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### CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

This half term is turning into a very musical one. Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming **PHGS' Big Band** to our assembly. Children from Reception upwards were treated to a range of standards, and see some fantastic musicianship, including 5 former Westgate pupils as band members. This week, we are welcoming members of **Otley Chamber Orchestra** once again to play for the school, and next week we have a performance from **Otley Handbell Ringers!** As a Music Champion School, we are trying hard to give children more opportunities to see and hear live musicians from all sorts of backgrounds and traditions.



Of course, as well as enjoying watching live music, this half term will also see the whole school have opportunities to be part of a musical performance. Every class will be part of a Christmas Production: Foundation Stage children are already busy practising 'Mary's Knitting', while KS1 are working on 'Prickly Hay' and KS2 the puntastic 'Stable Manners'. That's not to mention Choir's Christmas performances - at the Victorian Fayre, at the Christmas Tree Festival, at the Rotary Club, at Gordon Larking Court... and 8 children will also be singing in the LSMA Christmas Concert at Leeds Town Hall. Tickets for all performances go on sale this week: *please read the letter carefully as we have to limit tickets for each family to ensure no family will be disappointed.*

Before the performances however, we have an enormous amount to fit in. On Friday, School Council organised a Pyjama day which raised **£303.20** for **BBC Children in Need**. Well done everybody! This week we have a non-uniform day on Thursday to support FOW (more details below) and on Friday is our annual Sponsored Roller-Racing event. Thanks as ever to Otley Cycle Club for supporting us in this way.

Helen Carpenter  
Head teacher

### POLLING STATION



Thank you to every family who has contacted local elected members to make their views known about this ongoing issue for our school. I am hopeful there may be some movement on this - not in time for this academic year, but possibly for the future. If you have not yet

done so, please consider adding your voice to our cause. I am really grateful to the councillors for their time given to anything they can do to find an **alternative polling place for the future in our ward**. Local councillors' contact details are as follows, and please note that Cllr Campbell sits on the Electoral Working Group at Leeds City Council, which is in charge of designating polling stations:

#### Councillor Colin Campbell

Phone: 07973 521547  
Email: [colin.campbell@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:colin.campbell@leeds.gov.uk)  
Business phone: 0113 378 8581

#### Councillor Ryk Downes

Correspondence Address: Saltfleet House, Old Pool Bank, Otley, LS21 3BZ  
Business phone: 0113 378 8581  
Mobile: 07950 008005  
Email: [ryk.downes@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ryk.downes@leeds.gov.uk)

#### Councillor Sandy Lay

Correspondence Address: Group Support Office, 3rd Floor East, Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR  
Phone: 0113 378 8581  
Email: [sandy.lay@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.lay@leeds.gov.uk)

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the remaining dates we have planned for this term. They are also to be found on the calendar when you log on to the VLE. Please check in case there are any changes from provisional dates given out at the end of the last academic year... and make sure you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

**18/11/19 Drop off for Rag Bag Collection**  
**19/11/19 Rag Bag donations collected at 09:00**  
19/11/19 Nursery Induction 15:45  
**21/11/19 FOW non-uniform day for Chocolate Tombola**  
**21/11/19 Rearranged Y5 Consultation Evening**  
22/11/19 FOW Sponsored Roller Racing Rec - Y6  
**22/11/19 Mrs Eley's Parent Drop-In 09:00 - 10:00**  
**26/11/19 Rearranged Y5 Consultation Evening**  
27/11/19 FOW Xmas Pottery Workshop  
01/12/19 Otley Victorian Fayre  
01/12/19 Choir sing at Victorian Fayre 12:45  
03/12/19 FOW Xmas Pottery Workshop  
03/12/19 LSMA Xmas concert  
04/12/19 FOW Xmas Pottery Workshop  
05/12/19 FOW Film Night  
**06/11/19 Mrs Eley's Parent Drop-In 09:00 - 10:00**  
09-15/12/19 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week  
**10/12/19 FS Xmas performance 11:15/ 14:00**  
**12/12/19 GENERAL ELECTION- SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**  
13/12/19 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45  
13/12/19 Xmas Tree choir concert 20:00  
16/12/19 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00  
**16/12/19 KS2 Xmas performance 19:00**  
17/12/19 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00  
18/12/19 School Xmas Dinner  
**20/12/19 Mrs Eley's Parent Drop-In 09:00- 10:00**  
20/12/19 Xmas Parties  
20/12/19 Break Up  
06/01/20 Training Day- School closed to pupils  
07/01/20 Back to School  
**30/01/20 SCHOOL WILL NOW BE OPEN ON THIS DAY as polling has been moved to the half term holiday**  
**Green** events are changed or new since last time.  
**Blue** events involve Nursery- if your child does not normally attend on that day, please let Miss Robinson know if your child will attend for this event.

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



The children have all been busy designing their **Christmas cards** - look out for a letter in the next few weeks which will allow you to order packs of your child(ren)'s design(s)! They are always a really special token to give to friends and families at this time of year. The **Book People Fair** in the last week of last half term earned **£157.25** commission which Mr Hackney has already been busy spending on books for school! Thank you to Astrid Copeland for organising this. Our recent **Christmas Jumper Sale** raised **£52.80** and if you missed the sale but still want to snap up a bargain, you can look through the stock and pay at the School Office. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with **Sponsored Roller Racing** on Friday, and those of you who have helped children to find sponsors. We are hoping that being signed up for GiftAid will help us to raise a super total again this year. Lots of children have signed up for the **Christmas Pottery Workshops** - thank you to Zoe Hollis for organising this and lending her time and skill to these events. We are still looking for a few volunteers for our **Victorian Fayre** stall - see our recent letter for more information. We are continuing to raise money to help school to **replace pupil laptops** this year - so every bit of help towards this is hugely appreciated!

## FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



Thank you to everyone for the way you have switched over to SIMS. Pay this term. It has made a big difference to the way we process payments and to the security of your/school's money. Thank you for bearing with us as the odd small glitch has arisen - inevitable with any new IT-based system, we know. Settlement of outstanding balances for WOOSH, Nursery hours, school lunches or music fees would be appreciated by the end of the term.

*Thank you ☺*

## WESTGATE WINDFALL

October's winners were:

1<sup>st</sup>: Mr & Mrs Bleasdale (£142)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Danielle Tweedie (35.50)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Linda Rich (£17.75)

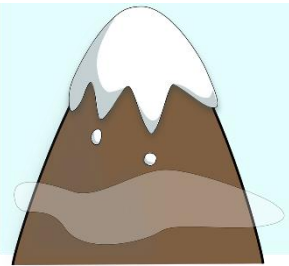


As of November we have 71 members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please see Mrs Bleasdale in the office for application details. You can pay by standing order or cash/cheque in advance. All proceeds go to Westgate School Fund, which is used to purchase resources, to fund visitors to school and to subsidise trips for all pupils. This term, School Fund has paid for trips to the Synagogue and Otley Science Fair, subsidised a trip to Tropical World, and will be paying for resource stations in the EYFS outdoor area and costumes for Christmas shows, so your contributions do make a real difference to your child's school experience at Westgate.

## CHARITY CLIMB!

*From Ross in Y5:*

I am planning to climb to Everest Base Camp in March 2020 with my parents. The trek will take 2 weeks and reach



an altitude of 5380m. I have been training hard in all my holidays for 2 years! I have decided to use the opportunity to raise money for **BBC Children in Need** and have set myself a target of £1000. If anyone feels able to help me reach that total, it would be massively appreciated; I have set up my own [JustGiving page](#). The minimum donation at JustGiving is £10: If anyone just wants to give 50p or £1, or anything less than £10, they can give that to me or my parents at school; we can then donate it via JustGiving.

Thanks so much for your support.

*Ross Carson*



If you'd like to support the work of Friends of Westgate without any cost to you, **Easy Fundraising** could be the answer! By signing up and using the app and/or using the web browser reminder, you can get a wide range of retailers and service providers to donate to FOW when you shop online - money that comes from them, not you! **We are now very close to £500!** We are contributing to capital projects such as the redevelopment of the Foundation Stage outdoor area and the installation of cycle shelters this term.

Use this link to sign up and earn donation for FOW:

<http://efraising.org/53kkJyzBvi>

## ABBEY DASH

Our intrepid team of children and parents competed in the recent Abbey Dash. I'm told it was a very enjoyable morning's run and it is fantastic to have had such a strong turnout for Westgate. The total raised is **between £600 and £650**, which will be split between FOW and Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice. Thank you so much to Deb Lee, Zoe Hollis and all the families who took part - and to those of you who have kindly sponsored our runners. Here they all are!

