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### AUTUMN DAYS

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Parish Church last week for our Harvest Festival, and a special thank you to everyone who gave a food donation to the collection, which has now been donated to Otley Food Bank and PAFRAS. Thanks too to all the parents who have taken the time to tell me how much they enjoyed the service and the children's singing.



In the last week of half term we have our parent consultation evenings. Don't forget to sign up for appointments online in good time - especially important if you are trying to co-ordinate appointments for more than one child. If your child is in Nursery, Y2 or Y4, please make sure you select the correct day for the correct teacher: Mrs Brogden, Mrs Ireland

and Mrs Cable are all available on Tuesday 18/10/16 only. Mrs Norton, Ms Romaine and Mrs Hooper are all available on Thursday 20/10/16 only. If you accidentally book on the wrong day you will need to delete the incorrect booking and rebook, either on a different day or with a different member of staff. Thank you.

Finally, a reminder that I will be in China next week and so Mr Hackney is deputising in my absence, supported by Mrs Hattersley. Any safeguarding or child protection concerns in my absence should be raised with Mrs Colannino. Thank you- I am looking forward to getting back and telling the children all about the school that I visit and the things I learn!

**Helen Carpenter**  
Head Teacher

### HOMEWORK AND TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS

As a school we are having a big push on fundamental Maths and English skills, as we have identified that these are a key barrier to children's progress if they are not mastered. Homework will now involve concentrating primarily on developing quick recall of key number facts, regular reading practice and learning key spellings. The format of how homework will be set is going to change to encourage a 'little and often' approach. We hope this approach will easily enable children to continue their learning at home regularly whilst fitting in with extra-curricular activities.

To support the children with learning quick recall of times tables, we have subscribed to

[www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com). All the children from Year 1-6 have their own logins and they can use this at home to practise their tables. Children from Y2-6 will have homework set each week using this. There is lots of evidence to suggest that daily practice of basic skills has a massive impact, therefore the children will have daily times table practice in class to try to improve their times table knowledge and at the same time have lots of fun building up their rock status!



### HEALTH AND SAFETY

I am delighted that we have finally received the requisite part and our KS2 climbing frame is now fully operational again. Parents should also have noticed that an improved sign has gone up next to the frame, which reads as follows:

**This equipment is suitable for children aged 5-16 and conforms to EN1176 and EN1177. It is only supervised between 09:00 and 15:15.**

Parents, NOT school, are responsible for supervision of their children outside these hours and school does not accept liability for injury outside of the stated hours.

**Please report any defects immediately and do not allow children to use defective equipment.** Please take note of this disclaimer if you allow your child to use the climbing frame when staff are not supervising. Thank you.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find below some additions for your diary or calendar:



06/10/16 FOW meeting in the Fleece 19:30

w/b 17/10/16 Scholastic Book Fair

01/11/16 Y3/4 trip to Leeds City Museum

08/11/16 Y2 Class Assembly

18/11/16 FOW Sponsored Roller-Racing

15/11/16 Y4 Class Assembly

24/11/16 Y3 Class Assembly

26/01/17 Y6 Class Assembly

30/01/17 Y5 Class Assembly

09/02/17 Y1 Class Assembly

All class assemblies are at 09:05 and parents and carers are welcome to attend.

### A KIND ACT

Rev Buttanshaw's wife, Janet, contacted school last week to tell us about the kindness shown by Mikey and Sadie Lee recently, when a lady collapsed outside Burras Lane Scout Hut. They kindly gave up their coats to support the lady and keep her warm and comfortable until the emergency services arrived to look after her. Thank you to Janet for letting us know about this and well done to Mikey and Sadie for their Westgate Always reaction to a serious situation.

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS

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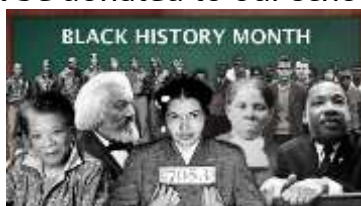
annual book fair, which as well as offering high quality books for sale for children, helps us to earn commission to provide books for school. The more we sell, the greater the percentage we receive. The fair will take place in the week before half term, after school in the School Hall. It will also be open during both consultation evenings. If you want to save a bit of money at the fair, you can go online and purchase a voucher to spend beforehand to get a bit more bang for your buck! Find out more here:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents?nt=t>

Children will also hear from Mr Hackney in assembly this week about a competition to win vouchers to spend at the fair!

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The week beginning the 10th October we will be celebrating Black History Month. We will have workshops in school over the fortnight, such as African drumming, dance and work on prejudice and discrimination. All the children will create a class page for the magazine with examples of their work and photos. Please look out for the magazine which will be sold in the playground for a minimum donation of £1 on Monday 17th October. They will also be on sale at parent consultation evenings. All money raised will be donated to our school charity BASIK (Build A School In Kenya).



### SCHOOL FOOD AMBASSADORS



We are pleased to announce that our new food ambassadors are: Y6 Maisy; Y5 Lola, Merle, Lucy and Hollie; Y4 Elliot and Elspeth; Y3 Florence and Matilda B. They will be part of our continuing work to improve school food, talking to children about what they like to eat and working with the school kitchen to continually improve school meals by reporting to the catering team on children's feedback, food waste, and so on. Already this term we have implemented a suggestion from last year's SFAs: purple pudding bands so that the school kitchen never runs out of 'dessert of the day'. This came from a meeting they had with the area catering manager for Catering Leeds!

### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

It was great to welcome new faces to our recent social event, where we shared some great ideas and had volunteers for different responsibilities. As a result of the evening, we are intending to offer a **Hallowe'en Disco** for children at school on **1<sup>st</sup> November**! Look out for more details coming soon. Also new for this year, we are hoping to have an evening of good food and drink for parents and carers at the soon to open **Stew and Oyster** in Otley, after Christmas. We hope this will prove a fun way to socialise and meet new people, or spend time with Westgate friends.



Also coming up next half term on Friday 18/11/16 is a fun new sponsored event: **Roller Racing**! Children will take part during the school day, cycling on rollers to see how fast they can go over a set distance. Our normal meeting takes place this Thursday, once again in the Fleece, at 19:30. New faces and old all welcome!

### FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



A reminder that some payments are due: School milk (£7 per term); School meals in KS2 (£2.30 per day/ £11.50 per week/ £75.90 till half term); Nursery flexi lunches (£4 per week); music tuition (£35 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.