

Volume 12, Edition 6, 4th February 2015

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上海

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK!

This term brings some very exciting events. On 9th March we will be welcoming two primary mathematics teachers, Yuan Yueping (Helen) and Ji Changzhen (Jason), who will be teaching maths in Y3 and Y5. They will stay with us until 18th March. During this time, they will work with both the children's class teacher and other teachers, from Westgate and beyond, to share the approach to the teaching of mathematics in Shanghai. Key to the success of the

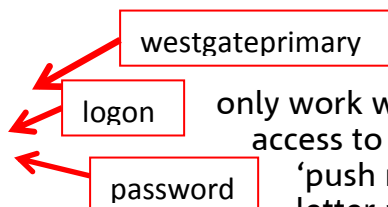
Shanghai system is the systematic way that teachers observe, evaluate and plan together. So, during their visit, children in those classes will be welcoming many teachers who will be observing the maths lessons taught and learning from this. Class teachers will also be released to work with our visitors in school time on evaluation, planning and same day intervention. The minister for Schools held a meeting for head teachers of schools in this national project last week in Westminster, which I attended. It was clear how much schools who welcomed teachers in Wave 1 last term have benefitted from the visit, so we are very excited about welcoming our teachers. I am sure you will all appreciate what a difficult thing it is they are doing, coming to England for a month in total, teaching in English, in a system very different to their own. Hopefully a Westgate welcome will help them quickly to feel at home with us. I

will be writing to the classes concerned with further details relevant to them soon.



Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

LEARNING PLATFORM



Please see diagram to the left for how to access the eSchools app on your Apple or Android phone. It will only work with a recognised parent logon. Make sure you allow it access to information on your phone and enable it to send you 'push notifications'- and you will never miss a text, email or letter again! Please note however that occasionally Android

users may experience difficulties depending on their version of Android, which can have quite a lot of variation depending on different manufacturers/ models. If you find this is an issue please contact eSchools support for help or just let Ms Carpenter know via the school office. Thank you ☺ There is also a YouTube video which gives you a tour of the learning platform if you are viewing it on the web and want a little guidance about what it can offer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqZ19cvtsLU>

FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS, CHILDREN AND eSAFETY



It has come to my attention that there are a number of children in KS2 using Facebook, both for social purposes and to sell items. It is important to note that

Facebook accounts **should not** be used by anyone under the age of 13. In addition, there are number of key eSafety messages which should be reinforced if you want to protect your child online. First and foremost, you should make it as difficult as possible for people to identify your child online. Things to think about include: sharing full name, details relating to your address, pictures where your child's school badge are clearly visible. Secondly, never add as friends people you do not know in real life. Worth noting is that the privacy setting 'Friends of friends' is not safe enough: change it to 'Friends only'. Finally- don't 'share' accounts. The video in the following link explains some of why these things can be dangerous. You may feel that this is over-stating the risk but to think 'it won't happen to me/ my child' is to be irresponsible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=599l1E-rWTU> or search **CEOP Jigsaw**.



BIG YELLOW FRIDAY

Some of you will know Henry Silverwood who attends Westgate. You may not know however, that Henry has a childhood liver condition which

means that, among other things, from time to time he has to have time in hospital. We are delighted therefore to be holding a fundraising day for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. **On Friday 6th March** we are asking the children to wear something yellow in a non-uniform day, for a **£1 contribution** to the charity. Mrs Silverwood will also be organising a bake sale after school: if you feel able to contribute a cake/ cakes, just bring your contribution into school on the day. We hope to raise a really good amount for this very worthwhile cause.



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



The much-anticipated **School Discos** were an unqualified success, with just over 200 children attending in total and a profit of **£203.08** on the night! Thanks to Laurel and

her team of volunteers for ensuring it went so well. Gail Brogden's **School Uniform Sale** was also very successful, its main aim being to help parents with the ongoing expense of school uniform for ever-growing offspring! If you find yourself in need of a particular item, you can always let us know between sales and we will check our stock for you.

Don't forget that the **Logo Competition** deadline is **Monday 9th February**- if your child wants to enter but hasn't yet, get those crayons out soon!

Next week, there will be a **Valentine's Cake Stall** straight after school on 12th February, in aid of **BLISS**.

After half term we will be getting ready for the **Easter Fair (28th March)**... do you have any donations for the Toy Sale or Tombola? If so, start putting them to one side. The **Toy Sale** will take place after school on **Friday 27th February**- so have a good clear-out over half term and bring your donations in to school during the first week back after the holiday!

Finally, the next Friends of Westgate meeting is on **Monday 23rd February at 19:30 in The Fleece**- all welcome!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

February's winners are:

1st: Alison Bingham (£96)

2nd: Emma Cochrane (£24)

3rd: Tina Minns (£12)

We currently have 48 members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please see Mrs Finlay 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.



STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Hooper will be returning to work full-time on 2nd March and will be teaching Reception. Mrs Ireland will continue with Reception until the end of the term, to facilitate a smooth transition, by handing over gradually while preparing to resume her class-share with Mrs Mullens in Y2. I am sure parents will join me in thanking all the part-time staff involved in covering the maternity leave in the past 12 months: by increasing their hours, Mrs Mullens, Mrs Ireland, Mrs Boyes and Mrs Eley have ensured we have not had to employ a temporary teacher to cover Mrs Hooper's duties while she has been busy as a new mum with baby Ben, thus ensuring the minimum disruption overall. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back and she will be in school each week in the run-up to her return.



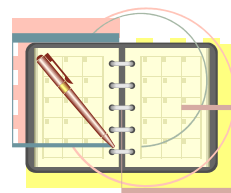
SCHOOL MEALS- HAVE YOUR SAY!

The first meeting of the School Meals Working Party was held last week and we want to know what you think! Specifically, we want to know what type of meals you feel are the most popular with children at school and what you would like to see more of/ new on the menu, and possibly also why some choices are less popular than others, if this is relevant. We want to hear from families of children who have school meals currently *and* those who bring packed lunches. **If you have a suggestion, please just send in a note in an envelope marked 'School Meal Suggestions' to the School Office, before half term.** It's really important to us that we make school meals consistently high quality, appealing to the children and also healthy so we really want to know what you think. School is working with the catering agency and their staff in the kitchen through the working party.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

All events at school are uploaded to the school website and learning platform: public events can be found on the website while personal/ group reminders are personalised on your child's calendar once you have logged on to the learning platform.



Please note the following additional dates for the rest of this term:

10/2/15 Taekwon-Do school assembly and Y2/3/5/6 taster sessions
27/02/15 Friends of Westgate Toy Sale
04/03/15 Chinese New Year school meal
05/03/15 Y2 Skipping Festival at Ralph Thoresby
06/03/15 Big Yellow Friday
12/03/15 Y1/2 visit Ilkley Toy Museum
31/03/15 2pm Easter Concert

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



A polite reminder that music fees are now due: Tuition is £30 per term. If you hire an instrument, this is £15 a term, except for cello which is £25 per term. Cheques should be made payable to Westgate Primary School and cash should be handed to the school office in a clearly-labelled envelope. Milk money is also now due: you will receive a text to inform you of any monies owing.



Bake for Bliss



We have chosen to raise money for **BLISS**! The money raised will make a real difference to the lives of special care babies and their families, so thank you in

advance for your support. For more details on Bliss and the 'Bake for Bliss' Campaign, please visit www.bliss.org.uk . Updates can be found on the FOW Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/648912888455239/>