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### ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Before I mention the festive season, I must let you know about our Investors in Pupils reaccreditation visit last Thursday, which saw us welcoming an assessor to our school for the day to assess the work that our school does with pupils in 5 key areas: learning, behaviour, attendance/ punctuality, classroom management and induction. Through the day, she spoke to parents, governors, staff and of course, most importantly, pupils. She visited classrooms, met with School Council and a group of pupils also gave a presentation on changes they had made at school. While we don't yet have the report, the verbal feedback that we received at the end of the day was amazing, and recognised the opportunities we give to pupils and how amazing they are! A huge thank you to Mrs Ireland and Mrs Senior for their work leading this aspect of our school's work and co-ordinating the visit itself.



Christmas is now knocking loudly on the door and you can barely move in the school hall without getting involved in one rehearsal or another. Don't forget to order your tickets for the relevant production!

We have already had a very generous start to our school appeal for Christmas gifts on behalf of **Behind Closed Doors**, a local charity for victims of domestic violence. I hope that together we can make a difference to some very vulnerable families across the local area this Christmas. We will be accepting gift donations at school until this **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. Finally, if you enjoy choral music at this time of year, Westgate Choir are singing at the Christmas Tree Festival on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December with The Chippendale

Singers - tickets available from the school office. You can also hear us sing at 12:15 this Sunday at the Victorian Fayre, of course!

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

**Roller-racing** on BBC Children in Need Day was fantastic fun and saw lots of children taking part. Don't forget that sponsorship should be returned to school by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, after which we will announce the final total raised and its split between Friends Of Westgate and Children In Need. Huge thanks to Rob Wilks and Otley Cycle Club for organising this fun event!



This Sunday, Friends of Westgate will be running a stall at **Otley Victorian Fayre**. If you fancy a mulled wine and a mince pie - pop along and see us on Boroughgate outside Jack Fulton's, where you will also be able to have a go on the chocolate tombola! Donations of chocolate for the stall, and homemade baked goods, will be gratefully received this week. Then in the last week of term we will be screening '**Nativity!**' for the second **FOW Movie Night** - bookings for tickets now being taken!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

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



04/12/16 Otley Victorian Fayre  
 07/12/16 FS Xmas Performance 10:45/ 14:00  
 08/12/16 KS2 Xmas Performance 18:00  
 09/12/16 KS2 Xmas Performance 13:45  
 09/12/16 Xmas Tree Choir Concert 19:00  
 12/12/16 KS1 Xmas Performance 14:00  
 13/12/16 KS1 Xmas Performance 10:00  
 14/12/16 Nursery Xmas Parties  
 14/12/16 School Xmas Dinner  
 15/12/16 Xmas Parties  
 16/12/16 Break Up - no WOOSH after school  
 02/01/17 Bank Holiday- School closed  
 03/01/17 Family of Schools' Training Day- school closed to pupils  
 04/01/17 Back to School  
 26/01/17 Y6 Class Assembly  
 30/01/17 Y5 Class Assembly  
 07/02/17 Walk the Walls  
 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-Rec KS1 10:00/KS2 13:45  
 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 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 will be announced in the next newsletter.



We currently have 59 members, meaning the monthly jackpot now stands **£118!** 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.

## APPLYING FOR SCHOOL PLACES

Just a gentle reminder to parents of Nursery aged children this term that the closing date for applications for school date is in January. The safest way to apply is online: make sure you save the acknowledgement email you receive once you have submitted your application, and if you change your application after that, make sure you resubmit your application or it will be classed as un-submitted! We are expecting there not to be a surplus of places in Otley this year so please make sure you apply on time and use all your 5 preferences. Thank you. ☺

## FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Christmas performance tickets are going fast so don't forget to put your order in soon... next week is when it all starts onstage! The deadlines have now passed for Christmas dinner, Christmas cards and school photographs so we can no longer accept orders for any of these, unfortunately.



## AND FINALLY...

Thank you for your support and partnership this term to help us to help your child(ren) to achieve their potential. I hope that when it comes, all our families have a happy, safe and restful Christmas holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, 2017! (An early) **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**