

Volume 17, Edition 7, 9th February 2021
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NEARLY THERE...

I am certain that all of our families have never felt more ready for a half term break than you do right now. While you may be feeling far from superhuman at the moment, it's important that all our families take a moment to feel proud of what you have managed this half term- surviving thus far being chief amongst your achievements. I know that everyone, families and staff alike, are really hoping that March will bring a return to school for more children, though as yet we have no idea what form the return will take, nor confirmation of the exact date.

In learning packs that have recently gone out or that will be going out soon, Mrs Eley has provided some hard copies of wellbeing resources for use with your children, which she wrote to families about in recent weeks. We hope that these will support you to manage the feeling and emotions that we are all experiencing at the moment, especially children.

I know that we originally asked families to contact teachers every day to give a short summary of their children's learning: it's apparent that this is difficult for many families, so please adjust this to suit your circumstances: once or twice a week may work better for you and that is fine from teachers' point of view too.

You will have received a letter about [booking for consultation evening](#) at the end of last week: please make sure you sign up for your 10 minute appointment for each child.

Finally, the first Monday after the half term holiday is a whole school training day. This means that there will be no remote learning set on this day and no class Teams meetings. School will also be closed to Nursery and to keyworker and vulnerable pupils on this day.

The whole staff will be participating in Good Autism Practice (level 2) training, which could not be delivered last year. This training is a refresher for many of our staff. We have children with pragmatics difficulties and/ or a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder all the way through school and we are extremely proud of the quality of support they receive and how inclusive our school is for all learners. This long-planned training is part of our ongoing commitment to this.

Wishing everyone a restful half term next week,


Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

Anything in a red box in this newsletter may require action on your part. Thank you 😊

150th SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY



In 1871, Westgate was built as a mill school, to provide part-time education to children who worked at Otley Mills at the end of the road. The original school was what is now our KS1/ EYFS building, with what is now the KS2 building following just after the turn of the century, forming a completely separate school until the middle of the 20th century. In its time, Westgate has been through many incarnations as a mill school, a local board school, an infant school and a junior school, a first school and a primary school. We are determined to celebrate this key milestone for our school community, particularly later in the year when we hope COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted. We would like to include former pupils and members of staff in our celebrations. If you or someone you know has a memory of school days at Westgate that you would like to share, you can send it to us by emailing 150@westgateprimary.co.uk. Perhaps you have a fond memory of a particular teacher or event, lessons, school dinners, carnival, friendships, school productions, special visitors... reminiscences and photographs are all welcome!

LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING FOR SCHOOL STAFF



All staff working in school have been offered the opportunity to take part in LFD testing. We will continue to notify families of any positive results: LFD tests that return a positive result (or a double void result) are followed up by a full PCR test, which has a higher degree of accuracy. A positive LFD test result will result in close contacts having to self-isolate. If the PCR test subsequently returns a negative result, close contacts can cease self-isolation immediately.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder dates for the next two months. **At the moment, many of our larger events are in question, so dates after**

this are provisional, subject to the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

08/02/21 Booking for Consultation Evening opens at 16:00
09/02/21 Safer Internet Day
09/02/21 FOW meeting 19:30 via Zoom
12/02/21 Break Up- **NB school is not open for keyworker care over half term**
22/02/21 Training Day (Good Autism Practice L2)- school closed **including to keyworker & vulnerable pupils**
23/02/21 Back to School
22/02- 05/03/21 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight
04/03/21 Nursery Induction mtg 20:00 via Zoom
09/03/21 Consultation Evening 15:45
11/03/21 Consultation Evening 17:00
04/03/21 World Book Day
01/04/21 Break up for Easter
02/04/21 Bank Holiday
19/04/21 Back to School
03/05/21 Bank Holiday

DEVICES & BROADBAND ACCESS FOR REMOTE LEARNING



Just a reminder that if your child is in Y1 upwards and does not have a device for remote learning, or if you have limited broadband access and your child is in

Nursery to Y6, please let us know as soon as possible by completing [this simple form](#) and we will be in touch to help.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



Any outstanding balances from last term are payable through SIMS Pay. Please contact the school office if you are having difficulty with payments at the moment so that we can make arrangements that are manageable for you. As peripatetic music lessons are continuing online during the lockdown, these fees are payable this term as normal.

Finally, please look out for information coming out shortly about changes to how school communicates with parents.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

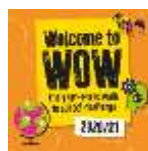
January's winners were:

1st: (£128) Dr Savin
2nd: (£32) Mrs Light
3rd: (£16) Ms Holmes



As of January we have **64** members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please contact [Mrs Bleasdale](#) in the office for application details. You can pay by standing order or cash/ cheque in advance. **We would really like to increase our membership this term, and the more members we have the larger the prize fund to be won!** 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. Current projects we are seeking funding for include: upgrading pupil laptops; climate-proofing the outdoor spaces through planting; improvements to the kitchen facilities for EYFS/ pupils. **Average monthly prizes last academic year were £142.17, £35.54 and £17.77!**

TRAVEL TRACKER/ ACTIVITY TRACKER



You should have received a letter yesterday about how your child can continue to work toward earning their monthly WOW badges while they are not in school. It's a very simple process, so if you'd like to join in, you can. Don't worry however, if it's not something you are able to fit in at the moment- we know how busy life is at home.



Well done to everyone who is

using Times Table Rockstars & Numbots regularly each week. They are important tools to help children develop automatic recall of essential number facts- and they are fun too. The following table shows the **proportion of children engaging** in each class over the last fortnight:

Class	28.01.21	5.02.21	
Rec	29%	21%	Num bots
Y1	60%	33%	
Y2	90%	80%	Times Table Rockstars
Y3	84%	81%	
Y4	37%	37%	
Y5	33%	63%	
Y6	81%	93%	

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Don't forget you can raise funds at no cost to yourself! [Easy Fundraising](#) for a wide range of online retailers- support FOW Friends of

Westgate. We have raised **£804.26** in this way so far!

[Amazon Smile](#) for direct donations when shopping on Amazon- select Friends of Westgate

<https://www.easy2name.com/> when buying name labels (select Westgate Primary School when prompted.)

Our next Friends of Westgate meeting takes place on Zoom this evening.

Planning this year will include contributing to school's 150th anniversary celebrations later in 2021, and community and fundraising events that we can safely hold while complying with the COVID-19 rules.

Contact v.fuller@westgateprimary.co.uk for more details if you would like to attend.

DEBT SUPPORT



School recently received information from [Christians Against Poverty \(CAP\)](#), a charity that

in March 2019 opened a local Debt Centre:

"CAP's award-winning debt counselling helps thousands of people become debt free every year. We're committed to providing a service that takes into account the client's wider circumstances and emotional needs as well as their financial situation, which means it is particularly suitable for those who are more vulnerable and in need of additional support. Our service is completely free and available to everyone.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporarily replaced our face-to-face debt counselling service with phone-based appointments. Despite this change, we continue to provide a holistic, personal service for every client. Once it is safe to do so, and following Government guidelines, we'll look to resume our face-to-face home visits.

"Currently, all clients need in order to access our service is:

- A phone
- Access to the internet or access to a postbox

"The CAP Debt Centre covers the following main postcodes in the area: LS16, LS18, LS19, LS20, LS21 and LS29. Any prospective clients from these postcodes can call 0800 328 0006 (our lines are open between 9:30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday, and between 9:30am and 3.30pm on Fridays).

"CAP offers much more than just debt counselling. The charity is committed to tackling some of the main causes of poverty – unemployment, low income and life-controlling dependencies – through a range of community groups.

Please see attached leaflets for further information.

OTLEY FOOD BANK



School is able to make referrals to Otley Food Bank on behalf of any family struggling to put food on the table at the moment. This can be for a one off or occasional emergency, or for more regular support during the pandemic. You can contact [Mrs Eley](#) or [Ms Carpenter](#) in confidence if you need support.

If you find yourself in a position to support the work of the food bank, the following items are always welcome:

milk (UHT)	rice
tea bags	pasta
instant coffee	couscous
fruit juice (long life)	noodles
tinned soup	instant mash
tinned tomatoes	dried fruit
tinned spaghetti	pasta sauces
tinned baked beans	jam
tinned meat/ fish	sugar
tinned vegetables	breakfast cereals
tinned fruit	biscuits
tinned rice pudding	snack bars
tinned sponge pudding	crisps

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



While some families are enjoying having this extra time together, we also know that the lockdown may be putting significant

additional strain on family relationships.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind, or if you are concerned about somebody else, there is help out there.

[Leeds Domestic Violence Service](#) (LDVS) webpage has lots of information that you can access. There is a 24 hour helpline **0113 246 0401** as well as daily online chat from 13:00- 15:00 through [Leeds Women's Aid](#). In addition, [Behind Closed Doors](#) is the community domestic violence team within LDVS, providing a wide range of practical help, including housing.

Finally, if you are concerned about your abusive behaviour towards your partner, [Respect Phoneline](#) (0808 8024040) can offer support to change.

SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

Our local community is continuing to work hard to ensure that nobody should struggle to feed themselves during lockdown. Working with the local authority

and the town council, we should see everyone who needs it receiving food to see them through. Families eligible for free school meals (FSM) can choose from vouchers or food hampers while their child is not attending school, and we are also working with [Rethink Food](#) to provide additional weekly food packages to all FSM families at the moment.

I am sure that the lockdown will have been a further blow to some families' incomes. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also
- entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not
- including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals. Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

If you find yourself newly eligible for a range of benefits, your child will be eligible for FSM, and free school milk, too- don't hesitate to contact the school office (info@westgateprimary.co.uk) to let us know so we can make sure you receive your entitlement. All information will be managed confidentially. **We are here to help.**

