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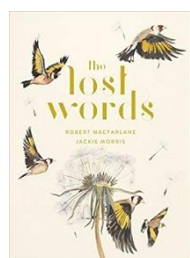
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WELCOME BACK

The end of last half term saw a large number of children and staff off with a wide range of illnesses... fingers crossed we are now coming to the end of this! A reminder that children are not allowed back to school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

The morning of our training day was spent by all staff attending Child Protection and Safeguarding training. This is statutory training which must be updated regularly to ensure that all staff have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping all children safe from harm. In contrast, in the afternoon teachers spent time working on our upcoming Art & Poetry project based on 'The Lost Words' by Jackie Morris and Robert MacFarlane, and wildlife in the local area. We will be holding an exhibition after school in the last week of this half term, to which all families are invited.



Next week we will be holding our next Consultation Evenings; an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and discuss his/her progress over the last term. Once again, this will be held in the school hall. Please be on time for your appointments and respect the fact that all appointments lasts for 10 minutes, and no longer. This will help the evenings to run smoothly. Thank you!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

FOOD FOR LIFE BRONZE AWARD



Earlier this term, we were delighted to receive a Food For Life Bronze Award for the food served in our school kitchen. This is a reflection of our commitment to fresh, seasonal produce and to continue to work with the children (via School Food Ambassadors) to ensure our meals are appealing to the children as well as being nutritious and balanced. Well done to the kitchen staff for their commitment to serving great food to all our children.

MARKING AND FEEDBACK

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, this year teachers at Westgate are working to change how we give children feedback on their learning. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, we want to make sure that feedback is effective in helping children to improve their learning and make good progress over time. Secondly, we want to have a positive impact on teacher workload, which is a nationally recognised issue. Detailed written marking, with comments, has been shown to be time-consuming and with little evidence of impact proportionate to the time it takes. Therefore we are working on ways to give feedback efficiently to the whole class in lessons. This does not mean that teachers are not checking children's work: indeed, this is an essential teacher activity as it allows teachers to assess what the next lesson needs to address. However it does mean that, when you look at children's books, you will see minimal teacher written marking/ comments. By shifting teacher work in this way, we intend to ensure that more time is freed up to think carefully about and plan for learning in each lesson, leading to increased progress for children over time and a better work-life balance for teachers.



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for **Easy Fundraising**. We are already raising money through this scheme so please remember us as you start any shopping online- or book your summer holiday for 2019! We're coming up to the **£250** mark!

The **school disco** earlier this month raised **£373.33**- thank you to Laura Coleman and all who volunteered to help on the day.

Our big events this term are the **Easter Fair** and its pre-cursor, the **Toy Sale**. As per our letter before half term, donations for the tombola and raffle will be accepted from Monday 04/03/19. Toy sale donations will be accepted from 12/03/19. More than anything, offers of help to run a stall on the day (just a 30 minute slot can make a real difference!) will be gratefully received. See our letter for more details.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

January's winners were:

1st: Mrs Kilmartin (£140)

2nd: Mr& Mrs Cockerham (£35)

3rd: Mrs Whalley & Ms Orr (£17.50)

We currently have 70 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.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

About half of our families are now signed up to our electronic payment system- thank you! Please note that, if you are signed up, you will no longer receive texts about school meal balances, as you can log on and check your exact balance now through Agora.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for next term. They are also to be found on the calendar when you log on to the VLE. Dates in **green/ bold** are new or changed since dates were first circulated.

26/02/19 Nursery Induction 15:45

25/02/19 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight

28/02/19 Governors Day in School

04/03/19 Y2 Medieval Day

08/03/19 Y1 Medieval Day

05/03/19 Consultation evening 15:30

07/03/19 Consultation evening 17:00

08/03/19 Y1-6 Silly Science Workshops

12/03/19 Y3 Trip to Leeds Schools Prom

14/03/19 Y1/2 Trip to Skipton Castle

15/03/19 FOW Toy Sale 15:30

20/03/19 Rec Trip to Harlow Carr

22/03/19 Non-Uniform Day for Bottle Stall

23/03/19 FOW Easter Fair

27/03/19 Easter Concert 14:00

29/03/19 Break up for Easter **15:15 WOOSH is available after school on this day.**

15/04/19 Back to School

19/04/19 Bank Holiday

22/04/19 Bank Holiday

02/05/19 Training / Polling day- School Closed

06/05/19 Bank Holiday

09/05/19 Class photos*

13/05/19 w/b Y6 test week

21/05/19 Whole School Maypole Dancing 09:15*

24/05/19 Break up

03/06/19 Back to school

06-07/06/19 Y5 Whitby Residential

15/06/19 Otley Carnival

18/06/19 Reception Induction meeting

25/06/19 Nursery Induction 15:45

27/06/19 Sports Day*: Rec/ KS1 10:00; Nursery 12:30; KS2 13:45

01/07/19 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

02/07/18 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

18/07/19 Leavers' Play/ Party 18:30

22/07/19 Talent show 14:00

23/07/19 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

24/07/19 Break up **15:15 WOOSH is available after school on this day.**

* NURSERY CHILDREN

If your child would not normally attend Nursery at this time and you would like him/ her to be part of this event, please speak to the class teacher to confirm their attendance. Thank you ☺

ECO TEAM REPORT (January)

By Evie Scholefield

It's 2019 now, and the Eco-team is starting to affect the school's recycling and eco-friendly side; soon we will be one of the best! Find out what is going on in Westgate below.

Bins

Progress is starting on the bins. We have ordered new bins with lids so nothing blows out or in. We have already made adjustments to where our food waste goes. Now we have changed our rubbish company so they will sort all our rubbish and take out recyclable things so they don't go to landfills.



Taps

We have been around the school checking the taps for if they were push or and twist. We will look into changing all the taps to push taps and fix any leaks. We have talked to Mr Wardman about this.

Electricity

We have already done a lot in this area, but we are trying to do even better. We **have** changed the lights so they use less electricity and the solar-panels help too. We are **trying** to make computers more energy efficient when not in use.

Awards

So far we have got our Bronze Eco-School award, so we are now aiming for Silver. Please remember: keep recycling and be eco-friendly!

crossing further down Piper Lane towards town, where some pedestrians choose to cross. The reason the pedestrian crossing was installed where it is, is because this was the safest location for it. Please be aware that, as adults, if you are choosing to cross further down, you are actively choosing an unsafe crossing and giving your children an unsafe example of how to cross the road. While it is a little further, it is much safer to walk up to the crossing. Similarly, the safest way to cross near the roundabout is to use the underpass rather than to cross at ground level.

That said, lots of useful suggestions and valid concerns were raised (e.g. about West Chevin Road, Bridge Street, speed limits, the underpass surface) and we will be looking into how we can lobby local government for action on some key issues. I will keep you all updated on our progress in future newsletters. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the survey.

And finally... The winning ticket for the £40 prize draw is 320 - bring your matching ticket to the school office to claim your prize!

SCHOOL TRAVEL SURVEY



Thank you to the 107 people who returned the recent travel survey. It has provided us with some useful information. The vast

majority of people responding lived within 1 mile of school, and about 75% of all respondents usually walk to school. For some, car use is hard to avoid, either because of health issues or because of their onward journey to work. There are still some car journeys however which could be reduced.

Several respondents raised issues about the location of crossing facilities, some raising the possibility of a pedestrian