher (£130)

2nd: Mr J Richardson (£32.50)

3rd: Mr & Mrs Boddy (£16.25)



As of February we have 65 members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please contact [Mrs Bleasdale](#) in the office for application details. You can pay by standing order or cash/ cheque in advance. We would really like to increase our membership this term, and the more members we have the larger the prize fund to be won! All proceeds go to Westgate School Fund. Current projects we are seeking funding for include: climate-proofing the outdoor spaces through planting; improvements to the kitchen facilities for EYFS/ pupils.
Average monthly prizes last academic year were £142.17, £35.54 and £17.77!

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Our next big event is The Big One- The Easter Fair! We are now accepting donations for the tombola, raffle and toy stall, and on **Friday 25/03/22** children may come in non-uniform in return for a donation to the bottle stall- anything in an unopened bottle is acceptable! The fair itself will run from **13:00 to 15:00 on Saturday 26/03/22** and this year will include a barbecue and bar outside- so fingers crossed for a sunny day!
 This half term also sees our joint fundraising/ learning log launch of the **Grow a £1** challenge- more information to follow but if you do a quick google you will find lots of inspiration. We really hope your family will take part and help us to raise a large total, to purchase items such as reading books, portable ovens for D&T lessons, gardening equipment, new panels for the gazebo...

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY OTLEY

As you know, we have been working with Wildlife Friendly Otley over the last year to improve our outdoor spaces and connect with nature more. They have a great website, including a section for children- have a look at what they are up to!



<https://www.wildlifefriendlyotley.org.uk/kids-area>

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



End of the financial year

As we approach the end of the financial year (31/03/22) we must ask parent / carers to ensure their accounts with school are up to date. This includes dinner money, music lessons and WOOSH fees.

As WOOSH fees are usually invoiced at the end of each half term, an interim bill will be sent w/c 21st March.

REMINDER – please telephone the school office or use the school answerphone to leave absence messages / changes to pick up or drop off arrangements or WOOSH bookings – DO NOT EMAIL changes as they may not be not seen timeously. Thanks

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Yesterday we had a visit from Strider, the mascot for Living Streets' Travel Tracker scheme which we participate in! The children were very excited to hear that we have been top of the leaderboard for all of Leeds recently! We aim for 90% of our journeys to be active, which includes park & stride (park at Waitrose and walk), walking, cycling and scooting. Children can earn a badge each month by choosing active travel at least once a week for the whole month. Here are the last 3 weeks' results by class:

Class	11/02/22	18/02/22	04/03/22
Nursery	71%	76%	80%
Reception	85%	84%	76%
Year 1	93%	93%	91%
Year 2	95%	94%	91%
Year 3	78%	75%	73%
Year 4	82%	79%	82%
Year 5	88%	87%	87%
Year 6	97%	92%	94%
Whole school	87%	86%	85%



Well done to everyone who is using Times Table Rockstars & Numbots regularly each week. They are important tools to help children develop automatic recall of essential number facts- and they are fun too. You can download the free app for each one and your child has a unique login which you have received via email earlier this academic year. If you've lost their login please check your inbox before contacting the school office. Ten minutes a day is expected as part of homework and can make a real difference. The following table shows the proportion of children engaging in each

Class	10.02.22	17.02.22	03.03.22	
Rec	36%	42%	17%	Num bots
Y1	48%	48%	21%	
Y2	70%	83%	63%	Times Table Rockstars
Y3	77%	63%	47%	
Y4	94%	100%	17%	
Y5	77%	80%	43%	
Y6	34%	28%	17%	

class over the last 3 weeks:

EASTER CONCERT



Parents of children who play a musical instrument in school- orchestra, recorder club, peripatetic music lessons- or sing in choir, are invited to our upcoming Easter Concert on Wednesday 30/03/22 at 14:00. Look out for a letter telling you more about ticket allocations in the coming week. With low case rates and 3 mechanical air purifiers in the hall, we feel that we are able to go ahead with a live audience for the first time since December 2019, which is an exciting prospect!