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### THE NEW NORMAL

Let's start by saying a huge **WELL DONE** to every parent, carer, child, teacher and staff member at Westgate: you survived your first week of distance learning!

Thank you to everyone for doing your best- whether it's been adjusting to having your children at home all the time, managing the many competing demands of being at home and trying to maintain some learning, making sure your children are settled, managing anxiety, frustration and boredom, setting tasks and responding to children as a teacher, or helping to staff childcare for critical key workers. We are in uncharted territory so it might take a little while for us all to find the balance and rhythm that works for each of us. I am so proud of our staff, who have worked incredibly hard to learn new ways of working and to find a balanced approach to this for our families. We've also been proud to run emergency childcare for critical workers at Westgate. From Monday, we will combine with All Saints and St Joseph's to provide a childcare hub at St Joseph's for our three schools: at least one member of Westgate staff will be there each day, including senior leadership team (myself, Mr Hackney, Mrs Hattersley).

In this newsletter, I'm going to give you a round-up of what each class has been doing, courtesy of the teachers, and also give some suggestions for external resources/ activities that you might find useful while your child is learning at home. Please note that we will be observing the Easter holiday in terms of school work, so do not expect lots of new work during that time.



Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION- STAYING SAFE ONLINE

In the last week, I think all of us have learned a lot about ways we can communicate with our friends and loved ones while the country is in lockdown and we stop face to face social contact. I've heard of children and families using apps like Houseparty and Zoom to set up virtual chats and playdates between their children, which is brilliant for their emotional wellbeing. Please make sure you are vigilant with these meetings, as behaviours like zoombombing are on the rise: where strangers get hold of meeting codes and then use the share screen function to broadcast inappropriate, adult content to the group. Make sure you never share meeting codes publicly on social media, and disable the share screen function. You can read more about the issues in [this blog](#) and [this article](#). **The bottom line is, your child should not use video chat on any app, unsupervised.** Managed and supervised carefully, however, these apps can be great for children. This weekend I heard about children who were playing board games together, by setting up the board in each of their houses, then playing via video chat, and mirroring each other's moves on their own board while they chat together. Ingenious! Other, accessible sources of support and information for parents and children are: [CEOP on Youtube](#) and [ThinkUKnow on Youtube](#). You can watch videos there first as parents, and then choose which are appropriate to watch and discuss with your children. As adults, we all need to make sure we stay up to date and educated about eSafety, so that our children reap all the benefits of staying connected, while staying safe and protected too.



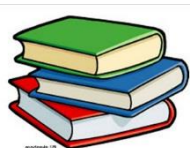
## MUSIC



Mrs Durrant has set up her own Youtube channel! [You can find it here](#) or search for *Mrs Durrant rhymes with currant* to see her in action!

**Out of the Ark**, the well-known school music publisher, is providing a song for every day. Each day has a different theme. You can read the lyrics and sing along online, as well as downloading optional additional activities. [You can find them here.](#)

## SCHOOL RESOURCES



You will know that when school closed, we sent home learning packs with the children. Some of the contents are

consumables, and the items sent varied from class to class. However, please note that we expect Maths No Problem textbooks & workbooks to come back to school, along with school reading/ library books, and child scissors. Items such as these that are not returned, or returned in an unusable condition **will be chargeable**, as they will have to be replaced. If you can send crayons/ pencils back when we return that would also be great, but we understand that these might have been used up/ worn out by then! Thank you for looking after school's resources.

## WESTGATE WINDFALL

February's winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup>: K Swettenham (£144)**

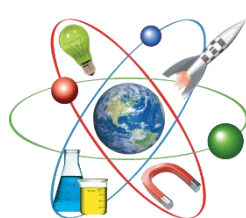
**2<sup>nd</sup>: R McLernon (£36)**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: M Simpson (£18)**

We currently have **72** members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please email 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. This term it has paid for the whole school to see Mimika, subsidised the Y3/4 Roman Experience Day, and part-funded new resource stations for the Early Years outdoor area.



## SCIENCE



The Royal Institution has a great selection of practical, fun, offline science experiments and activities that you can do at home quite easily with your

children. More information is [available here](#). Mrs Hopkins is planning on using one or two of these projects in Y5 but they are open to everyone! In addition, at the start of every half term, each class spends a week thinking about Our Changing World. You could: take time to observe how plants are growing and changing outside; notice which insects, birds and animals you can spot together; or notice how the weather and temperature is changing.

## ENGLISH



As you know, we've been working hard to become better writers at Westgate. A lot of our work has been based on Jane

Considine's Sentence Stacking, so we are delighted that she is providing [writing lessons](#) every day that anyone can access. They are uploaded at 09:45 every day and you can subscribe to her channel- search for The Training Space or follow my earlier link. The approach will be familiar to all children from Y1 upwards and her lessons are super accessible!

[Radioblogging.net](#) is a daily set of educational blogging/ writing activities from renowned practitioners like Pie Corbett- listen and join in as you wish! [First News](#) is a great resource for reading current affairs, from Y2 upwards. Finally, What about making the most of our **class reading challenges**? Now is the time to take on those longer, more complex, challenging (and yet ultimately rewarding) books that you kept putting off. Go on, now you have the time, discover your new favourite book!

## MATHEMATICS



On the [White Rose maths website](#) there is a section for each year group with online lessons, worksheets and answers.

Everyone from

Reception upwards also has their login for either [Numbots](#) or [TT Rockstars](#)- try to practise every day, and watch your scores and speed improve! You can use a PC or download the apps for free onto a tablet or smartphone and then log in.

[Hit the Button](#) is another speed-based maths facts game for KS1/2.

Other useful websites:

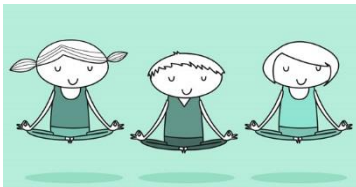
<https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/addition-column.html>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/22/column-addition>

## PSHE

Along with this newsletter, please also find a booklet from Leeds CAMHS, which provides parental advice and activities for children to support their emotional wellbeing and mental health, specifically for the COVID-19 crisis. It's worth looking at and dipping into with your children, throughout this worrying time.

Mrs Eley has also sent to all KS2 pupils a set of mindfulness resources, to help them to keep practising the techniques



they have learned in school- which are probably needed now more than ever!

## PE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

We've heard lots about our families



joining in with [Joe Wicks](#) each morning- hopefully the aches from muscles you'd

forgotten you had are now subsiding! For something a bit more chilled, [Cosmic Kids Yoga](#) is great for core strength and also emotional wellbeing and [Go Noodle](#) great for being active indoors.

## ART & DESIGN



The amazing Gomersal Primary School has started providing suggestions for home learning projects in Art and Design. [Check out their blog](#) for more details

and plenty of inspiration!

A group of modern artists, including Grayson Perry and Anthony Gormley, are also about to launch Artist Activity Packs which could be worth taking a [look at here](#).

## HARDSHIP AND FOOD POVERTY



Free School Meals (FSM) will continue to be delivered during the Easter Holidays. If your child(ren) is/ are eligible for Free

School Meals but you have so far not taken up the delivery service, you can let us know by emailing the school office. It will take 48 hours for us to adjust our numbers. After Easter, we will be rolling out the government's national voucher scheme for FSM. Those families who are eligible will receive a letter tomorrow about their options.

We also know that there will be families who are not eligible for FSM who may still be struggling. Please don't hesitate to contact school and ask to speak to Ms Carpenter in confidence, as we can refer to Otley Food Bank and there may be other ways we can help too. There is also further information from Leeds City Council at the end of this newsletter.

## CHILDREN WITH SEND

STARS in Leeds have put together a [set of resources](#) to support families and children with autism in their response to the COVID-19 crisis. If your child has SEND and you need advice, we are here to help if we possibly can. Mrs Colannino, our school SENCo, Mrs Chilton, our lead autism practitioner, and Mrs Eley, our learning mentor will be staying in touch with families while we are closed.

### FROM NURSERY

This week, Nursery have had daily activities with a focus on number, phonics and literacy skills and a range of activities to work from throughout the week covering some of the key skills we focus on when in school, fine motor control (cutting, play-dough and drawing), gross motor activities (learning a new skill and timing how many of an action can be done in a min), as well as seasonal activities (a numbered egg hunt and signs of spring hunt). Next week our daily activities continue and our other activities have an Easter theme with activities including a positional language egg hunt and creating Easter cards and pictures. There are also a range of activities to support Health and Self-Care, including practising putting on coats and shoes and making a healthy lunch.

*Miss Robinson ☺*

### FROM RECEPTION

During our first week working from home we have been focusing on the number 11. We have created a concept board about the number 11 using objects we have found at home. Then we have explained to our families about each item on our concept board and why it's there.

The sounds we have revisited this week as part of our phonics learning have been **th** and **ng**. We have read and written words containing these digraphs as well as read our high frequency words. We have also begun to write diary entries in our green exercise book remembering capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have also explored Numbots and Purple Mash.

The learning in our second week will be based around the story **Owl Babies**. We will listen to the story being read, then across the week complete activities based on it. These include collecting objects from our garden and on a local walk and using them to create an owl picture collage and a nest for the owl babies. We will make our own owl puppets, make owl models from malleable materials and find out about nocturnal animals. Our sounds are **oo** and **ow**. We will also take part in dough disco sessions, [Go Noodle](#), phonics online using [BBC bite size](#) and

enjoying reading more of the reading books we have brought home.

We have enjoyed seeing some of the photographs of children's home learning and these have been saved on the VLE for everyone in the class to see their friends. After a few initial teething problems everyone now seems to be able to access the online learning for which passwords have been distributed. From the emails we have received Reception children have been enjoying the challenge of learning within their homes alongside their families.

*Mrs Jagger & Mrs Colannino ☺*

### FROM YEAR 1

Last week Year 1 quickly got used to using the VLE and Purple Mash to access their learning activities for the week. They were set a mixture of computer based and practical maths and English activities. This week our Maths focus is more and less. Again there is a mixture of computer and practical activities. Last week we learnt the **ey** and **aw** sounds in phonics. This week our focus is **wh** and **ph**. We have already written Spring poems, postcards and book reviews. This week our Writing focus is Handa's Hen. The children have been sending photos of themselves completing some of their learning activities and I have been sharing these on the VLE. Our photo focus this week is physical activity. Well done, everyone! I have enjoyed receiving messages from you all.

*Mrs Senior ☺*

### FROM YEAR 2

In maths, we've been continuing our class work on 2D shape, we have been going on shape hunts in and around our home as well as making repeating patterns with shapes or household objects. We have been remembering how to tell o'clock and half past times as well as keeping up with our mental maths skills. We've been writing letters and postcards to people in our family in English, as well as choosing a book we have read at home to write a book review about. As Spring is here, we have used our senses to write poems about this season. In PE last week we made the most of the sunny days, making obstacle courses in our gardens and improving our skipping skills. In topic, we



have found where we lived on maps and thought about which countries make up the UK. To celebrate living in Otley, we have designed and made a flag for our town. Finally, we have drawn or made a compass and identified what we can see in each direction. Keep up the great work, Y2, and well done!

*Mrs Ireland & Ms Romaine ☺*

### **FROM YEAR 3**

Well done to everyone in Year 3 for a super first week of home learning. I have been so impressed with all the fantastic work the children have sent to me on the VLE. I have received, reading comments, Roman powerpoints, stories, maths papers, photos of themselves baking and making Roman artefacts and much, much more. Each day, Year 3 have been completing daily TT Rockstars, reading for 15 minutes, spelling practice, practising addition methods and solving addition problems, taking part in the Joe Wicks daily exercise and using the weekly activities to choose some Roman research tasks and activities.

Next week we will still be doing our daily routine of TT Rockstars, reading, spellings and Joe Wick exercises but we will move onto subtraction methods and our weekly topic focus will be on the local area.

Week 2 home learning will be on the class VLE page on Sunday so you can plan next week's timetable. Thank you to all the parents for their support and a massive well done to all of Year 3.

*Mrs Hattersley ☺*

### **FROM YEAR 4**

Year 4 have had a super start to home learning and it's been so lovely to hear from so many of you and to see some examples of what you've been doing. I've seen some super stories, photos of Roman shields, powerpoints about the Romans, some great arithmetic and much more. More importantly, it's lovely just to hear from you all and hear that you're all settling into life at home and getting stuck into some work when you can.

Keep an eye on your dashboard on the VLE as all week I've been adding new links to things I think you might like. For example Kieran Larwood (author of Podkin) has uploaded a fab video workshop to youtube, talking you

through how to create a map of your own fantasy world, there's also a 30 day Lego Challenge, and several other links to lots of lovely things. Soon (when I pluck up the courage!) there'll be a video of me reading the next chapter of our class book, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, so keep an eye out for that. This week we'll be focussing on activities to do with your local area, and then next week look out for lots of work linked to our next topic, the Vikings!

*Mrs Hooper ☺*

### **FROM YEAR 5**

Well, Year 5 have got off to a storming start with home-learning this week- a huge well done to you all! I have had emails from over a third of the class to let me know how they are getting on, to ask questions or to send work. I know that lots of you are waking up to Joe Wicks PE lessons, and that there is also FaceTime maths support happening between friends!

If you visit the class page, you can see contributions from our early super stars: James, Freya, Milli, Declan, Iseabail and Lois, who have all submitted work. While there is no expectation for children to do this, it is lovely for me to see their work and to keep in touch, and may give the children a boost too.

On Friday of each week of term-time, I will post the answers to the Maths No Problems lessons, and the arithmetic, mental maths and spag tests on the class page on the VLE, and on Google Classroom. I will post the new weekly assignment by 9am each Monday morning to each site. Parents, please keep an eye on the class page as I will be adding comments and links for useful sites. In addition, if you find anything interesting or useful for Year 5 pupils then please let me know and I'll share it on the class page.

Keep up the good work everyone!

*Mrs Hopkins ☺*

## FROM YEAR 6

How creative Year 6 have been during this first week. You have designed and submitted pictures of Rainbows to show your street that you are looking out for everybody, posting me pictures of your homework books with amazing writing and maths work, asking great questions about your daily maths challenges, sharing videos of keep fit ideas and even acting as teachers yourselves for younger siblings (Tilly!). Somewhere between a third and a half of you (no I don't have the exact fraction, Harrison) are responding on a regular if not daily basis with answers to questions and just general updates to tell me what you've been doing and what your routines are. Like many of you I'm really upset that SATs has been taken from us as you had all worked so hard and were getting ready to show everybody just how much progress you had made at Westgate. However, I do have the results of all our practice papers to show the PHGS staff. Because of this, it is really important that you do carry on learning and consolidating the work you had completed; keep using those online games, keep researching our Home Learning Projects and above keep open those lines of communication so that in September you can 'hit the ground running'.

*Mr Hackney ☺*

## TRAVEL TRACKER



Here are this month's Travel Tracker statistics by class:

Class	Active Journeys	Position
Nursery	68%	8 <sup>th</sup>
Reception	83%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Y1	79%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Y2	74%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Y3	74%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Y4	90%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Y5	81%	4 <sup>th</sup>
Y6	92%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Total	80%	

Well done to the classes that improved (in green) compared with February! This will be our last Travel Tracker update for a while, but we will look forward to carrying on as soon as we are all back at school later in the year!



## ARE YOU FINDING IT HARD TO ACCESS FOOD?

In light of COVID-19 we are putting additional support in place to ensure everyone is able to access the food they need.



### Am I eligible for help?

If you are finding it difficult to access food due to financial constraints, self-isolation or accessibility of food provision, then you are eligible for help.

When making the referral you will be asked questions about your personal situation which will enable us to determine what type of support you require.

### How can I access help?

If you think you may be eligible to help from these scheme then you can contact a local keyworker or service who will make a referral for you.

This might be somewhere or someone you already have contact with such as a school, college, social worker, housing officer or it could be a provision in your local area such as a Community Hub.

Ideally a referral should be made through one of these support services, however if you are finding it hard to access these please make a self-referral by calling us on 0113 376 0330. This is a free number.

### What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, we will pass your information on to local volunteer coordinators, and you will be provided with a food parcel or a supermarket voucher.

This will be either delivered to a provision hub near your home for you to collect, such as a community hub, school, foodbank or a charity, or delivered to your home directly.

We want everyone to feel supported and will work with you to see what route is best for you.

For more information and guidance please contact the Local Welfare Support Team on 0113 376 0330.

