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### AUTUMN DAYS

This Thursday afternoon is **Harvest Festival**. It will take place at Otley Parish Church (All Saints) at 14:00. Parents and carers of children from Reception upwards are welcome to come along to join us and any donations of food should be given to your child's class teacher at the start of school that morning. Food donations will be split between Otley Food Bank and PAFRAS (Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers) in Leeds. We can accept tinned and packet/dried goods. Thank you in advance for supporting the collection and I hope you are able to join us to hear the children's readings and singing. Each class will also need some willing adults to help walk the children to church- let your child's class teacher know if you are able to help.

Last week in school was a beautiful experience, thanks to Mimika Theatre's visit, in which each class got to experience an exquisite, absorbing performance using puppets, light and sound to tell the story of one day across different landscapes. We were able to provide this experience because of money from School Fund. I'm sure your child has come home and talked about their time in the tent with Bill and Jenny and all the children are carrying on learning in class at the moment which has been inspired by the experience. Following this newsletter you will be able to read a report about the whole experience from Y5, who have been journalists this week!

**Helen Carpenter**  
Head Teacher

### A MESSAGE FROM MIMIKA...

Dear staff and children of Westgate Primary,  
Bill and I want to thank you all for the wonderful four days we spent in your school. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming and we knew from day one that we were going to have a lovely time sharing our stories with you all.

We enjoyed every single class who came into our tent - all the children were so very well behaved, polite and attentive. They asked really interesting questions after the performances and said some very nice things to Bill and me about what they thought about the experience.

We visit lots of schools but we think Westgate is special.

Have a great term and see you all in the future with our tent and new stories.

Best wishes,

*Jenny and Bill*

### PARENTS/ CARERS CONSULTATION EVENING

You should have received a text message last week to say that online booking is now open for Parents Consultation evening later this month. Please can I encourage you to book as soon as possible if you have restrictions on when you can attend, and especially if you have more than one child for whom you need to book an appointment. Bookings close on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. If you have mislaid your login details you can get a reminder from the School Office. This year, in common with many other schools, all parent/ teacher meetings from Nursery to Y6 will take place in the school hall rather than classrooms. Children's work will still be available to view as usual. We hope that this change will help parents and teachers to stick to schedule and ease the issue of having to move between two buildings. The change is also part of our Accessibility Plan, as the KS1 building is difficult to access for wheelchair users. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION: WHERE CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT...?

Once your child has started school, it can be easy to forget about the wide range of information that is available on the school website and learning platform. Just a reminder therefore, that if you want to find key policies, information about what we teach, Special Educational Needs provision, how we spend allocated funding streams such as PE & Sport funding or Pupil Premium, academic standards and lots more, all of this information is publicly available to anyone via our website. In addition, by using your parent login you can see your child's class page, which has additional information which is special to your child's year group. If you want to know something and you can't find it online, don't hesitate to ask the School Office. Hard copies of everything available online can be provided on request.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



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

you log on to the VLE. Please check in case there are any changes from provisional dates given out at the end of the last academic year... and make sure you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

04/10/18 Harvest Festival 14:00  
09/10/18 Rec Curriculum evening 18:00  
11/10/18 FOW Cake sale  
12/10/18 EYFS Training Day- school closed for Reception & Nursery  
16/10/18 individual school photos  
18/10/18 Friends of Westgate meeting  
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  
12/11/18 w/b Anti-Bullying Week  
23/11/18 Takeover Day  
15/11/18 Walk the Walls  
16/11/18 Children in Need Day  
22/11/18 Nursery Induction 15:45  
02/12/18 Otley Victorian Fayre  
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  
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  
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

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



We have a new, easy way to make donations to Friends of Westgate- at no cost to yourself! Sign up to **Easy Fundraising** using [this unique link](#) to support **FOW Friends of Westgate** whenever you shop online. Once you've signed up, you can download an app for your smartphone and/ or an extension for your web browser. You can open the app and then go straight to your usual online shopping apps/ sites. On your PC, the web browser extension will prompt you and ask if you want to make a donation. The retailer will then make a percentage donation of your purchase on

your behalf- at no cost to you! Please think about signing up, particularly as you look ahead to Christmas and/ or if you are making big purchases such as household appliances or holiday bookings. Every little helps! Thank you ☺ Our next event is a Cake Sale next week in support of BASIK (Build A School In Kenya) and ActionAid. And all are welcome to our next meeting on **18/10/18, 19:30 in the Fleece**. Come along for an informal chat about the things we do, with a drink and some nibbles!



#### 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

As of September we have **72** 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. **Average monthly prizes last academic year were £125.82, £31.45 and £15.73 and they are on the rise this year!** This half term's theatre experience, Mimika, has been entirely paid for from School Fund and would have been impossible without contributions such as those made through Westgate Windfall.



#### WOOSH

**NEW PHONE NUMBER: 07562 439350**

Families using WOOSH should all now have received their statements of opening balances, following the transfer of billing to the School Office. Thank you to everyone who has addressed this

already. Later this term we are expecting our new online payments system to be up and running which we hope will be of further help to parents, particularly those who work and are unable to get into the school office. Thank you for your patience and support in the billing handover. A separate letter is coming home this week, outlining the expectations for booking and cancellations.



#### 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:C.Eley@westgateprimary.co.uk). First taster session: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 09:00 in the mezzanine. ☺

#### TOY LIBRARY

A warm invitation to all families of children in Nursery to Y2, to come along to Toy Library on Friday. If you haven't been before, or haven't visited for a long time, pop along and see the new additions and old favourites. For just £2 subscription a term, you can borrow a wide range of fun games to play with your child(ren).

Donna Easton runs the Toy Library on behalf of Friends of Westgate and she would be delighted to see faces old and new, in the **Shared Area between Y1 and Y2 from 15:15 on Friday**.

