



Volume 18, Edition 3, 8th November 2021

www.westgateprimary.co.uk

admin@westgateprimary.co.uk

CHRISTMAS PLANS- AN UPDATE



- Christmas is a very special time of year in any primary school, and at Westgate especially so. Alongside that, I have a duty to ensure that we make sure everything is as safe as possible for pupils, staff and families. Having seen the spike in COVID-19 cases just prior to the half term, we have reviewed our plans for Christmas performances. Given the limited ventilation available, we have reluctantly decided that we will not be able to invite parents to watch live this year. Instead, Early Years Foundation Stage, and Key Stage 1 will rehearse and perform their musical nativities in school and parents will be able to view this by purchasing a DVD. Then in Key Stage 2, we will hold a Carol Service

at the Parish Church which will be live-streamed in the same way as Harvest Festival was last month.

I know that you may well be disappointed by this decision, but it seems the safest way forward to protect everyone's health and Christmas holidays. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

ANYTHING BOXED IN RED IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY REQUIRE ACTION ON YOUR PART. THANK YOU ☺

COVID-19

As of this term, regulations have changed with regard to COVID-19 so I thought it would be helpful to provide a short summary:

Self-Isolation

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 should seek a full PCR test and self-isolate pending the result. A rapid LFD test is not sufficient in this instance.

Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case **do not** have to self-isolate if they are either under 18 years & 6 months, or double vaccinated. However, close contacts are advised to take a full PCR test. They do not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results, unless they become symptomatic. The DfE expects children to attend school even if other household members have tested positive, providing the child is not symptomatic. While waiting for a PCR test/ result, asymptomatic adults and children who are close contacts are now advised to take daily LFD tests.

Reporting Results

If your child tests positive, you should notify school via telephone or email, with the following information:

- Date they became symptomatic (if applicable)
- Date the test was taken
- Date the results were received
- When their self-isolation period ends.
- Any other information e.g. were they a close contact of a positive case outside of school.

This is because school must report every pupil and staff case, including these details, to the local authority.

Up to date information about COVID-19 and school, including letters sent home, can be found on the school website, under the tab, '[COVID-19 INFORMATION](#)'.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for this term and next. They are also to be found on the calendar of the school

website. 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!

11/11/21 Team Teach twilight all staff (no pm WOOSH)

15-19/11/21 Anti-Bullying Week

15/11/21 Odd Socks Day

19/11/21 Children in Need day- Bring a Teddy

16/11/21 Nursery Stay & Play am

16/11/21 Nursery Induction 15:45

16/11/21 FOW meeting 19:30 The Fleece

17/11/21 Y5 Stunt Science at Otley Science Festival

17/11/21 FOW Toy, Uniform & Xmas Jumper Sale

18/11/21 Y1 The Cloud Factory at Otley Science Festival

17/11/21 Reception Stay & Play am

18/11/21 Nursery Stay & Play pm

24/11/21 FOW Cake Sale

25/11/21 EYFS cluster training day (school closed to Nur & Rec only)

03/12/21 FOW Ragbag collection

06-12/12/21 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week

09/12/21 Y3 Ancient Egypt trip to Leeds City Museum

15/12/21 School Xmas Dinner

17/12/21 Xmas Parties

17/12/21 Break Up

03/01/22 Bank Holiday

04/01/22 Training Day- school closed to pupils

05/01/22 School open to pupils

10/01/22 booking for Learning Passports (SEND pupils only) opens

11/01/22 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30

17/01/22 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30

07/02/22 Booking opens for consultation evening

16/02/22 Learning Passport mtgs (SEND pupils only)

18/02/22 Break Up

28/02/22 Back to school

22/02- 07/03/22 Fair Trade Fortnight

01/03/22 Governors Day in School

03/03/22 Nursery Induction 15:45

08/03/22 Consultation evening 15:45

10/03/22 Consultation evening 17:00

03/03/22 World Book Day

15/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play am

16/03/22 Reception Stay & Play am

17/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm

22/03-01/04/22 Big Walk & Wheel

26/03/22 FOW Easter Fair

30/03/22 Easter Concert 14:00

01/04/22 Break up for Easter

18/04/22 Bank Holiday

19/04/22 Back to School

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.

Green events are new or amended since these dates were last published.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

October's winners were:

1st L Fortune (£136)

2nd A Ross & A Heppenstall (£34)

3rd C House (£17)



As of October 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!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



This year, the theme of Anti-Bullying Week is 'One Kind Word'. Assemblies and work in class will be linked to this theme, and on Monday 15/11/21, all the children are invited to wear [Odd Socks for the day](#) to celebrate our differences. Socks can be as wacky as you like, so go for it!

STAY AND PLAY

This half term sees the first EYFS stay and play days of the year (dates opposite). This is a chance for Parents/ Carers to have a little first-hand peek into life in Nursery and/ or Reception! To ensure we all remain COVID-19 safe, the sessions will take place in our lovely outdoor area. Further details will be shared with parents via Tapestry.





EYFS TRAINING DAY

Just a reminder to all parents of children in Nursery and Reception that school is closed to these year groups only on Thursday 25/11/2021

as we have a cluster training day for Reception & Nursery staff across primary schools in Otley, Pool & Bramhope. Following on from last year's whole school training day on autism, this day is focused on best practice for autism and pragmatics difficulties in the Early Years.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

We are receiving a number of messages from parents relating to children's pick up arrangements, including changes to WOOSH/ after school club bookings, via the school website contact page. Parents are politely reminded that this is for general enquiries only and messages sent in this way are not guaranteed to be picked up in time. You should call school (and leave a message if the office is closed or unattended) for anything relating to attendance and going home arrangements, or anything else that needs to be picked up in school promptly.

Thank you



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

Friends of Westgate have already been busy planning lots of fun fundraising activities for this year but we have our first 'in person' Friends of Westgate meeting in over a year and a half on **Tuesday 16/11/21 at 7.30pm** in The Fleece. Please come along, have a chat and a glass of wine and help us plan exciting new events to support the school to buy new laptops for the children.

Toy and Book Sale

Next Wednesday 17/11/21 we are hoping to run a toy sale after school. It's been a great fundraiser in the past and is fun for the children. To do this we need your help! If you have any toys/ books to donate please could you leave them in the office on Monday or Tuesday of next week? Then come along and get a bargain! We will also be selling Christmas jumpers and uniform- if you have any Christmas jumpers you'd like to get rid of, please donate them beforehand via the school office.

Cake Sale

Next week you'll be receiving a paper plate

which we'd love you to return to school on Wednesday 24/11/21 full of delicious cakes to sell after school on that day.

In order to make these two events happen we urgently need people to volunteer to help run the stalls on one or other of the Wednesday 17th and 24th November. If you can help set up the stall on these days, and/or help to run it please could you drop us a message on hello@friendsofwestgate.uk

Rag Bags – a collection has been arranged for this term on **Friday 3rd Dec**. Empty bags will be sent out with children next week. Full bags can be dropped off at the school office all-day on 2nd Dec and before 9am on the 3rd Dec.

Christmas events

We are hoping to have a stall with a Chocolate Tombola in Otley over the Christmas period; watch this space for more information. Our lovely Christmas Eve bags, organised by some creative year 2 mums will also be running again. Of course, Santa will be visiting the children to bring gifts for all, sponsored by FOW.

We have already had two incredibly successful events this year. Our FOW Street Party was a lovely way to welcome people back into the school and celebrate 150 years of Westgate School, and it raised over £1000! We've also just had a Halloween Trail where the community came together to make Halloween a little bit more spooky and magical for the children. Lastly, **we really need your support!** We've created a simple [online form](#) - please take 30 seconds to fill this in so we can let you know what we're up to. If you are able to volunteer an hour of your time, or if you can come along to our FOW meeting please also fill in the form.



SPORTS NEWS

We are delighted to have more sporting opportunities to take part in this year. So far, we have had cricket coaching & yoga in school, a visit to Leeds Modernians for a cricket tournament and a BMX workshop. We've also got a KS1 gymnastics event coming up and lots more in the pipeline for the year ahead, on top of the extra-curricular clubs we run. Huge thanks to Mrs Hooper for her work leading PE & sport, and the use of the sport premium in school to enhance the PE curriculum at Westgate.