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

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### WELCOME BACK, THANK YOU AND WELL DONE

It's been so lovely to have school full of happy children again, after our extended closure to the vast majority of pupils. I have loved welcoming everyone back, and welcoming our new Reception and Nursery children to Westgate for the first time, along with Betty, Calder and Evan in Y1 and Harrison and Phoebe in Y2 and Y3. The children have done exceptionally well, working hard to listen and learn about new routines, and quickly adapting to the many changes to our school day.

I'd like to say thank you and well done to all our families for:

- Adapting to the start and end of day times and routines;
- Respecting the School Streets initiative on Scarborough Road;
- Ensuring your children have the correct equipment and clothing on the correct day;
- Engaging with new systems, such as online dinner ordering and advance WOOSH bookings.

Like school staff, you've had to take on an enormous amount of change, and do familiar things in a completely new way. Your support and commitment is very much appreciated and makes a big difference to how school can run.

The biggest challenge we are all facing at the moment is managing the very common symptoms of COVID-19 and the wait time getting a test and then getting the results. As I write this, we have yet to have a positive case of COVID-19 at school, but I am very aware that it is only a matter of time before we have our first case. We are doing everything we can to minimise the chance of this happening. If and when we do have a pupil or staff member test positive, our actions will be guided by the dedicated DfE helpline. If your child's bubble has to collapse due to a positive test result, you will be informed as soon as possible and remote learning will be set to be completed at home while the class bubble is at home. We are currently finalising our plans for how this will work and will share them with all families as soon as they are completed.

Thank you for your support and patience at this very challenging time for all of us. Working together, staying calm, focusing on what we need to do, and adhering to government restrictions at all times, in and out of school, is how we will get through this and limit the impact on our children as much as possible. I am very proud to be part of such a strong school community and feel very lucky to be part of Team Westgate.

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### CONTACTING SCHOOL, REPORTING ABSENCES, ORDERING & REPORTING TEST RESULTS

- To report any school absence: Call 01943 462349 and leave a message (option 1). Do not email about absences as these messages may not be picked up in time.
- To order a COVID-19 test: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call 119 if you have no internet access. If you are unable to access a test, call school on 01943 462349.
- To report a COVID-19 test result in school hours (08:45- 16:00): Call 01943 462349.
- To report a COVID-19 test result out of school hours: Call or text 07891 279271, including child's name. You may be asked to provide a copy of your test result.

Thank you

### PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We were very sad to say farewell to James Gould as a parent governor last term. James has been a much-valued governor for 3 years and we are now seeking nominations for his replacement. A separate letter is coming home with this letter, setting out in more detail what being a governor entails. We are looking for someone who can share their skills to support and challenge our school, as we continue to try to fulfil our mission statement, **'Striving for excellence, caring for children'**. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have questions about the role. Alternatively, current governors, who are also parents at Westgate, that you can talk to are: Laura Boddy, Sally Clough, Neil Richardson, Andrew Ross, and Anne Hodgson, child minder, is also a governor.



*Thank you ☺*

### SAFETY AT THE START & END OF THE DAY



Thank you to everyone for how you have adapted to the new arrangements at the start and end of the day. As a reminder:

- Aim to arrive 'just on time' so that we can avoid crowds of people, particularly in Long Row (Y1, Y2, Y5) and on Springfield Place (Nursery, Reception)
- Try to remain socially distanced while waiting
- Avoid standing near a main road if possible.

We've noticed some congestion on Bradford Road/Piper Lane for Nursery & Reception: to try to address this, parents should stand close to the advertising boards rather than right next to the road, or alternatively in the ginnel that leads down to Ilkley Road.

*Thank you*

### SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS



We continue to use electronic means as our main method of communication. It is therefore essential that parents check emails regularly: we can ensure that letters are emailed to you but we can't make you read them! If you have the eSchools app on your smartphone, all letters home will be kept in there and you will never lose one again. Letters which require a response will include a hyperlink to complete an online form, rather than requiring a return slip. Texts are sent to the first named contact *only*, except in the case of separated parents. Again, if you have the eSchools app on your smartphone, instead of receiving texts as SMS messages, you will receive them as a push notification in the app. Finally, I will endeavour to include all the information you need in newsletters, rather than in lots of separate letters. Please read them and make note of information/dates relevant to you.

*Thank you ☺*

### RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY AT WESTGATE

Just a reminder that you can continue to recycle

- printer cartridges (at the office)
- batteries (via classrooms/ The Big Battery Hunt boxes)
- clothes/ textiles (termly FOW Ragbag)

at Westgate, and help us raise money and win prizes for school at the same time. Try asking friends & neighbours, or at work, to boost our collections!

In school, we recycle as much of our paper,

card, metal, glass and plastic as possible, as well as our food waste. Help us to reduce plastic use by trying to eliminate single use plastic from lunchboxes (cling film, plastic food bags) wherever you can. Thank you! We've also replaced taps and toilet paper dispensers to reduce wastage further. Thank you for your support!



*Eco Team*

## HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME AND ATTENDANCE

A reminder for parents thinking ahead already to family holidays in the coming year, that holidays taken in term time are not usually authorised and parents taking children on holiday in school time risk a fine, in line with government and local policy. In addition, where a child has been reported as absent due to illness and we have good reason to suspect that in fact, he/she was on holiday, parents will be asked to provide proof that he/she was in fact poorly. Fines are issued on a 'per parent, per child' basis.



When requesting time off from school for any reason, parents must fill in an absence request form (available from the school office) and this should be done as far in advance as possible. It must be done via the school office rather than the class teacher, even if it is 'just' a request to leave before the end of the school day. Please also note that children's attendance is calculated by our information management system on their presence at registration. Absences for any reason other than an approved school activity that mean a child misses registration (morning or afternoon) will affect their overall attendance record. This is standard procedure for schools.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for this academic year. 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!

Some events that we had booked are cancelled at the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are currently working on how we can manage parents evening remotely, so would advise you to book as normal for now. Other parent meetings, such as induction and information meetings, will take place online.

28/09/20 Booking for Consultation Evening opens at

16:00

28/09/20 Y6 Bikeability all week

28/09-02/10/20 National Bike to School Week

06/10/20 Nasal Flu Vaccination – Rec to Y6

14/10/20 Rec Curriculum evening 19:00

**12/10/20 Individual School Photos**

13/10/20 FOW meeting 19:30 (Zoom)

20/10/20 Consultation Evening 17:00

22/10/20 Consultation Evening 15:45

23/10/20 Break up for half term

02/11/20 Back to school

13/11/20 Children in Need day

16/11/20 w/b Anti-Bullying Week

17/11/20 Nursery Induction mtg 15:45

20/11/20 Takeover Day

~~06/12/20 Otley Victorian Fayre~~

07-13/12/20 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week

~~08/12/20 LSMA Xmas concert~~

**09/12/20 FS Xmas performance 14:00**

~~10/12/20 KS2 Xmas performance 19:00~~

**11/12/20 FS Xmas performance 11:15**

~~11/12/20 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45~~

~~14/12/20 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00~~

~~15/12/20 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00~~

16/12/20 School Xmas Dinner

18/12/20 Xmas Parties

18/12/20 Break up for Xmas

04/01/21 Back to school

12/01/21 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30

18/01/21 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30

08/02/21 Booking for Consultation Evening opens at 16:00

09/02/21 Safer Internet Day

12/02/21 Break Up for half term

**22/02/21 Training Day – School closed to all pupils**

23/02/21 Back to school

22/02- 05/03/21 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight

25/02/21 Nursery Induction mtg 15:45

04/03/21 World Book Day

09/03/21 Consultation Evening 15:45

11/03/21 Consultation Evening 17:00

27/03/21 FOW Easter Fair

31/03/21 Easter Concert 14:00

01/04/21 Break up for Easter

02/04/21 Bank Holiday

19/04/21 Back to School

**29/04/21 Class Photo's (whole school)**

03/05/21 Bank Holiday- School closed

10/05/21 w/b Y6 test week

22/05/21 Otley Show

**27/05/21 Maypole 09:15**

28/05/21 Break Up for half term

07/06/21 Back to school

08-09/06/21 Y5 Whitby residential

15/06/21 Reception Induction mtg 19:00

16-18/06/21 Y6 Herd Farm residential

19/06/21 Otley Carnival

22/06/21 Nursery Induction mtg 15:45

28/06/21 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

29/06/21 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

20/07/21 Talent show 13:45

21/07/21 Leavers' Play/ Party 19:00

23/07/21 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

23/07/21 Break up

26/07/21 Training Day- school closed to pupils

27/07/21 Training Day- school closed to pupils

**If your child does not normally attend Nursery when**

a blue event is taking place, you are welcome to bring them along. Further details will be available from Miss Robinson.



### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

Fundraising and social events are going to be more challenging this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but Friends of Westgate remain undaunted! In our meeting last week we discussed some great ideas for events that we can still run safely, more information on which will come out shortly. In the meantime, you can still help us raise money to help school, just through any shopping online you do. There are 3 ways you can raise money at no cost to yourself when you shop online. Firstly, Easy Fundraising- see the separate article below about this. Secondly, [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=AFF_Card) – a way to get Amazon to donate 0.5% of everything you spend to Friends of Westgate. They are both really easy to do, on a PC and on a smartphone, and there really is no cost to you. Lastly, if you are buying name labels, you can raise commission for school by purchasing them from <https://www.easy2name.com/> and selecting Westgate Primary School when prompted.

After the success of our remote school uniform sale (which remains open for any items you need), we will be running a Christmas Jumper sale in the same way, so put any outgrown festive knitwear to one side and look out for more information to follow.

Over the summer, we were very proud to have contributed £10,000 to the EYFS playground refurbishment. We are starting the year off with a donation to provide additional resources for the Y1 shared area, and another to replenish some classroom reading materials. Our next fundraising goal is to help school to replace pupil laptops.

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill some key posts, and always welcome new supporters: our next meeting is on **Tuesday 13/10/20 at 19:30 via Zoom**. Contact [v.fuller@westgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:v.fuller@westgateprimary.co.uk) for more details.



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! So far we have raised **almost £700**. Our next big project is to support the school to update pupil laptops, and continue to replenish classroom reading materials. **Use this link to sign up and earn donations for FOW:**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofwestgate/?invite=4OK2Z3&referral-campaign=s2s>

### WESTGATE WINDFALL

July's winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: K Jacobs (£142)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: M Simpson (£35.50)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: S&C Cockerham (£17.75)

August's winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: L Rich (£136)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: R&S Drake (£34)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: R McLernon (£17)



As of August we 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. **Average monthly prizes last academic year were £142.17, £35.54 and £17.77!** This summer, School Fund has contributed £5000, almost a quarter of the cost of the EYFS playground refurbishment. The project would not have been possible without the contribution that Westgate Windfall makes.



## WOOSH



Just a reminder that Westgate Out of School Hours (WOOSH) provision is available to children in

Nursery to Y6, from 07:45 to 08:50 in the morning and from 15:15 to 18:00 in the afternoon. Charges are £3.00 for a morning session, and £8.50 after school, or £6.50 for further siblings. It may also be counted as part of a child's free 30 hour Nursery entitlement, if you wish. **Both sessions must be booked online a week in advance: Please note we are no longer able to accept ad hoc bookings. Bookings that are cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice will be chargeable.** Please complete the weekly form that comes via email each Tuesday if you want to make a new booking for WOOSH.



## FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

A reminder that some payments will soon be due: School meals in Nursery & KS2 (£2.40 per day/£12 per week for KS2, or £2.05 per day for Nursery); music tuition (£135 per annum or £45 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. We are a cashless school: payments can only be made electronically via SIMS Pay. Ask us if you need support in setting up your account.

Capita have rectified the dinner money glitch, so all dinner money balances seen on SIMS Pay are now correct. If you have any queries, please contact the office.

## SCHOOL TRAVEL



We are delighted that, with financial help from Otley Town Council, Friends of Westgate and Otley Lions, we have been able to install covered cycle & scooter shelters at the front of school, and a scooter and cycle rack for Nursery and Reception inside the black gate. We now have capacity for over 20 cycles and 60 scooters across school. This week, we have restarted the [Travel Tracker](#). Each morning, children complete a quick online survey in class to record their journey to school. They can earn a badge for every month where they walk, scooter, cycle or 'park & stride' at least once a week. The closure of Scarborough Road at the beginning and end of the school day, through the School Streets initiative should make it easier and safer than ever to choose a more sustainable school journey. Coming up, it is national [Bike to School Week](#) beginning on 28/09/20. We would like as many families as possible to ditch the car for the week and walk, scoot or cycle to and from school. Good luck and have fun!

If you are unsure of the safest route for you to travel to school, please get in touch or check on our website, as there are many safe ways to get to school while being active and improving our local environment and air quality.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The school Website now has an extra tab with general information and correspondence for parents relating to COVID-19. The Website can be found via the following link:

<https://www.westgateprimary.co.uk/website/home>

We have attached to this Newsletter a copy of the Quick guide for Parents and Carers about actions during COVID-19 restrictions