

Volume 12, Edition 6, 14th January 2015
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HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK!



A warm welcome to Mr Thurgood, who has joined us as Y4's class teacher. I know he has enjoyed his first week-and-a-bit with the children and the rest of the Westgate team and we are very glad to have him on board. Welcome also to our new Nursery starters who are joining us this month.

This week we are welcoming lots of visitors to school for Aspirations Week: Mr Hackney has arranged for the children to hear from lots of different people about their jobs, to introduce them to different careers and the world of work. Hopefully your child will hear from someone this week who might just inspire them to think about what they would like to do in the future, and find out more about the possibilities that are out there for them. We have also had fantastic feedback from our visitors about the children- including one who said that our children knew more about how to learn than some university students that he has worked with! Huge thanks go to Mr Hackney for organising all the visitors, who come from a wide range of sectors.

And finally... **THANK YOU** to Rachel Michael who has made a very generous donation of books to KS2 class fiction libraries. The children LOVE them!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

LEARNING PLATFORM



It looks as though the majority of parent users have now logged on at least once to the learning platform- thank you! However, it seems that not all of you have. It is really important that you have tried it out in the next week or so as booking for parents evening will go live later this half term (date to follow) and this will be the only way to book an appointment. There is lots of useful information on the learning platform, both for you and for your child(ren), all of whom can also log on out of school, for example at home or at the library.

A further reminder about the Android/ iOS app: The app is primarily for receiving messages and letters and the system automatically detects if you have an app that you have logged into. It will then only send texts and emails to the app and not to your text or email inboxes (so if you download the app and want to have instant access to these notifications- only download it to a device you have with you all the time, such as your phone). When you do download it, there are 3 fields to complete: enter **westgateprimary** in the first, your **login** in the second and your **password** in the third.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND PE KIT

A polite reminder about school uniform and PE Kit. All children from Reception upwards should have PE kit in school every week: a white T shirt, black shorts, and indoor pumps. A grey sweatshirt and bottoms are suitable for outdoor PE when needed.

School uniform includes a tie for KS2- but ties should not be worn by children in Y2 and below. School shoes should be black. Information about uniform is available on the school website for families if you are unsure. Hairbands should be plain wherever possible and jewellery should not be worn to school wherever possible and should be removed for PE lessons for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

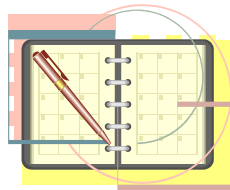


FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

A polite reminder that music fees are now due: Tuition is £30 per term. If you hire an instrument, this is £15 a term, except for cello which is £25 per term. Cheques should be made payable to Westgate Primary School and cash should be handed to the school office in a clearly-labelled envelope.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

All events at school are uploaded to the school website and learning platform: public events can be found on the website while personal/ group reminders are personalised on your child's calendar once you have logged on to the learning platform.



Please note the following dates for the rest of this term:

- 19.01.15 School Uniform Sale after school
- 20.01.15 Robinwood meeting for Y6 18:00
- 21.01.15 FS Owl Experience Visit to school
- 22.01.15 FOW School Discos
- 12.02.15 Y1 Class Assembly
- 13.02.15 Break up for half term
- 23.02.15 Back to school
- 23.02.15 FOW meeting at The Fleece 19:30
- 26.02.15 Governors day in School
- 03.03.15 15:30 Parent consultation evening
- 05.03.15 Y3 Class Assembly
- 05.03.15 KS2 D:Side drugs education
- 05.03.15 Parent consultation evening 17:00
- 06.03.15 FS/ KS1 D:Side drugs education; KS2 Internet Safety
- 09.03.15 Two teachers from Shanghai arrive
- 18.03.15 Shanghai teachers leave
- 26.03.15 15:30 Walk the Walls
- 28.03.14 Easter Fair 10:00
- 31.03.15 Easter Concert 14:00
- 01.04.15 Break up for Easter
- 02.04.15 Training day: School closed to pupils
- 20.04.15 Back to School

WESTGATE WINDFALL

January's winners are:

- 1st: Amelia Farnaby (£94)
- 2nd: Pippa McPherson (£23.50)
- 3rd: Maggie Simpson (£11.75)

We currently have 47 members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please see Mrs Finlay in the office for application

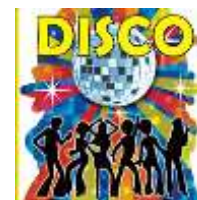


details. You can pay by standing order or cash/ cheque in advance. All proceeds go to Westgate School Fund, which is used to purchase resources, to fund visitors to school and to subsidise trips for all pupils.

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

Calling all artists and designers! This week saw Hannah Morley launch a **Logo Competition** on behalf of the Friends. They are looking for something which sums up the essence of the Friends of Westgate- so encourage your children to get creative! Look out for the letter next week with more details.

Gail Brogden will be running a **School Uniform Sale** in the school hall after school on Monday next week- a wide selection of good quality items will be on sale at very reasonable prices.



The much-anticipated **School Disco** is next week on the 22nd January: 17:30 – 18:30 for Nursery to Y1, and 18:45 – 19:45 for Y2 upwards. It's £1 entrance fee and this includes a drink. See the posters at school and on FaceBook for more information. Next month, there will be a **Valentine's Cake Stall** straight after school on 12th February.

The next Friends of Westgate meeting is on 23/02/15 at 19:30 in The Fleece- all welcome!

STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Mullens will be returning to school on 26th January. She will begin with 50% of her timetable and build up over the course of 3 weeks to her full teaching allocation, as Mrs Cook gradually hands over to her. Until Mrs Hooper's return to work at the start of March, Mrs Cook will continue to teach Y2 on Thursdays, however. We are really grateful to Mrs Cook for her excellent support and teaching in Y2 and equally are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Mullens back later this month.

I will be writing to Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage families next week to confirm the arrangements for Mrs Hooper's return to work.