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### SUPPORT FOR LEARNING



First of all, a big thank you to everyone who is coming to consultation evening this week. The teachers spend a lot of time preparing for these evenings so that they are as useful as possible for you as parents. You will have noticed this term that we have talked about some basic skills that are the building blocks of children's progress. It's OK not to understand 'how school works these days'- things in education rarely stand still and sometimes it's hard even for teachers to keep up!

However, there are 3 very simple things all families can do to support their children. **Reading:** hear your child read and read to your child, and talk about the books you read together. This will help your child become a better reader and a better writer too. **Mathematics:** help your child to practise remembering number pairs that make every number between 2 and 20, and then their multiplication tables. It will have a huge impact on every other calculation they do. **Writing:** when your child writes, check it over with them and help them to add in any capital letters or punctuation they have missed out. This is a good habit for all children to get into. We appreciate that some families already do these things, and the benefit to their children is very obvious in the classroom. I hope that these simple messages will take some of the worry out of how to help your child and help you to incorporate these activities into your daily routine. By working together like this we can ensure all children make the best possible progress.

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE EASTER FAIR UPDATE



Preparations are well on with this year's Easter Fair- it's set to be another fun morning! The taster session that is the Toy Stall was a success last Friday, raising **£110.90** in about 30 minutes. Thanks to Gail Brogden and her band of helpers for organising this.

Next up- Raffle Tickets and the Easter Fair Quiz go on sale next week. Test your general knowledge and see if you can recognise teachers from their baby photos!

A letter will come out next week with details of the raffle prizes on offer this year.

We are now accepting any good quality tombola prizes - you can bring them in via class teachers or the school office. Finally, for the price of a bottle (for the bottle stall) your child can participate in a **non-uniform day on Friday 18th March**. It can be a bottle of anything- from champagne to shampoo and anything in between!

Finally, the Easter fair will not be able to run without the kind help of parent and staff volunteers. If you can offer a bit of help- just 30 minutes on a stall is a massive help-you can sign up by emailing [clairemarsh@zoho.com](mailto:clairemarsh@zoho.com) to arrange.

### SCHOOL SAVINGS CLUB



If you arrive at school between 08:30 and 08:50, your child can now 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.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY



A polite reminder to parents and carers that, as at break times, children should not climb on rocks or playground furniture even while supervised, before and after school. The climbing frame is suitable for climbing under parental supervision and parents are responsible for their children's safety before and after school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### WESTGATE WINDFALL

March's winners are:

1<sup>st</sup>: V Mirfield (£102)

2<sup>nd</sup>: S Taylor (£25.50)

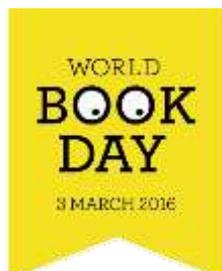
3<sup>rd</sup>: D Tweedie (£12.75)

We currently have 51 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.



### WORLD BOOK DAY



Tomorrow sees us celebrating World Book Day and for a change, this year we have decided to dress up as book characters from some well-known children's literature. It's not

compulsory to dress up but we hope that everyone will enjoy seeing and talking

about any costumes and characters they see in school, and the books they have come from. We are also hoping to have a visit from TNT who will be donating some books to school as part of the celebrations!

### TRAINING DAY



Last week, our first day back at school was a training day for all staff. We had training from the Leeds Restorative Practice Team. Restorative Practice is an approach to conflict resolution and behaviour management, which puts the emphasis on children (and adults) understanding what they have done, the consequences of their actions and how they affect others, and having an active part in deciding to make amends. It is based on strong community relationships, and a sense of responsibility and belonging. This is the first part of a piece of work we are doing, the next part of which is to establish peer mediation in school. Our overall aim is to give children resilience and skills to enable them to sort out small disagreements themselves and to manage friendships well. Our intention is for peer mediation to begin next term.

### 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 polling days.