

Volume 20, Edition 1, 12th September 2023

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WELCOME BACK

Last week was a lovely, sunny start to the new school year. It's been a pleasure to welcome everyone back, as well as all our new starters in Reception and Nursery, and the Manda and Oldroyd families across school. I've been so proud of how well everyone has settled in to Westgate, and how warmly everyone has



welcomed our newest recruits.

This newsletter will be a bit longer than usual because it's the start of the year and with that comes lots of information and reminders about school and the year ahead.

As existing families will recall, last term we had to find a new system for school payments at fairly short notice, as our previous system was unexpectedly discontinued. You can imagine the complications this has caused for the school office! However, through dint of much hard work, it is now up and running and you should hopefully begin to notice some improvements, such as the ability to see live balances for WOOSH bills as well as dinner money, a more straightforward online booking system for WOOSH tied to billing, and payment for after school clubs- details of which were circulated to all families last term. Thank you for bearing with us as we iron out initial teething problems- as we all get used to the new system, I am confident you will find the new system a further improvement on previous years. The school office are happy to help with any queries you can't resolve by re-reading the information that has been sent to you.

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

ANYTHING BOXED IN RED IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY REQUIRE ACTION ON YOUR PART. THANK YOU 😊

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year we will be visiting the Parish Church as a school (Reception to Y6) and parents will be welcome to join us in person, or follow the service on the church's livestream online: a link will be sent out the day before. We will be collecting food for the festival, which will be donated to [Otley Food Bank](#). Non-perishable items such as tins, jars, packet and dried goods are all welcome and should be brought to school at the beginning of the school day on Thursday 05/10/2023. The food bank has continued to experience lower donation rates so everything you can give will be very gratefully received.

	Milk (UHT)		Rice	
	Tea Bags		Pasta	
	Instant Coffee		Cous Cous	
	Fruit Juice (long-life)		Noodles	
	Soup		Instant Mash	
	Tinned Tomatoes		Dried Fruit	
	Tinned Spaghetti		Pasta Sauces	
	Tinned Baked Beans		Jam	
	Tinned Meat or Fish		Sugar	
	Tinned Vegetables		Breakfast Cereals	
	Tinned Fruit		Biscuits & Snack Bars	
	Tinned Rice Pudding		Crisps	
	Tinned Sponge Pudding			

Thank you for your support!

Thank you 😊

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS



We continue to use electronic means as our main method of communication. It is therefore essential that parents check emails regularly: we can ensure that letters are emailed to you but we can't make you read them! The SIMS Parent Lite app is essential to ensure you can easily update contact and medical details. Letters which require a response will include a hyperlink to complete an online form, rather than requiring a return slip.

Please note that parents should not email teachers unless it is absolutely essential.

Any messages during the school day should come via the school office as teachers will not ordinarily pick up emails while teaching. School policy is that emails are only sent, read or responded to between 08:00 and 18:00, weekdays only during term time. Teachers are usually available at the beginning and end of the school day and are often able to return telephone calls during breaks.

Thank you ☺

RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY AT WESTGATE

Just a reminder that you can continue to **recycle**:

- Crisp packets (via the bin adjacent to the car park)
- Printer cartridges (at the office)
- Batteries (via classrooms/ The Big Battery Hunt boxes)
- Clothes/ textiles (termly FOW Ragbag)

at Westgate, and help us raise money and win prizes for school at the same time. Try asking friends & neighbours, or at work, to boost our collections!

In school, we recycle as much of our paper, card, metal, glass and plastic as possible, as well as our food waste. Help us to reduce plastic use by trying to eliminate single use plastic from lunchboxes (cling film, plastic food bags) wherever you can. Thank you!

Thank you for your support!

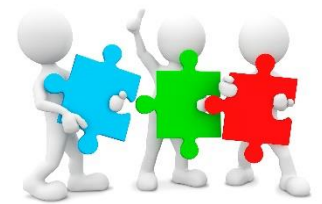


Eco Team

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

We really value the extra capacity and skills that volunteers bring to school, and we are recruiting! If you would like to help in school, for example by hearing children read, we would love to hear from you- and your support would be very valuable! Ask in the school office if you'd like to find out more.

We can also support volunteer placements as part of a learning support qualification you are pursuing.



LEARNING MENTOR



For those who do not know me I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little about my role in school. My name is Caroline Eley and I am the Learning Mentor at Westgate Primary. Hopefully you will have seen me in the playground as you drop your children off. My job is to work alongside the other adults in

school and parents to identify anything that may be stopping children from having the very best school experience. These things may include friendship issues, changes in family circumstances, family bereavement, self-confidence and self-esteem issues and difficulties with emotional regulation. I work with children 1-1 or in a small group in our Nurture Room and support children in the playground. I also teach PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic education) & Mindmate (lessons supporting children's emotional and mental well-being) lessons to whole classes across the school. If you would like to get in touch to discuss any worries or issues with your child you can email me at c.eley@westgateprimary.co.uk, call or text my school phone on 07712 214563 or leave a message with the office and I will call you back. At Westgate we pride ourselves on really getting to know each individual child and their family. When we work together your children have the best school experience. In previous years I have offered a drop in sessions for parents who had concerns or just needed to chat. This could be a great way to start getting to know other parents, especially if you are new to the school or would just like some company. Parenting is the most difficult job we do and sharing and supporting one another through our worries and triumphs with people going through the same thing is so important. If this is something you would be interested in please text the number above with your name and the name and year of your child/children. I look forward to sharing your child's journey through Westgate with you.

Thank you ☺

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME AND ATTENDANCE

A reminder for parents thinking ahead already to family holidays in the coming year, that holidays taken in term time are not usually authorised and parents taking children on holiday in school time risk a fine, in line with government and local policy. In addition, where a child has been reported as absent due to illness and we have good reason to suspect that in fact, he/she was on holiday, parents will be asked to provide proof that he/she was in fact poorly. Fines are issued on a 'per parent, per child' basis.



When requesting time off from school for any reason, parents must fill in an absence request form (available from the school office) and this should be done as far in advance as possible. It must be done via the school office rather than the class teacher, even if it is 'just' a request to leave before the end of the school day.

Please also note that children's attendance is calculated by our information management system on their presence at registration. Absences for any reason other than an approved school activity that mean a child misses registration (morning or afternoon) will affect their overall attendance record. This is standard procedure for schools.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

July's winners were:

1st: G Fisher (£132)

2nd: C Blindell (£33)

3rd: R Tucker (£16.50)

As of August we have **66** 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. 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 £132.50, £33.13 and £16.56! School Fund contributes to the cost of trips, visitors, special events and equipment, which would not be possible without the contribution that Westgate Windfall makes.



FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



We are looking forward to a full calendar of social and fundraising events this year. After the success last year, we will be running a Christmas

Jumper sale again later this term: you can bring in any outgrown festive knitwear to the school office.

This year we are aiming to raise at least £7,000 for open-ended, creative playtime resources for the whole school to use.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 28/09/2023 at 19:30 in the Black Horse.** Come along, have a drink and find out what we do!

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND HOMEWORK

This week you will receive a letter about homework in Reception upwards, which will outline our expectations.



Two of the best ways you can help your child to succeed and feel confident at school, now and in the future, are to establish regular daily homework routines from the outset, and to ensure you read with your child every day. Homework is best done little and often and does not need to be one long marathon slog of misery. If you are struggling to find a routine that works, do ask your child's teacher for suggestions to make things work for your child and your family. Homework tasks are set via Microsoft Teams from Y1 upwards.

Your child has access to a number of online learning resources to support their home learning; an email this week will outline these in more detail, and give you a reminder of their login details for each resource.



easyfundraising

If you'd like to support the work of Friends of Westgate without any cost to you, **Easy Fundraising** could be the answer! By signing up and using the app and/ or using the web browser reminder, you can get a

wide range of retailers and service providers to donate to FOW when you shop online- money that comes from them, not you! So far we have raised **over £1,300**. Our next big project is to fund enhanced playtime resource provision, and continue to replenish classroom reading materials. Use this link to sign up and earn donations for FOW:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofwestgate/?invite=4OK2Z3&referral-campaign=s2s>

WOOSH



Just a reminder that Westgate Out of School Hours (WOOSH) provision is available to children in

Nursery to Y6, from 07:45 to 08:50 in the morning and from 15:15 to 18:00 in the afternoon. Charges are £4.00 for a morning session, and £9.00 after school, or £7.00 for further siblings. It may also be counted as part of your child's funded 30 hour Nursery entitlement, if you wish. **Both sessions must be booked online in advance, and bookings that are cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice will be chargeable.** Please log on to your School Gateway payment app to book and pay for WOOSH sessions.

NB: Pupils using WOOSH as part of their 30 hour Nursery entitlement do not need to book as this has already been taken into account.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Clubs: Information was circulated last week to advise parent / carers of which club/s their child/ren have been offered this year. After school clubs will be available to book and pay for on a termly basis using the School Gateway app. Charges are £10 per half term and the commitment is for the full term (clubs remain free to pupils on free school meals).

Dinners: Please keep an eye on your school meal balance using the School Gateway app. Reminders will be sent to any accounts with outstanding balances.

Music: Music lessons have begun this week and a text will be sent out when the fees are available to pay on-line.

Please ensure you take the time to read the weekly 'Next Week at Westgate' email which comes out on a Friday. This will keep you informed of any changes to music lessons or clubs and keep you up to date with any class / school events.

SCHOOL TRAVEL

Today, we restart the [Travel Tracker](#) in Y1-6 (Reception & Nursery will start later this half term). Each morning, children complete a quick online survey in class to record their journey to school. They can earn a badge for every month where they walk, scooter, cycle or 'park & stride' at least once a week. The closure of Scarborough Road at the beginning and end of the school day, and Waitrose offering their car park for parents to use for 'Park & Stride' through the School Streets initiative has made it easier and safer than ever to choose a more sustainable school journey.



Coming up, it is national [Bike to School Week](#) beginning on 25/09/23. We would like as many families as possible to ditch the car for the week and walk, scoot or cycle to and from school. Good luck and have fun!

If you are unsure of the safest route for you to travel to school, please get in touch or check on our [website](#), as there are many safe ways to get to school while being active and improving our local environment and air quality.

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Just a reminder that you can find a wealth of information about our school on the main school website.

Whether it's information about the curriculum, school policies, special educational needs & disability (SEND), sustainability, school meals, or news about what is happening at school (or a host of other topics), almost anything you could wish to know is to be found at www.westgateprimary.co.uk. Happy browsing! If there's something you need to know which isn't on there, don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office.

In the parent survey last term, some of you told us you would like more information about what children are learning each half

term: we are working on this and will be providing more information for you later this half term.

FOW PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM *Save money, save the planet!*



We offer a full range of branded uniform items, as well as shorts, joggers, trousers, skirts, pinafores and dresses, and you can order these through the

[link](#) on the Next Week at Westgate email on Fridays, in between our face to face sales.

At the moment, we have excess stock of grey items (skirts, trousers etc) and summer dresses, all in good condition and at bargain prices. Any orders we can fulfil will be sent home with your child, along with a 'suggested donation' slip. You can pay cash via the school office and/ or return any unsuitable items. Happy shopping!



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

If your child has achieved something outside of school- perhaps a sporting achievement, musical or other out of school activity, we like to recognise this in our weekly celebration assemblies. They take place on Fridays. Your child should bring in something to share, such as their medal, trophy, badge or certificate, and we will ensure their achievement is celebrated with the whole school!

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far. They are also to be found on the school website's calendar. Please make sure

you transfer all relevant events into your diary or calendar as soon as possible!

27/9/23 IPM meetings
04/10/23 Rec Curriculum evening 19:00
05/10/23 Harvest Festival
10/10/23 Y6 residential meeting 7pm
11/10/23 parents evening booking opens
27/10/23 Break up
06/11/23 Back to school
06/11/23 UK parliament week
07/11/23 Individual photos
07/11/23 Consultation evening 17:00
09/11/23 Consultation evening 15:45
13/11/23 Anti Bullying Week
14/11/23 Nursery Stay & Play 10:30

14/11/23 Nursery Induction 15:45
15/11/23 Reception Stay & Play 09:00
16/11/23 Nursery Stay & Play 14:15
17/11/23 Children in Need day
04/12/23 SEN bookings open
13/12/23 FS Xmas performance 11:00
14/12/23 KS2 Xmas performance 19:00
14/12/23 FS Xmas performance 14:15
15/12/23 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45
18/12/23 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00
18/12/23 IPM Bookings open for pupils with SEND
19/12/23 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00
20/12/23 School Xmas Dinner
22/12/23 Xmas Parties
22/12/23 Break Up
08/01/24 Training Day
17/01/24 IPM meetings
06/02/24 Safer Internet Day
05/02/24 Booking opens for consultation evenings
09/02/24 Break up for half term
19/02/24 Back to school
20/02/24 Nursery Induction 15:45
21/03/24 Nursery Stay & Play pm
22/02/24 Nursery Stay & Play am
26/02/24 Reception Stay & Play am
07/03/24 World Book Day
04/03/24 Consultation evening 15:45
04/03/23 Fair Trade fortnight
06/03/24 Consultation evening 17:00
11/03/24 Governors Day in School
23/03/24 FOW Easter Fair
25/03/24 IPM Bookings open for pupils with SEND
27/03/24 Easter Concert 14:00
28/03/24 Training Day
29/03/24 Easter Hols
15/04/24 Back to School
01/05/24 IPM SEND review meetings
06/05/24 BANK HOLIDAY
13/05/24 w/b Y6 test week
20-24/05/24 Walk to School Week
23/05/24 Maypole 09:15
03/06/24 Back to school
10/06/24 Nursery Stay & Play am
11/06/24 Reception Stay & Play am
12-14/06/24 Y6 Herd Farm residential
15/06/24 Otley Carnival
17-23/06/24 Refugee Week
19/06/24 Reception Induction 19:00
20/06/24 Nursery Stay & Play pm
26/06/24 Nursery Induction 15:45
27-28/06/24 Y5 Whitby residential trip
01/07/24 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6
02/07/24 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5
15/07/24 Talent show 13:45
16/07/24 Leavers' Play 19:00
18/07/24 Leavers' Party 19:00
19/07/24 Leavers' Assembly 09:00
19/07/24 Break up
22/07/24 Training Day (disaggregated)
23/07/24 Training Day (disaggregated)
If your child does not normally attend Nursery when a blue event is taking place, you are welcome to bring them along. Further details will be available from Miss Robinson.