



Volume 16, Edition 5, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

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### SLEEPY SUPERSTAR SHEPHERD COUNTS CHRISTMAS!

This week sees the start of Christmas Performance season. Starting on Thursday, over the course of 4 school days we are looking forward to welcoming friends and family to see our children shine in 6 performances of 3 nativity shows: *The Sleepy Shepherd* in Foundation Stage, *Christmas Counts* in KS1 and *Superstar* in KS2. I am very much looking forward to seeing each one: from the snippets I've seen in rehearsal, we are in for another year of fantastic acting and brilliant singing. Thank you to all the staff and children for their hard work in preparing- and for your support.

During the performances, we do ask that you do not take any photographs or footage of the show: any photographs you take at the beginning or end should not be shared on social media. As in previous years, you will be able to buy a **DVD of each production at a cost of £3 per disc**: order forms will be available at each show. Please note that late orders will not be able to be fulfilled, however.



When the holiday does eventually come, I hope that every family has a happy, fun and restful Christmas and New Year. Thank you for all your support this term and here's to a fantastic 2019 when it comes!

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,*

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER



School Christmas dinner day will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. It's a really special time, when all the staff provide table service for the children before joining them for a traditional roast dinner- and we welcome governors to join us too. As in previous years, children may wear a Christmas jumper for the day, for a donation to Martin House, our school charity.

Then on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> (the last day of term) we have our class Christmas parties (And if everyone is really good, we are hoping to have a visit from Santa too!). Children may come in their party clothes on this day. Rather than ask children to bring in food, we will instead ask for a donation of £1 per child towards party provisions. Y5 have already thought about this however and have voted to give Food Bank donations instead of party food. Thank you for your kindness, Y5!

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Every year, we are very touched by families' generosity at Christmas. It means a lot to all the staff that their hard work and care is recognised and appreciated and we are very grateful for the kind gifts we receive. We really don't expect expensive gifts, however, and a personal note or message is the most special thing of all. This year, following a suggestion by a parent, you might also like to consider a donation to Otley Food Bank instead of a gift to your child's class teacher. **They are in particular need of toiletries rather than food at the moment.** If you do want to do this, drop off a gift with your child's class teacher in the last week of term and we will pass any donations on to the Food Bank.



### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for **Easy Fundraising**. We are already raising money through this scheme so please remember us as you start any Christmas

shopping online- or book your summer holiday for 2019! We're about to pass the **£200** mark!

This term has been extremely successful so far in terms of fundraising: the Victorian Fayre stall, organised by Louise Shackleton, raised **£1076.37**; the sponsored Abbey Dash raised **£481.35**; Roller Racing, organised by Rob Wilks and Otley Cycle Club, raised **£1102.30**; and Film Night, organised by Hannah Morley, raised over **£100**. Thank you to everyone who has donated or volunteered their time to make these events so successful and enjoyable.

### PARKING ISSUES



Parking enforcement officers have been present in recent weeks and have issued a number of fixed penalty notices to vehicles that were parked or stationary in contravention of

the restrictions on Scarborough Road. This is therefore a polite reminder that it is an offence to be stationary in the zigzagged area between the hours stated on the enforcement signs. This includes: being stationary with your engine running; 'just dropping off'; stopping on the middle of the road in the zigzagged area; being stationary in the zigzagged area waiting for someone to move further down the road. The reason for the restrictions is simple: stopping in the zigzagged area reduces visibility for pedestrians and increases the chance of a child being hurt. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

### WESTGATE WINDFALL

November's winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup>: (£136) Katie Burnett**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: (£34) Debbie Shafto**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: (£17) Jo Holmes**

We currently have **68** 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.



### FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

About half of our families are now signed up to our electronic payment system- thank you! Please note that, if you are signed up, you will no longer receive texts about school meal balances, as you can log on and check your exact balance now through **Agora**.

### 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.

07/01/19 Training Day- School closed to pupils

08/01/19 School Opens

16-18/01/19 Y6 Herd Farm residential

05/02/19 Walk the Walls

05/02/19 Y5 Whitby meeting

15/02/19 Training Day/ Break Up

25/02/19 Back to school

26/02/19 Nursery Induction 15:45

25/02/19 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight

28/02/18 Governors Day in School

05/03/19 Consultation evening 15:30

07/03/19 Consultation evening 17:00

23/03/19 FOW Easter Fair

27/03/19 Easter Concert 14:00

29/03/19 Break up for Easter

15/04/19 Back to School