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GOOD NEWS!

I'm delighted to let you know that, following a rigorous selection process, **Mrs Hooper was appointed as Assistant Head Teacher** last week, joining Mrs Hattersley as part of our new leadership structure from January 2024. Mrs Hooper is a skilled and committed teacher who is passionate about Westgate and all that it offers to children and families, so I am delighted that she has accepted this position.

In other fantastic news, Westgate has been awarded the **Autism Inclusion Award** by the National Autistic Society- an achievement we share with just one other school in our local authority. It reflects Westgate's high quality provision and staff expertise, and is a testament to the leadership of Mrs Colannino, our SENCo, and Mrs Chilton, our lead autism practitioner, and the work of the whole staff team. Once we have received the full report I will of course share that with you.



Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

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

INTRODUCING OUR MINDMATE AMBASSADORS



This school year we have a new team of Mini MindMate Ambassadors who have already achieved a huge amount since September.

The Mini MindMate Ambassadors role in school is to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for everyone by organising wellbeing activities, helping to create calm, mindful spaces for children to use and encouraging positive relationships in school.

The Ambassadors have created an action plan for the school year that includes purchasing and promoting new Buddy Benches for KS1 and KS2, developing our garden area, organising activities for Children's Mental Health Week in February and meeting with Mini MindMate Ambassadors from other schools to share ideas.

Harriet says, "I love helping the school to be a more calm, happy and relaxing place for everybody."

Arthur says, "It's nice to have spaces where you can have some quiet time and not worry about anything else."

So look out for the new benches that will be arriving in the next few weeks.

We are also putting out a plea for gardeners to help tidy up and clear the garden: contact Mrs Eley if you'd like to help!

SPORTS UPDATE

Last half term saw a lot of children taking part in PE and Sport activities both in school and externally - here is a quick summary!



A group of Year 5 and 6 cyclists had a super day out at Leeds Urban Bike Park having a go on BMX bikes, even trying out ramps and jumps!

Mrs Pollhammer is working really hard to develop Netball at Westgate and we are really pleased to see both our Beginner and Advanced after-school clubs flourishing. The Westgate Netball Team played 2 matches against other schools last half term - and won both! A huge WELL DONE to Mrs Pollhammer and the team. Girls AND boys are welcome in the Netball clubs and team, so please get in touch if your child would like to get involved.

Year 4 learned how to play Netball in their PE lessons last half term in preparation for a Netball festival at PHGS; they took part in mini-matches against other local schools and Mrs Hopkins was really pleased with their attitude as well as their ability.

As part of our commitment to Active Travel, we organised scooter training for Year 3 and 5. Year 3 learned how to use their scooter safely on their playground and developed their confidence with turning, braking and being aware of their surroundings, whilst Year 5 went out of school to learn how to navigate pavements, roads and driveways safely. Sticking with the Active Travel theme, Year 6 had a week of Bikeability cycle training, learning how to control their bicycle confidently and, for the more confident cyclists, how to cycle safely on the road. We hope that will encourage more of you to leave the car at home and cycle or scoot to school!

A reminder that, on PE days, long hair should be tied back and earrings should be removed - thank you for your support with this.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

October's winners were as follows:

1st: Mr & Mrs Lees (£132)

2nd: Mrs & Mrs Bleasdale (£33)

3rd: Mrs Fallows (£16.50)



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

FOLLOW US ON YOUR SOCIALS!



As well as our FaceBook page, we now have an Instagram page which you can follow to get updates about our plans, activities and how you can join in. Just search for @friendsofwestgate and request to follow us!

Our family Bingo & Pizza night raised £306.11. Thanks to Emma, our Y4 rep, for organising such a great evening. Then our RagBag collection raised a whopping £210. Thanks for all your donations.

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. 😊

The reading books for KS1 are already in use and are a great addition to school's resources- this is only possible because of your support!

You can contact Friends Of Westgate directly on FOWotley@gmail.com with suggestions or offers of help. Thank you 😊



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Polite reminder – when informing school of your child's absence, we would ask that you call us on 01943 462349 **before 8:30** and leave a message with the following information: your child's name, class and the reason for their absence. We ask that you **do not email** details of absences, as messages may not be seen before registration. Thank you for your understanding.

If children lose or break equipment (pencils, rulers etc.) school will endeavour to replace items. If this happens frequently, we politely ask that children bring a 20p donation per item, which should be handed in to the school office. Thank you.

FAREWELL

Children in WOOSH and Reception will have noticed that Mrs Wardman has not been in school recently, after injuring her foot. Sadly, she will be leaving Westgate next Friday as she has secured another position at All Saints CE Primary School. Mrs Wardman will be sorely missed but we wish her the best in her new job. We have rearranged staffing as a result, meaning that Ms Ellison will be working full time in Reception from next month, Mrs Cardwell will be increasing her time in Y3 and Ms Wilson will be moving to Y2, in between her teaching days in Y4 and Y1 at the beginning and end of the week. Finally, Mrs Kerry will be leading WOOSH solo for the time being.

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!

03/12/23 Otley Victorian Fayre/ FOW mulled wine & chocolate tombola stall
03/12/23 13:10 Choir sing at the Victorian Fayre
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
17/12/23 IPM Bookings open for pupils with SEND
18/12/23 KS1 Xmas performance 14:00
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
17/01/24 IPM meetings
19/01/24 FOW Shoulda Been A Xmas Quiz (adults only)
25/01/24 FOW meeting 19:30 Black Horse
06/02/24 Safer Internet Day
05/02/24 Booking opens for consultation evenings
08/02/24 FOW disco Nur- Y1 17:45; Y2- Y6 19:00- 20:00
08/02/24 Y5 Mixed Sports Festival @ PHGS
09/02/24 Break up for half term
19/02/24 Back to school
20/02/24 Nursery Induction 15:45
20/02/24 FOW Ragbag collection
21/03/24 Nursery Stay & Play pm
22/02/24 Nursery Stay & Play am
26/02/24 Reception Stay & Play am
04/03/23 Fair Trade fortnight
05/03/24 Consultation evening 15:45
07/03/24 Consultation evening 17:00
07/03/24 World Book Day
12/03/24 Governors Day in School
15/03/23 Comic Relief Day
21/03/23 Y2 Multi-skill Festival @ PHGS
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
Green events are changed or new to the diary since last publication.