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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Last week I spent time meeting with all of our class teachers, to talk about children's progress since September. It was really useful to talk about every child and the things they have learned and can do now since the start of the year. It was especially good to hear about children who, following conversations at parents evening, have begun to read, practise sounds, spelling and maths facts (e.g. on Times Table Rock Stars) at home much more regularly. In every case, this has helped those children to increase their rate of progress. Your support for school in this way is hugely appreciated and really does make a difference. It shouldn't be hours every night- short bursts, very regularly, are much more effective than a long session once or twice a week. Teachers are always happy to talk to you about ways to support your child's learning at home if you need further advice.



We are watching the weather forecast closely at the moment, with talk of snow and a return of the Beast from the East... In the event of any changes to school opening, we will endeavour to make a decision between 07:00 and 07:30 wherever possible. Decisions to delay opening, or even to close, are never made lightly. All we can do is make the best decision we can, based on the information available at that time, which will include current and forecast weather conditions, and the ability of staff to get to school. I know that this can inconvenience parents and I would like to reassure you that every such decision is very difficult and never made lightly. As long as it is safe for staff and pupils, our preferred option is always to open.

However, sometimes, this is not possible. Decisions will be communicated by text, on the front page of the school website and also via Leeds City Council and local radio.



Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

ARTSMARK



**We're working
towards Artsmark**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

We were proud to have our Statement of Commitment to Artsmark accepted at the start of this term. We are going to be working hard on the further development of our Art & Design curriculum, as well as continuing and refining our Music provision. The Arts are a

very important part of our curriculum and we also believe that they make significant contributions to children's wellbeing and self-confidence. Look out for the chance to contribute to our Artsmark journey in a parent forum a little later in the school year.

ECO SCHOOLS BRONZE AWARD

Our Eco-Team began work last term and has been busy auditing every aspect of school life in relation to 10 eco-themes. They meet every week and have made an action plan to help improve our sustainability. Their hard work has earned them a bronze award so we are now working towards our silver! The team will be writing to you shortly about simple things that we can all do to help reduce our energy consumption and waste production, and to look after our environment.



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 about to pass the **£250** mark!

Our next big investment for school will be to replace the climbing equipment in the Foundation Stage playground-match-funding school to make this possible. Our next event is the disco on **Wednesday 13/02/19**. Then we have the warm up event for our Easter Fair, the Toy Sale on **Friday 15/03/19**, followed by the Fair itself on **Saturday 23/03/19**. Look out for more information soon!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

December's winners were:

1st: Mr & Mrs Mirfield (£136)

2nd: Mr & Mrs Tucker (£34)

3rd: Mr & Mrs Peattie (£17)



We currently 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.



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.

04/02/19 4pm Booking opens for Parents Evening

05/02/19 Walk the Walls

05/02/19 Y5 Whitby meeting 18:00

13/02/19 FOW Disco

15/02/19 Training Day/ Break Up

25/02/19 Back to school

26/02/19 Nursery Induction 15:45

25/02/19 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight

28/02/18 Governors Day in School

05/03/19 Consultation evening 15:30

07/03/19 Consultation evening 17:00

15/03/19 FOW Toy Sale 15:30

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 ☺