



Volume 13, Edition 11, 18th May 2016

[www.westgateprimary.co.uk](http://www.westgateprimary.co.uk)

[admin@westgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@westgateprimary.co.uk)



## FAREWELL

I am sad to announce that at the end of this year we will be saying goodbye to two valued colleagues.

Pam Smith has been our Inclusion Officer since the post was created and has worked here since 2002, originally as a teaching assistant before taking on the role she now has in school. In my first year here as deputy head teacher she was my teaching assistant in Year 6 and it has been a pleasure to work with her ever since. Sadly for us, the time has come for Pam to retire- hard to believe I know! I know that many, many children and their

families have benefited from Mrs Smith's kindness, wisdom and expert care and she will be sorely missed. However, like Mrs Bleasdale, we are fully expecting to see her back here on grandma duty in due course when her grandson Joseph is old enough to start nursery.

Sharon Hall was one of the first appointments I made on being appointed head teacher and she has worked with us since 2011. While we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Hall at the end of the year, who has been a brilliant TA supporting lots of children in school, we are also very happy for her as she leaves us to embark upon her PGCE to become a primary school teacher.

In the meantime however, we are going to enjoy having both of them with us at Westgate until the end of this term. We are currently recruiting for their successors and I will let you know in due course when we have made the appointments.

**Helen Carpenter**  
**Head Teacher**

## ... AND BREATHE!

Last week saw our year 6 pupils sit the national tests in English and mathematics, along with children across the country. As parents, you cannot have failed to see the coverage of this year's tests on TV, in the newspapers and across social media platforms. We have done our very best to keep the tests in perspective and to help our children not to feel stressed but to be as confident as they can be.

Nerves before any test are normal but it was wonderful to see how well the class approached the whole experience. In the face of significantly different content and expectations, the children brought a positive attitude and a team spirit that helped them all to try their best, without tears or tummy aches. I am enormously proud of them all for their brilliant attitude to what is only one small part of what makes them a successful learner, and grateful to the staff, especially Mr Hackney and Mrs Hooper, who have managed the whole experience with the children's best interests at heart.

In Year 2, as part of the annual process of benchmarking that the DfE undertakes to ensure consistency in test standards, we were selected to administer early the reading test that all children must take. Ms Romaine administered them in the first week after Easter, by and large without children even realising they had even taken a test. Some mathematics tests will follow later this month but again, administered in the same low-key and positive way, we fully expect that they will have no adverse impact on our children. Thanks also therefore to Ms Romaine and Mrs Ireland and the Y2 team for managing this statutory process with the minimum of fuss for the children.

Again, you may well have seen in the media the various difficulties with primary assessment nationally this year, from late provision of exemplification materials to online test leaks. In the meantime, we will carry on with the business of teaching children, helping them to do their best, to achieve their potential, to enjoy learning and to grow up to be Westgate Always Children: children who work hard, join in, are proud of their different talents and achievements, are kind and polite and who do the right thing.



### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

The Friends of Westgate inaugural Film



**Night** was a great success, with just over 100 children attending and raising £231.11 in the process! Feedback was very positive so it looks like it will be

become the new regular fixture in the Friends of Westgate calendar. Big thanks to Hannah Morley, the mastermind to the event. You will have received last week a letter inviting you to be part of our Carnival entry this year- ***In a Country Garden***. Every year we are the biggest turn out of any school by a long way, and it's a fun afternoon, so we hope this year will see lots and lots of Westgate children and families join in. Thanks to Steph Woods and her merry band of Carnival crafters for all their hard work towards another successful year. Finally, after half term there will be another **Ragbag** collection for all your unwanted clothing so if the sunshine is making you have a wardrobe clearout, please put unwanted items aside ready for the next collection on **Tuesday 07/06/16**. Thank you! Finally, our next meeting is on **Tuesday 12/07/16 at 19:30** in the Fleece - all welcome!

### GROWTH MINDSETS- HELP YOUR CHILD TO GET SMARTER AND FEEL CONFIDENT



As a school, we have done lots of development work over the last twelve months on how to help children become better at learning- no matter what their initial underlying ability. You may have heard your child talk about 'Learning Muscles',

for example. You may also wonder what on earth we are going on about! There is a really handy, short guide for parents available online about ***Growth Mindsets*** which you may find very useful. The aim is to help children understand that effort and learning from mistakes and difficulty are what makes them truly successful, instead of thinking that their success is purely determined by underlying ability or innate talent. Everyone can become smarter or more successful and as adults we can help children to see this by changing small things that we do and say. Here is the link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-try-new-things>

### WESTGATE WINDFALL

May's winners are:

1<sup>st</sup>: C Morris & L Atkin (£106)

2<sup>nd</sup>: S Kelly (£26.50)

3<sup>rd</sup>: G Mullens (£13.25)

We currently have 53

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.



### FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



Summer term music fees are now overdue: £30 per term for tuition and £15 for instrument hire (£25 for cello hire). Cheques should be made payable to Westgate Primary School. Flexi lunches are also now payable (£16.50) - cheques payable to Leeds City Council.

### INCREASE IN CHARGES NEXT YEAR



From September 2016, we will be decreasing the amount by which we subsidise Nursery flexi lunch times, meaning that the charge for an additional 40 minutes of care including a hot meal will be **£2 per day** from the start of the academic year. I am sure you will agree that this still represents very good value for money for families.

Peripatetic music lessons will also rise to **£35 per term**. Instrument hire remains unchanged, however. Children eligible for free school meals can however receive a bursary from Leeds Music Education Partnership for up to £100 per year to cover most of this cost.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find below a summary of term dates and training days for the next two academic years, to enable you to book holidays.

#### 2016-2017

05-06/09/16 Training Days

07/09/16 Back to School

17/10/16 Early Years cluster training day:

***school closed to Nursery and Reception ONLY***

21/10/16 Break up for half term

31/10/16 Back to School

16/12/16 Break up for Christmas

03/01/17 Training Day

04/01/17 Back to School

10/02/17 Break up for half term

20/02/17 Back to School

30/03/17 Break up for Easter

31/03/17 Training Day

18/04/17 Back to School

01/05/17 May Bank Holiday

26/05/17 Break up for half term

05/06/17 Back to School

25/07/17 Break up for Summer

26/07/17 Training Day

#### 2017-2018

04-05/09/17 Training Days

06/09/17 Back to School

20/10/17 Break up for half term

30/10/17 Back to School

15/12/17 Break up for Christmas

02/01/18 Training Day

03/01/18 Back to School

08/02/18 Break up for half term

09/02/18 Training Day

19/02/18 Back to School

29/03/18 Break up for Easter

16/04/18 Back to School

07/05/18 May Bank Holiday

25/05/18 Break up for half term

04/06/18 Back to School

24/07/18 Break up for Summer

25/07/18 Training Day

Also, please note that earlier in the year we published a change to the dates for Sports Day due to a clash with Prince Henry's Induction Days. Sports Day for Reception to Y6 is **Thursday 14/07/16**. Nursery Sports Day is the day before, **Wednesday 13/07/16**.

### PARKING



Please can I ask all parents who park their cars when dropping off or collecting their children to take care to park considerately?

We have heard from a local resident whose drive has been blocked by parents parking on Scarborough Road. Please ensure that, by avoiding the zigzags, you aren't obstructing somebody else's right of way. Thank you.

### SCHOOL SAVINGS CLUB



Don't forget to hand your savings book in on Tuesday mornings to make a regular savings deposit for your child! Your child can earn sticker rewards based on the number of deposits they

make- rather than how much money they deposit. This encourages regular saving habits. We have just heard that all children in Y3 (this term and in the Autumn term) with an account will be receiving a £10 credit to their balance, which is a great incentive to open an account. More details will follow shortly but in the meantime you can pick up an application form at the school office if your child wishes to open an account. Thanks to Mrs Mellor from Friends of Westgate, who runs our School Savings Club on behalf of Leeds City Credit Union.