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HAPPY HALLOWE'EN

We are almost at the end of a happy, busy first half term! Children have settled in well to their new classes and it's been lovely to welcome new children to our school. We've had a beautiful theatre experience, a lovely Harvest Festival, story-telling sessions and lots of learning every week. I think we are all now ready for a bit of rest!

A couple of weeks ago, Ms Romaine and I were invited to be part of a small group of teachers representing Leeds as part of a project which has helped teachers to learn from each other, in the UK, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. Following a visit last year in which we hosted teachers from all of those countries, we were asked to contribute to a case study about teachers' professional development - particularly in relation to mathematics - and attend a dissemination conference in Riga. We spent two days learning from and with colleagues from other countries. Some of this learning will be used in school in the coming year. We were very proud to represent the UK and to share the way teachers work together here at Westgate as part of the conference.

On Friday 12/10/18, Nursery and Reception teachers joined colleagues across Otley for a joint training day, which focused on children's physical development. These annual events are really useful for our Early Years staff and we had another very enjoyable and useful day.

Next week will see half term. Please help your child to keep safe if they are out having fun trick or treating or attending fireworks and bonfire events, so that we see everyone back safe and sound on Monday 6th November- ready for another exciting and busy half term!



Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

PLAYGROUND SAFETY



Thank you to all the families who have a dog and respect the rule that dogs - even those that are carried - are not allowed onto our school site. However, please can I ask all dog owners to think carefully about where you leave your dog if you bring it to school? We have had a number of instances recently, where dogs are tied to the school gates, meaning that lots and lots of children are having to walk very close to an unattended dog. I must therefore ask parents to ensure that dogs are **not** tethered to school gates while you drop off your child(ren) - for your dog's wellbeing and for children's safety.

I have also reminded all children that cycling and scooting is **not** allowed in the school playground before and after school, for safety reasons. Please can you remind your child to dismount at the gate on arrival, and to push their bike or scooter until they leave the playground at the end of the day, and reinforce this expectation if you are in the playground with them. We have had a couple of near misses in recent weeks due to children whizzing through the playground! Thank you for your support in this matter.



PARENT/ CARER CONSULTATION



We are looking forward to welcoming you to discuss your child's start to the academic year this week. Please note that all teachers, and therefore all meetings, will be **in the school hall**, rather than in classrooms across both buildings. Please remember that appointments are for 10 minutes. Children's books will be available for you to look at before/ after your appointment as usual. The Friends of Westgate Book Fair will also be open during both consultation evenings, which this year is provided by The Book People.

MARKING AND FEEDBACK

When you look at your child's work as part of Parent Consultation Evening this week, you will notice fewer teacher comments in books. This is because we are working this year on making the most effective use of teacher time to improve learning. Teachers across school are researching ways in which we can maximise the impact of feedback (verbal as well as written) to help children improve. Part of our work is looking at reducing the volume of written feedback to free up teacher time in order to spend more time planning lessons in response to children's learning. A lack of written comments does not however mean that teachers are not spending time reviewing and responding to children's learning- this remains an essential teacher activity to inform future teaching and learning. However, the intention is to find ways to spend teacher time in the most productive way possible for children's progress.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Last week was our whole school focus on Black History Month 'Equality and Diversity' - with a story telling focus. During the week, children learned about black history and on the 16th October we had an Indian story teller who used folk tales

with each class to get them inspired to write their own. The children then focused on Indian and African folk tales in class and they have produced stories and art work which have been made into a class book. On 23rd October (tomorrow) the story books will be available to buy for a minimum donation of £1. All money raised will go to BASIK-Build A School In Kenya. We hope you will join us and help raise money for our school charity.

SCHOOL FOOD AMBASSADORS

Thank you to all the children who applied for the School Food Ambassadors roles. We really enjoyed reading through their applications. We are pleased to announce that our new School Food Ambassadors are:

Year 3- Jessica, Evie

Year 4- Emma, Ethan, Iseabail

Year 5- Holly, Kayla, Avy, Amelie

Year 6- Ruby H, Ruby F, Elspeth

They will be working with children and kitchen staff to make sure our meals are as good as can be!

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 Christmas shopping online- or book your summer holiday for 2019! Our **cake and uniform sale** raised **£245.29** for ActionAid and BASIK - thank you to everyone who baked, sold, bought and ate! This year, we are again raising funds to match school budget, this time to replace climbing/ equipment in the Foundation Stage playground. Our target is **£5000**. This week we are running the Book Fair. Thanks to Astrid Copeland for organising this with the Book People this year.

On **04/11/18** (in half term), an intrepid group of parents are running the **Abbey Dash** in aid of FOW - ask in the office or look out for them on the playground this week if you'd like to reward their efforts with some sponsorship.

On the subject of sponsorship, on **23/11/18** Rob Wilks is again running sponsored **Roller Racing**. This is a fun and

inclusive event- look out for your child's sponsor form coming home this week in time for half term! We then start the countdown to Christmas, kicking off with our **Victorian Fayre** stall on **02/12/18** - volunteers needed! - and then **Christmas Film Night** on **05/12/18**.

The children are already getting creative for Christmas - they've been busy designing Christmas cards for you to purchase next half term, and next half term they will have also the opportunity to make a ceramic Christmas decoration with Zoe Hollis - details to follow!



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for musical instrument tuition or outstanding WOOSH/ Nursery fees.

NEWSFLASH! We are nearly finished with setting up **online payments** and as soon as this is completed we will let you know how you can use this to make payments to school in a secure and convenient way.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

September's winners were:

- 1st: Heather Gilmore (£140)**
- 2nd: John Hayden (£35)**
- 3rd: Louise Shackleton (£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.

What do we do with Westgate Windfall?

This term, we have entirely paid for our whole school theatre experience (Mimika), Black History Month storytelling workshops for Y1-6, Ilkley Literature Festival author visit for Y1-2, and next month's Y4 Otley Science festival from School Fund: all of this would have been impossible without contributions such as those made through Westgate Windfall. Thank you for any help you are able to give.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET OTHER PARENTS IN SCHOOL?

Are you new to the school or would just like to meet other parents and carers in a friendly and supportive

environment?

On Friday 9th November I will be starting a parents group in the mezzanine where you can have a cup of tea, a chat and support each other while discussing everyday parenting issues.

For more information or to sign up catch me, Caroline Eley – Learning Mentor on the playground every morning or email me on C.Eley@westgateprimary.co.uk.
First taster session: Friday 26th October (This week!) 09:00 in the mezzanine. ☺

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for the rest of this year. They are also to be found on the calendar when

you log on to the VLE.

23/10/18 Y5 Living Books Event
23/10/18 Consultation evening 17:00
25/10/18 Consultation evening 15:30
26/10/18 Break up
05/11/18 Back to school
06/11/18 Y4 Otley Science Festival trip
12/11/18 w/b Anti-Bullying Week
15/11/18 Walk the Walls
16/11/18 Children in Need Day- non-uniform
22/11/18 Nursery Induction 15:45
23/11/18 FOW sponsored Roller Racing
23/11/18 Takeover Day
02/12/18 Otley Victorian Fayre (FOW stall)
05/12/18 FOW Film Night
07/12/18 Xmas Tree choir concert 19:00
13/12/18 FS Xmas performance 11:00/ 14:00
13/12/18 KS2 Xmas performance 18:00
14/12/18 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45
17/12/18 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00
18/12/18 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00
19/12/18 School Xmas Dinner
21/12/18 Xmas Parties
21/12/18 Break Up
07/01/19 Training Day- School closed to pupils
08/01/19 School Opens
16-18/01/19 Y6 Herd Farm residential
05/02/19 Walk the Walls
05/02/19 Y5 Whitby meeting
14/02/19 Break Up
15/02/19 Training Day
25/02/19 Back to school
25/02/19 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight
26/02/19 Nursery Induction 15:45
28/02/18 Governors Day in School
05/03/19 Consultation evening 15:30
07/03/19 Consultation evening 17:00
23/03/19 FOW Easter Fair
27/03/19 Easter Concert 14:00
29/03/19 Break up for Easter
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

18/06/19 Reception Induction meeting
25/06/19 Nursery Induction 15:45
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