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SAFER INTERNET DAY 2016

Next week sees Safer Internet Day, one day to reinforce the messages we give to children about how to be safe online. Our children are, at younger and younger ages, becoming 'digital natives' and as adults we use technology as a natural part of daily life that was unimaginable even when most of us were children ourselves. Because of this, adults can often be unaware of the importance of safe behaviour online, but it is as important to teach children about this and be aware of what your children are doing online as it is to teach them the Green Cross Code and supervise children near busy roads.

A great resource for parents can be found at <http://parentinfo.org/> and if you want to work at home with your children about online safety, you can look at https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/cybercafe/ together (KS2).

Some essential online rules for children include:

- Never befriend online someone you don't know in real life.
- Know your privacy settings and set them to 'friends only' where possible- not 'friends of friends'.
- Do not post detailed personal information- particularly full name and contact details, or your username for other social media platforms. General information is fine.
- Don't lie about your age.
- Don't post photos of yourself or your friends with your school uniform/ logo clearly visible.
- Never share passwords.
- Don't ask a question you might not like the answer to.
- Tell a grown up you trust about anything you see or read which makes you feel uncomfortable. You can also report it using the CEOP button or you can ring ChildLine (0800 1111).

Please note that where school is aware that children have accounts on social media which contravene the terms and conditions of the site (such as being under 13), we will take action where we can to report this to the site to have the account taken down.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

RETIREMENT



I am sad to tell you that Mrs Bleasdale will be retiring at the end of March, after a long and happy career as a teaching assistant, first at Thomas Chippendale School in Otley and then, for the last 14 years, at Westgate. Anybody whose child has benefited from Mrs Bleasdale's support will know her gentle, patient skill in helping children to achieve their potential, whether in the classroom or on a one to one basis. Mrs Bleasdale received her long service award from Leeds City Council in 2012 (pictured). Now a grandma, she

has definitely earned a rest, though in due course, we hope to welcome her back to Westgate with her granddaughter when she is ready for school.

We will therefore be recruiting and an advert for a Level 2 Teaching Assistant will go live next week. Please alert anyone who is suitably qualified/ experienced and may be interested in applying to join the Westgate team!

WELCOME MR BLACKBURN!



Year 4 are currently enjoying the attentions of 3 teachers, as Mr Blackburn carries out his final training placement in order to qualify as a teacher. I know he is loving his time so far with Year 4 and at Westgate- please say hello if your child is in his class!

SCHOOL SAVINGS CLUB



it's been great to see children joining this financial education initiative since it started last month. From after half term, you can choose either for your child to continue to hand in their deposits via their class teacher or, if you arrive at school between 08:30 and 08:50, your child can make their deposit face to face by coming into the Hall via the Y5 playground door and seeing Mrs Mellor- just like at a real bank branch! If you think this extra incentive might give your child reinforcement about the value of being responsible for regular saving, pop along! Application forms to join the savings club are available via the school office.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT EVENT



On Friday 29th Mrs Hopkins and school councillors Grace Martin, Dylan Bibby, Rheya Kelly and Oscar Lunn attended a Young People's Engagement Event at Horsforth School, along with representatives from schools across North West Leeds. During the day the children were asked what they liked about their area and what they thought could be improved. They met with councillors from North Leeds and had the opportunity to ask them questions. They were lucky enough to have their lunch with Councillor Sandy Lay and quiz him about our local area. The final activity involved the children working alongside children from other primary schools. Leeds City Council have a pot of money for children's activities and the groups had to decide what they would like the money to be spent on. Popular choices included Lego workshops, Breeze festivals and bike building courses!

WESTGATE WINDFALL

February's winners are:

- 1st: S & A Green (£106)
- 2nd: R Bardgett (£26.50)
- 3rd: A Farnaby (£13.25)

We currently have 53 members.

If you would like to join the monthly draw, please see Mrs Finlay 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.



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

The School Disco was extremely well-attended as ever and raised **£364.17** on the night- so a great success on all fronts. Thanks to Laurel for organising and to everyone who volunteered on the day to supervise and to man the refreshments. Tomorrow is the Uniform Sale- thanks to Gail Brogden for organising this.

The Easter Fair will take place on **Saturday 19/03/16** and the Friends will be very grateful for offers of help to man a stall for half an hour on the day. Donations for the Tombola will also be gratefully received after half term. **The Toy Sale** connected to the Fair will run after school on **Friday 26/02/16** (donations also gratefully received straight after half term). Looking ahead, **Otley Carnival** is on **Saturday 18/06/16** and children will soon be receiving a letter inviting them to submit design ideas for the theme of our entry.



ROAD SAFETY

Stop Look  Listen Live

A plea for safety at drop off and pick up at school, to all families. It has been drawn to my attention that a small number of parents/ carers are parking partly on the pavement on Piper Lane/ Bradford Road, thus making it impossible for parents with buggies to get past. Similarly, I understand that a number of families are crossing the road near the advertising hoardings. It is really important that parked vehicles obstruct neither traffic nor pedestrians, nor obscure vision for pedestrians and road

users. However, I must ask all families to resist the temptation to cross Piper Lane/ Bradford Road at this point but to continue up towards Scarborough Road and **use the pelican crossing**, which was installed after a lengthy campaign to improve safety for Westgate families. Crossing at any other point is at your own risk, regardless of how safe your crossing point appears to be.

ROAD SAFETY PART TWO



On Monday this week, Years 5 & 6 had Pedestrian and Scooter training, following reports of some dangerous trips to and from school and a lack of regard for other pedestrians on the part of some over-enthusiastic scooterers! Next month will see pedestrian training for all other classes, again provided by Leeds Road Safety Team. On another safety note, we are also welcoming the Canals & River Trust next month, to give a talk to the whole school about water safety near rivers.



Y5/6 BAKE SALE

Children in Y6 have decided to organise a bake sale to sell to children on Monday at break time, to raise money for Martin House and Cancer Research UK- two charities which mean something personal to children in the class. Children in Y1 to Y6 can bring in a little bit of money to buy a little treat to eat at break time- and leftovers will sold after school. The prices are 30p for buns and 20p for biscuits. There will also be a raffle for a large cake – 20p per ticket.

BREAK TIME SNACKS

The bake sale mentioned above is a rare treat at break time. However, I have noticed recently that some children are bringing inappropriate snacks for morning break in KS2. To remind parents- the only acceptable snacks are fresh or dried fruit, or a piece of cheese. Fruit winders, biscuits, chocolate, rice crispy squares, snack bars and crisps are all *not* appropriate snacks and will be taken from children if found in school, to be returned at the end of the day. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children receive free fruit and vegetable snacks as part of a national scheme, and Key Stage 2 children are able to purchase fresh fruit at break time for 20p a piece (and you can pay in advance if you wish). Thank you for your support in this matter.



**POLITE REMINDER:
DON'T FORGET MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY IS
A TRAINING DAY.
THANK YOU!**