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www.westgateprimary.co.uk
admin@westgateprimary.co.uk

HAPPY EASTER

Tomorrow is a day tinged with sadness, when we say farewell to **Mrs Bleasdale** after almost 30 years of service in Otley schools- the last 14 of which have been at Westgate. We recently held an afternoon tea party in her honour as a staff, and were delighted to be joined by colleagues from her time at Ashfield and Chippendale too. Ruth is a skilled and valued colleague who has helped so many children in her time with us. We wish her a very happy retirement; however we are looking forward to welcoming her back next year as a grandparent, when her granddaughter starts Nursery!

At the end of next week, we will be breaking up for a well-earned fortnight's holiday. It's been a busy, fun and exciting term and there is more in the pipeline between now and the end of term! It was lovely to see so many children excited about book characters on World Book Day, and there was a real buzz around the school. We were so proud to hear that Westgate children won almost every age category in the annual competition to design the Carnival Programme cover: Amelie and Tilly in Y2, Lizzie in Y3, Livia in Y4, Lucas K and Lauren in Y6- and that the overall winner was Emily in Y5! Last week, Stanley J, Stanley H, Esther and Georgia in Y5 also won the 'Most Striking Line' award in a poetry competition held at GSAL, against teams from across Leeds. Then on Thursday, Westgate's choir performed beautifully alongside groups from all the schools in our cluster at Yeadon Town Hall.

Yesterday, Y3 and 4 had a Roman Day, following on from a fantastic Roman class assembly last week and Y1 and 2 have a UK and Northern Ireland day next week to round off their learning theme for this half term.

We've also been learning lots about staying safe- last week with a water safety talk from the Canals and Rivers Trust and then this week with pedestrian training for everyone from Reception to Y4.

So, enjoy the end of term holiday when it comes and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 18th April, along with Miss Helen Taylor who joins us as a teaching assistant in Reception and Key Stage 1.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

DECORATE AN EASTER EGG COMPETITION



It's that time of year again! Time to exploit your child's natural creativity and artistic talent and think about the annual Easter Competition. The theme is your choice- successful entries in previous years have included those which reflect a topical theme, an egg-based pun or a traditional Easter theme- but really it's up to you. The only rule is you must use real eggs (blown or hard-boiled, please!), There will be prizes and certificates for each class/ key stage and there is an adults category too if you wish to enter your own creation too!

The date to bring in your *egg-cellent* entries is **Thursday 31st March**- the last but one day of term. Judging will take place at lunch time and all entries returned to their owners at the end of the day. Good luck!

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

Last weekend saw 2 hours of fun and fundraising in the shape of the Easter Fair. An army of volunteers set up after school on Friday, ran the stalls on Saturday and cleared away at the end of it all. The final profit is **£2192.37!** That's just over £170 up on last year and is a fantastic achievement. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed, but especially to Claire Marsh, Liz Bownes and Gail Brogden who masterminded the whole thing.



HEALTH AND SAFETY Y5 AND 6



An increasing number of children in Y5 and 6 seem to be arriving in the school playground very early before school, when there are no members of staff to supervise them. Last week I had to speak to a child who was in the school playground at 08:15, but it is becoming increasingly common to see children in the playground at 08:30, twenty minutes before the doors open.

We cannot guarantee the safety of children who are arriving early and are unsupervised. I am therefore asking all families and children to ensure that no children are unsupervised in the school playground before 08:40- ten minutes before the school doors open.

If this continues to be an issue next term, I'm afraid we will consider insisting that children attend WOOSH if they are on the premises unsupervised before 08:40 and will charge accordingly.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



We have been notified that Westgate will be used as a polling station twice next term, for the local elections and for the EU referendum. Nursery parents have received separate notification about this as school will be closed to them on both days. However, school for all other year groups will be unaffected. Reception will learn in the mezzanine on both polling days.

18/04/16 Back to School
18/04/16 National Offer Day for Reception 2016
27/04/16 Class Photograph Day
28/04/16 Leeds University overseas students visit
28/04/16 FOW Film Night 17:30
02/05/16 Bank Holiday: School closed
05/05/16 Polling day: SCHOOL CLOSED TO NURSERY ONLY
09-12/05/16 Y6 test week
18/05/16 Y6 Junior Safemark training
19/05/16 NSPCC assemblies
21/05/16 Otley Show
23/05/16 Leeds Book Awards (Y6)
24/05/16 Y5/6 NSPCC workshops
25/05/16 Nursery (am & flexi 1) Maypole dancing 11:15
26/05/16 Whole School Maypole dancing 14:00
27/05/16 Break up for half term
06/06/16 Back to School
09/06/16 Otley Road Safety Quiz 18:45
13/06/16 KS1 Phonics check
13-15/06/16 Y6 Robinwood residential
15-16/06/16 Y5 Whitby residential
18/06/16 Otley Carnival
21/06/16 Reception Induction meeting 14:00
22/06/16 Y6 PHGS mini-Olympics afternoon
23/06/16 Polling day: SCHOOL CLOSED TO NURSERY ONLY
23/06/16 Y5 PHGS High school experience day
27/06/16 Y5/6 Sikh visitor
07/07/16 School induction day
07-08/07/16 PHGS Y7 inductions days
13/07/16 Nursery Sports Day 12:30
14/07/16 KS1 Sports Day 10:00
14/07/16 KS2 Sports Day 13:45
18/07/16 School Talent Show 13:45
19/07/16 Y6 Leavers' Play and party 18:30
21/07/16 Y6 Leavers' assembly 09:00
22/07/16 Break up for the summer 15:15
05-06/09/16 Training Days
07/09/16 Back to School

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



There is still a small amount of flexi lunch money due from parents of children in Nursery. It is very important that this is paid before Friday 1st April. Cheques should be payable to Leeds City Council. Thank you.