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### IT'S (ALMOST) THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

This half term is a super busy one in primary schools up and down the land and Westgate is no exception, as we begin to look ahead to our various Christmas performances across school. This year, we are also sadly preparing to say goodbye to 3 valued members of staff at Christmas: Mr Hackney and Mr Wardman, our deputy head teacher and superintendent respectively, and Isabel our Spanish teacher. **We are currently recruiting for a new superintendent and are hoping to make an internal appointment to a new assistant headteacher post later this half term.** We have, however, already appointed a teacher to take on the class teacher post in Y5, and we are delighted to be welcoming **Miss Tortora** to Westgate. She will be visiting Westgate several times this half term for handover and induction, so that the transition between Mr Hackney and Miss Tortora is as smooth as possible for the children.

Friends of Westgate have also been busy running and planning different events. Please have a look at their article later on in this newsletter to find out about their events, fundraising to date and how you can help!



Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

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

### LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS...

Look out for information later this month about tickets for our Christmas performances. You will be able to pay online as usual. There are limits on the number of tickets per family for each production, because of the capacity of the school hall. However, we are usually able to release a small number of additional tickets once all requests have been fulfilled. You will receive further information about this after the initial ticket allocation. Our ticket sales proceeds go to our school charity, [Martin House children's hospice](#). You will also have the opportunity to buy a DVD of each production as a memento of your child's performance!



We also support Martin House on our school Christmas dinner day, when children can wear a Christmas or favourite jumper for a donation to the hospice.

Children will be able to 'post' Christmas cards in school from the start of December; please consider writing one card for the whole class to be displayed in the classroom instead of cards for everyone, to reduce waste.

Finally, on Christmas party day, instead of party food we ask that you give a food donation to the food bank if you are able.

### WESTGATE WINDFALL

October's winners were as follows:

To be advised in next Newsletter



As of October 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, which would not be possible without the contribution that Westgate Windfall makes. Average monthly prizes last academic year were £132.50, £33.13 and £16.56!

### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



It's been a very busy and successful start to the year! The Cake Sale which was run so well by our new Reception class rep, Hannah, raised an amazing

£312.27! Next up, our Hallowe'en Window Trail raised £100. The winning entry was from the Braithwaite family and the winning window, as voted for by the participants, was number 13! Both win a £20 Toyland voucher. On Friday last week we had fun at our family Bingo & Pizza night, and while we don't yet have a final total, the amount raised is expected to be in excess of £300 too! Thanks to Emma, our Y4 rep, for organising such a great evening. Also coming up is the first RagBag collection of the school year- tomorrow! - an ideal opportunity to have a clear-out before the festive season is upon us. Next month is our Mulled Wine and Chocolate Tombola stall at Otley Victorian Fayre. If you are able to give an hour of your time to serve on the stall, please contact us. All help will be gratefully received. ☺

Our first expenditure of the year is to provide £1000 of reading books for KS1- this is only possible because of your support!

You can contact Friends Of Westgate directly on [FOWotley@gmail.com](mailto:FOWotley@gmail.com) with suggestions or offers of help. Our next meeting is later this week at 19:30 on 16/11/23 at The Black Horse- all are welcome!

### FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



Polite reminder – please pay any outstanding balances for this half terms Clubs and Music lessons as soon as possible. Thank you

### DATES FOR THE DIARY



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

13/11/23 Anti Bullying Week  
14/11/23 Nursery Stay & Play 10:30  
14/11/23 Nursery Induction 15:45  
14/11/23 Y5 Science trip  
15/11/23 Reception Stay & Play 09:00  
15/11/23 Y1 Science trip  
16/11/23 Nursery Stay & Play 14:15  
16/11/23 Y3 Science trip  
16/11/23 FOW meeting  
17/11/23 Children in Need day  
24/11/23 Non-uniform day for chocolate tombola donations  
24/11/23 EYFS cluster training day; school closed to Nursery & Reception children only  
28/11/23 Winter Voices concert (8 Y5/6 choir children)  
03/12/23 Otley Victorian Fayre/ FOW mulled wine & chocolate stall  
03/12/23 13:10 Choir sing at the Victorian Fayre  
04/12/23 SEN bookings open  
08/12/23 19:00 Choir Xmas Tree Festival concert  
12/12/23 Y3 gymnastics festival @ PHGS  
13/12/23 FS Xmas performance 11:00  
13/12/23 Choir sing for Rotary Club  
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  
09/01/24 Back to School  
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/ via Tapestry.