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### CHRISTMAS, COVID-19 AND BEYOND...

I am sure, like me, you all watched the Prime Minister's briefing on Saturday with trepidation. While he made no mention of schools in the briefing, I received guidance from the DfE on Sunday which linked to the measures being taken in response to the Omicron variant. Schools have been directed to ensure that all staff wear masks/ face coverings in any communal areas and when moving around school. As you may be aware, this is a measure we were already implementing at Westgate, in common with many other schools. We are also limiting assemblies to virtual only, the only exception being singing rehearsals for our Christmas events.

On the subject of Christmas events, you will be able to view the Early Years and Key Stage 1 children's performances in the last week of term on our unlisted YouTube channel but they will be removed at the end of term. If you would like to pre-order a DVD to have a more permanent memento beyond this term you can do so on Pay360 from the end of this week. **The deadline for orders is Friday 10/12/2021.** Any profits from DVD sales will go to School Fund to pay for items related to performances e.g. costumes, props etc. The Key Stage 2 carol service will be available via the church's own live stream in the same way as you were able to view Harvest Festival.

We are once again asking you to limit Christmas cards in school and would suggest that if your child wants to send a card this year, they write one to the whole class which the teacher will open and display for everyone. This limits items being passed between children, as well as saving paper- and time!

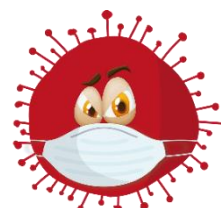
**Christmas Dinner Day** is on 15/12/2021- children may wear a **Christmas jumper** on this day for a **£1 donation** to our school charity, Martin House. Children who usually have a packed lunch but would like a school meal on this day should have ordered this already. Then the last day of term is **Christmas Party Day**- children may come in **non-uniform** on this day. Instead of party food, we will be accepting donations to Otley Food Bank on this day. We're even hoping that Santa may visit us on this day, if we are really good!

Helen Carpenter  
Head Teacher

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

### COVID-19

Up to date information about COVID-19 and school, including letters sent home, can be found on the school website under the tab '[COVID-19 INFORMATION](#)'. Thank you to everyone for their understanding when we ask you to seek a PCR test, and for your vigilance with regard to symptoms. By being careful we hope to protect as many people's Christmas break as possible. Your support is much appreciated.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder of all the dates we have planned so far for this term and next. They are also to be found on the calendar of the school

website. 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!

### 02-03/12/21 Rag Bag collection

06-12/12/21 Hour of Code (Computer Science Education) Week

09/12/21 Y3 Ancient Egypt trip to Leeds City Museum

10/12/21 Non-Uniform day for FOW chocolate tombola

10/12/21 Deadline for ordering Christmas DVDs (EYFS/ KS1)

15/12/21 School Xmas Dinner

17/12/21 Xmas Parties

17/12/21 Break Up

03/01/22 Bank Holiday

04/01/22 Training Day- school closed to pupils

05/01/22 School open to pupils

10/01/22 booking for Learning Passports (SEND pupils only) opens

11/01/22 Y6 Herd Farm/ SATs mtg 18:30

17/01/22 Y5 Whitby mtg 18:30

18/01/22 FOW meeting at The Black Horse

07/02/22 Booking opens for consultation evening

16/02/22 Learning Passport mtgs (SEND pupils only)

18/02/22 Break Up

28/02/22 Back to school

22/02- 07/03/22 Fair Trade Fortnight

01/03/22 Governors Day in School

03/03/22 Nursery Induction 15:45

08/03/22 Consultation evening 15:45

10/03/22 Consultation evening 17:00

03/03/22 World Book Day

15/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play am

16/03/22 Reception Stay & Play am

17/03/22 Nursery Stay & Play pm

22/03-01/04/22 Big Walk & Wheel

26/03/22 FOW Easter Fair

30/03/22 Easter Concert 14:00

01/04/22 Break up for Easter

18/04/22 Bank Holiday

19/04/22 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.

Green events are new or amended since these dates were last published.

## WESTGATE WINDFALL

October's winners were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup>: Mrs L Fortune (£136)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Drs Ross & Heppenstall (£21)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Mrs C House (£17)

As of October we have 68 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. Average monthly prizes last academic year were £142.17, £35.54 and £17.77!



## MP VISIT

On Friday morning we were delighted to welcome Alex Sobel MP to Westgate. Eco Team presented him with our petitions and spoke to him about the School Streets initiative and about the crossing issues on West Chevin Road. Alex also unveiled our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary artwork, which Sharon Snaylam has worked on with all of the children. We are hoping it will be installed before the end of the year in the school hall. You can see more about these stories on the school website under 'News'.



## FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

A polite reminder to pay any music fees, WOOSH or dinner monies for this term that are outstanding before the end of December if possible.

*Thank you*

## DONATIONS WANTED

Mrs Eley is putting out a call for donations of specific items for use in the 'quiet area' of the playground. The following items will all be gratefully received if you are having a pre-Christmas clear-out:

- Comics
- Puzzles- Rubik's cubes etc
- Card games
- Colouring books
- Pop-its

Thank you! ☺



### FRIENDS OF WESTGATE

It was great to meet in person at The Black Horse recently, after so long! Our next meeting is at the Black Horse on **18/01/2022 at 19:30**. Please come along, have a chat and a glass of wine and help us plan exciting new events to support the school. Our recent Toy stall and cake sale were popular- final totals raised will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

#### Christmas Events

We are planning to have a stall with a **Chocolate Tombola** in Otley over the Christmas period- **Friday 10/12/21** will be a **non-uniform day** in return for a chocolate donation. **Christmas Eve bags** are also currently on sale via Pay360 until 10/12/21.

Lastly, **we really need your support!** We've created a simple [online form](#)- please take 30 seconds to fill this in so we can let you know what we're up to and you can let us know if you are able to volunteer an hour of your time at any point. Thank you! ☺

And finally... Don't forget the **Ragbag collection** at the end of this week!

### RECYCLING AT WESTGATE

A quick reminder that you can recycle **printer ink & toner cartridges** at Westgate- why not ask at work if they have empties that we could recycle?



Every collection raises money for school. You can also recycle **crisp packets** at

school, which are made into survival blankets for homeless people.

We also recycle **batteries** at school- for which we can win a range of prizes! And of course we have regular **Ragbag** collections for recycling clothing, linen etc.

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

Just a reminder of the wealth of information that is freely available on our [school website](#), including:



- Policies
- Curriculum information
- Admissions
- Inclusion and equalities information
- End of Y6 results & our OFSTED report
- Newsletters & school news items
- Governance matters, including meeting minutes
- General diary dates
- Latest COVID-19 school information

And much more!