

Volume 14, Edition 5, 11th January 2017

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HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK!

It's lovely to have everyone back at school, and to welcome new starters into Nursery this month, and Maya into Reception. Sadly at the end of last term, we said goodbye to Miss Taylor, who has moved on to Weetwood Primary School to a slightly different position. I would like to thank Mrs Pearson and Mrs Winterburn for temporarily increasing their hours to ensure that children continue to receive the support they need in Y1.

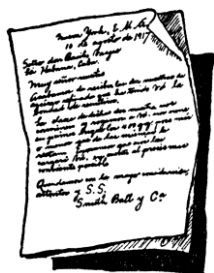
We've also temporarily welcomed back a former pupil, Clarissa Collins (from the class of 2005), who has kindly lent her artistic skills to give our Nurture Room a much-needed makeover. She has created a sunset effect on the three plastered walls and new built-in cupboards: you can check out the finished room on the school website in the News section if you would like to see her work. The children and staff love it and I am very grateful to Clarissa for giving up her time in this way.

We had a productive Family of Schools training day last Tuesday: it's always really good to have the opportunity to work alongside colleagues from primary schools in Otley, Pool and Bramhope. We had the chance to consider depth of learning across the curriculum and also to meet as subject leaders to share current successes and action points.

At the end of this newsletter is a copy of our Investors in Pupils re-accreditation letter, which I hope you find interesting to read. We are very proud of it!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



Last term I had a query about school communication from a parent, particularly about notification of school events. Just to remind/ clarify, the newsletter that you are reading right now is the main way you will be notified of what is happening in school, rather than receiving lots of separate letters. As a working parent myself, I understand how important advance notification is to arrange busy family lives, so we will always publish dates through the newsletter as far in advance as possible, and then follow up with reminders in subsequent newsletters. Please ensure you read and make note of these dates as soon as they are published. Where a ticket or a reply slip is required for an event, a letter will then come to you as an email *and* hard copy, much nearer the actual event. However for all communication where a reply slip is not required, you will only receive an email copy. This is because we have found that hard copies are too easily lost, whereas we can guarantee electronic copies of letters have made their way to you via your email inbox or, even better, the eSchools app on your smartphone or tablet.

Very occasionally human error means we miss a message we should have sent and I can only apologise for this and any inconvenience caused: thankfully however, these instances are few and far between. We are always looking to improve the efficiency of our communication and welcome feedback from parents on this.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find below some reminders for your new year diary or calendar:



26/01/17 Y6 Class Assembly
 30/01/17 Y5 Class Assembly
 07/02/17 Walk the Walls (Y1-Y6)
 09/02/17 Y1 Class Assembly
 10/02/17 Break Up
 20/02/17 Back to School
 21/02/17 Nursery Induction Meeting 15:45
 23/02/17 Governors Day in School
 28/02/17 Consultation evening 15:30
 02/03/17 Consultation evening 17:00
 14/03/17 Y5 Whitby meeting 18:00
 29/03/17 Easter Concert 14:00
 31/03/17 Training day- school closed to pupils/ Break up
 17/04/17 Bank Holiday
 18/04/17 Back to School
 26/04/17 Class Photos
 01/05/17 Bank Holiday- School closed
 08/05/17 w/b Y6 test week
 20/05/17 Otley Show
 24/05/17 Nursery (am/ Flexi1) Maypole 11:15
 25/05/17 Maypole 14:00
 26/05/17 Break up
 05/06/17 Back to School
 08-09/06/17 Y5 Whitby Residential
 12-14/06/17 Y6 Robinwood Residential
 17/06/17 Otley Carnival
 20/06/17 Reception Induction 14:00
 27/06/17 Nursery Induction Meeting 15:45
 03/07/17 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6
 04/07/17 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5
 05-07/07/17 Y6 Induction at PHGS
 06/07/17 Whole School Induction Morning
 12/07/17 Nursery Sports Day
 13/07/17 Sports Day
 20/07/17 Leavers' Play/ Party 18:30
 21/07/17 Talent show 14:00
 24/07/17 Last day for Nursery
 24/07/17 Y6 Leavers' Assembly 09:00
 25/07/17 Break up- no WOOSH after school
 26/07/17 Training Day- school closed to pupils

WESTGATE WINDFALL

December's winners are:

1st: Lauren Fisher (£118)
2nd: Sam Kelly (£29.50)
3rd: Dan & Anne Ridgway (£14.50)

We currently have 59 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.

30 HOURS FREE NURSERY EDUCATION

From September 2017, working parents of children of nursery age (from the term after their 3rd birthday) are entitled to claim up to 30 hours of free nursery education, rather than the 15 hours children are currently entitled to. We are therefore writing to parents to whom this applies on our Nursery list, to gauge interest in and demand for increased Nursery hours, including access to WOOSH before and after school. Please look out for this letter and respond promptly, so that we can see how viable the proposed changes are and plan any adjustments to staffing and resourcing that we will need to make. Thank you ☺



PEER MEDIATORS



On Monday, our new peer mediators led an assembly to introduce themselves to the school. Last half term, children and staff (Mrs Hattersley, Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Eley, Mrs Simpson, Miss Ingle and Mrs Lester) received training so that the children could be supported to become mediators to help children resolve small issues and conflicts themselves without having recourse to an adult straight away. In so doing we intend to support the development of children's own ability to understand each other's point of view and cope with minor disagreements that naturally occur in life. Our mediators have a rota and will be available to children at break times. In Y4-6 they are: Robin, Lucy, Eliza, Demi, Luke A, Raphie, Ruby H, Ruby F, Lizzie, Tyler, Edward, Hollie C, Lola, Johnny, Jude, Eve, Stanley H, Tyler H, Hollie O and Luke E.

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/ £64.40 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.