



Volume 17, Edition 5, 10th December 2019

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

MARY'S KNITTING PRICKLY HAY IN THE STABLE (MANNERS)



This is probably the busiest time of year in school! This week sees dress rehearsals and Christmas performances a-go-go, with the excitement building as children try on costumes and get to share their hard work and talents with grown-up audiences. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported their child(ren) to learn lines and songs, and source the odd item for costumes. This term, we have been able to replace a lot of worn and tired outfits for Foundation Stage and Key Stage One productions, thanks to the contributions that people like you make each month through Westgate Windfall. All in all, around 40 costumes have been made or replaced, so your generosity is really appreciated by all the children!

This Thursday does of course see us closing to children for the general election, as we are a designated polling station. The governors and I feel this is the best and safest option, but it is not a decision we take lightly. I remain hopeful that, with the help of our elected members, an alternative polling station may be found for our ward over the next year. In the meantime, we are trying to make the best of a bad situation, by using the day for staff to access some additional professional development time. The whole staff will be taking part in some Art & Design training, which we hope will further enhance our curriculum by up-skilling staff, and contribute towards our application for Artsmark Gold this academic year. Hopefully in this way, the children will have some benefit from what is otherwise an unwelcome disruption to their education.

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Christmas is a time of much giving and celebrating. We have been thinking of ways we can make sure we keep the excitement and celebration, while trying to be kind to others and to our planet. As a school therefore, we have thought about the following simple measures: Firstly, if your child would like to write **one Christmas card to their class**, rather than to every child, this could help you to save money and reduce waste. Of course, this is a personal choice for each family and is simply a suggestion- not an expectation.

Secondly, instead of party food on the last day of term- in a week where we all have had a Christmas dinner and on a day when the children will eat a school meal as normal, classes will instead be asked to bring in **an item to donate to Otley Foodbank**. As well as food, the Foodbank is also grateful for donations of toiletry items at this time of year. In this way, we can hopefully help families in need this Christmas.

Finally, if you find yourselves in financial difficulty as a family this Christmas, you can speak discreetly and in confidence to Ms Carpenter or Mrs Eley, as school is able to make referrals to the Food Bank, and to other organisations who can help with Christmas presents too. We are here to help.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the remaining dates we have planned for this term. 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!

09-15/12/19 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week

10/12/19 FS Xmas performance 11:15/ 14:00

12/12/19 GENERAL ELECTION- SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

13/12/19 KS2 Xmas performance 13:45

13/12/19 Xmas Tree choir concert 20:00

16/12/19 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00

16/12/19 KS2 Xmas performance 19:00

17/12/19 KS1 Xmas performance 10:00

18/12/19 School Xmas Dinner

20/12/19 Parent Drop-In 09:00- 10:00

20/12/19 Xmas Parties

20/12/19 Break Up

06/01/20 Training Day- School closed to pupils

07/01/20 Back to School

13/01/20 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30

17/01/20 Y6 School Nurse National Child Measurement Programme (Rearranged)

20/01/20 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30

22-24/01/20 Mimika Theatre

11/02/20 Safer Internet Day

13/02/20 Y2 Class Assembly

14/02/20 Y5/6 NSPCC Speak out stay safe workshops

14/02/20 Break Up

24/02/20 Back to school

24/02/20 w/b Fair Trade Fortnight

25/02/20 Nursery Induction 15:45

03/03/20 Consultation evening 15:45

05/03/20 Consultation evening 17:00

05/03/20 World Book Day

12/03/20 Y1 Class Assembly

13/03/20 Y5/6 Planetarium visit (in school)

26/03/20 Y4 Class Assembly

28/03/20 FOW Easter Fair

01/04/20 Easter Concert 14:00

03/04/20 Break up for Easter

20/04/20 Back to School

22/04/20 Big Pedal starts

30/04/20 Class photos

05/05/20 Big Pedal ends

05/05/20 Reception Class Assembly

07/05/20 Polling Day/ Training Day (Autism Level 2)

08/05/20 Bank Holiday

11/05/20 w/b Y6 test week

16/05/20 Otley Show TBC

21/05/20 Maypole 09:15

22/05/20 Break up

01/06/20 Back to school

04-05/06/20 Y5 Whitby residential

10-12/06/20 Y6 Herd Farm residential

17/06/20 Reception Induction 19:00

20/06/20 Otley Carnival

25/06/20 Nursery Induction

29/06/20 Meet the Teacher Y2/4/6

30/06/20 Meet the Teacher Y1/3/5

01/07/20 Y6 PHGS Junior Band Day

06/07/20 Anyone Can Day

08-10/07/20 Y6 PHGS Induction Days

09/07/20 Whole School Induction Day

14/07/20 Talent show 13:45

15/07/20 Leavers' Play/ Party 19:30

17/07/20 Leavers' Assembly 09:00

17/07/20 Break up

20/07/20 Training Day- school closed to pupils

Green events are changed or new since last time.

Blue events involve Nursery- if your child does not normally attend on that day, please let Miss Robinson know if your child will attend for this event.

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



What a successful term we have had! You should receive any **Christmas cards** orders this this week. It raised **£222** in total. **Sponsored Roller**

Racing raised **£1154.36** in total, not including GiftAid- and was a very fun day in the process, too. **Christmas Pottery Workshops** last week and the week before were very popular and enjoyed by all- thank you to Zoe Hollis for organising this and lending her time and skill to these events, raising over **£350!** And finally, our **Victorian Fayre** stall raised a whopping **£949.89!** Thank you to Becky McLernon, Laura Boddy and their band of helpers for doing such a great job. We are continuing to raise money to help school to **replace pupil laptops** this year- so every bit of help towards this is hugely appreciated!



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Please note that late DVD orders for Christmas performances will not be accepted, so please ensure you order on the day of the performance, using one of the slips provided. You will be able to pay via SIMSPay online afterwards. Foundation Stage's two performances will both be on one disc, as will KS1's performances. However Ks2 will have two separate discs (one for each performance) and you should order the performance of your choosing. Please ensure your child's name is clearly marked on your order slip to avoid any confusion!

Thank you ☺

WESTGATE WINDFALL

November's winners were:
1st: (£140) Mr & Mrs Mullen
2nd: (£35.00) Mrs Fortune
3rd: (£17.50) Mrs Mellor



As of November we have 70 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. This term, School Fund has paid for trips to the synagogue and Otley Science Fair, subsidised a trip to Tropical World, and will be paying for resource stations in the EYFS outdoor area and costumes for Christmas shows, so your contributions do make a real difference to your child's school experience at Westgate.



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! **We have now passed the £500 mark!** We are contributing to capital projects such as the redevelopment of the Foundation Stage outdoor area and the installation of cycle shelters this term.

Use this link to sign up and earn donation for FOW:

<http://efraising.org/53kkJyzBvi>

**WISHING EVERYONE A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**

