



Volume 17, Edition 4, 30th November 2020
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CORONAVIRUS CHRISTMAS

Christmas looks quite different at school this year, sadly. You would normally find us frantically rehearsing songs and lines around about now, checking on costume availability and navigating our way around rehearsal timetables and the stage in the school hall. The Christmas post-box would be stuffed full of cards, delivered each day by our Y6 'elves'. Alas, this year is quite different, but that doesn't mean that Christmas is cancelled entirely.



- Children can still bring in a **single card** for their class, which their teacher will display in their classroom.
- They will still be producing handmade Christmas cards and calendars (you will just need to quarantine them for 72 hours when they bring them home before touching them).
- We are still having Christmas Dinner Day and each class will have a Christmas party on the last day of term.
- We are working on each class recording at least one Christmas song each which you will be able to view once they have all been compiled into one short film. Look out for further details!
- We will be taking part in a range of online Christmas events from our classrooms.

I am so grateful for the support that you have given our school since September, through your actions and care in adhering to the national guidance. Your care out of school, together with our vigilance in school, has helped us to ensure that we have so far avoided a cluster of cases at Westgate. Staff have worked really hard to keep everything as safe and as normal as possible in school. If you would like to pass on a message of thanks to any member of staff, you can do so by [clicking here](#). Your words will be a much-appreciated boost at the end of a successful but exhausting term.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

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

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/ at the weekend: Call or text 07891 279271, including child's name.

All information relating to COVID-19 can be found on the school website [here](#).

Thank you

LEARNING MENTOR

For those who do not know me I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little about my role in school. My name is Caroline Eley and I am the Learning Mentor at Westgate. Hopefully you will have seen me outside school as you drop your children off. My job is to work alongside the other adults in school and parents to identify anything that may be stopping children from having the very best school experience. These things may include friendship issues, changes in family circumstances, family bereavement, self-confidence and self-esteem and emotional regulation. I work with children 1-1 or in a small group in our Nurture Room and teach PSHE and Mindmate lessons to whole classes across the school. If you would like to get in touch to discuss any worries or issues with your child you can email me at c.eley@westgateprimary.co.uk or leave a message with the office and I will call you back.



At Westgate we pride ourselves on really getting to know each individual child and their family. In previous years I have offered drop in sessions for parents who had concerns or just needed to chat as well as a very enjoyable parenting course. Unfortunately due to the current situation I am unable to offer this but I am planning instead to offer **virtual coffee mornings** for anyone who is interested- just log on with a brew for a chat with other parents about anything and everything to do with your children/ school. Depending on take up, these could be run as a year group sessions and would be a great way to start getting to know other parents, especially if you are new to the school or would just like some company in these difficult and sometimes lonely times. Parenting is the most difficult job we do and sharing and supporting one another through our worries and triumphs with people going through the same thing is so important. If you are interested in joining a session please [click here](#) to let me know. I look forward to seeing you soon!

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

I am delighted to inform you that we have a new parent governor. In total, 70 votes were cast, and **Louise Shackleton** was duly elected, after receiving 39 votes. Congratulations to Louise, who will attend her first governor meeting later this week, and well done too to Andy Berry, who was our other excellent candidate in the election. Thank you to everyone who voted.



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Just a reminder that if your child has achieved something out of school that they would like to share in our weekly celebration assembly, for example a sporting achievement of any kind, you can email a photo of them with their badge/ certificate/ trophy etc. and a couple of sentences explaining what they have done, to head@westgateprimary.co.uk (subject line: celebration assembly) and I will include it in the next Celebration Assembly!



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

SIMS Pay is now set up for Friends of Westgate so you can log on to pay for items online, eliminating the need to exchange cash.



WOOSH & Nursery billing is now fully electronic, so individual bills will be sent out via email to you if this applies to your family and you will no longer receive a hard copy. WOOSH bills will be sent out at the end of this term and Nursery bills will be sent out in January.

All music lesson fees are fully paid for this term- thank you to everyone for this!

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

On 16/12/20 a charge of £2.40 will appear in [SIMS Pay](#) if your child usually has a packed lunch and is in Y3-Y6. You can pay this in advance if you wish or wait until your child has had the meal. Please note that SIMS Pay is the only way you can pay for Christmas dinner.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Westgate is still doing very well in our weekly Travel Tracker.

Last week's figures are as follows:

Class	Active Journeys	Position
Nursery	79%	8 th
Reception	96%	2 nd
Year 1	90%	5 th
Year 2	86%	6 th
Year 3	92%	4 th
Year 4	84%	7 th
Year 5	100%	1st
Year 6	95%	3 rd
Whole School	91%	

Don't forget you can use Waitrose Car Park at the beginning and end of the

school day, for stress-free Park & Stride. Active travel is good for children, good for our local area and good for the planet. Well done, everyone, and thank you for your continued support!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

October's winners were:

1st: B McLernon (£128)

2nd: T Midgley (£28)

3rd: B&M Gray (£16)

As of October we have 64 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!



DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned for the next two terms. They are also to be found on the calendar when you log

on to the VLE.

07-13/12/20 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week
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 (L2 Good Autism Practice) – 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
04/03/21 World Book Day
09/03/21 Consultation Evening
11/03/21 Consultation Evening
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 Photos \(whole school\)](#)
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



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

[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.)

We are currently taking orders for our **Christmas Eve activity packs**, which you can pay for using SIMS Pay.

Thank you to everyone who donated chocolate for our tombola: Please think about coming along to **Bay Horse Court this Sunday (6th December) between 11:00 and 15:00** and seeing what you can win!

Also, look out for a letter later this week about our **Christmas Raffle**.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday**

07/01/21 at 19:30 via Zoom. Contact v.fuller@westgateprimary.co.uk for more details.

READ ON TO THE LAST PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IF YOU ARE FINDING FINANCES A STRUGGLE IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS.

SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES
Our local community is continuing to

work hard to ensure that nobody should struggle to feed themselves over the Christmas break. Working with the local authority and the town council, we should see everyone who needs it receiving food to see them through the school holiday.

I am sure that the news that we go into Tier 3 this week will be 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 to let us know so we can make sure you receive your entitlement. All information will be managed confidentially. **We are here to help.**