



Westbrook Lane Newsletter



Thank you and seasonal best wishes

Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work during the autumn term; it has certainly been a very busy (and long), one! Recently, we have been taken over by glitter, sparkly card and children practising their Christmas songs and learning lines for the nativity and pantomime in every available moment. There has been an impressive range of Christmas craft activities in each class, with children working hard to make some beautiful Christmas decorations; the pop-up sale did really well! The children have performed the Nativity and the KS2 pantomime, and we hoped you enjoyed the shows. Links to videos, and the passwords, will be sent out through ClassDojo.

Further on in this newsletter, you will find a montage of photos showing just a snap shot of some of the things that the children have been doing during the autumn term.

Fundraising

A big thank you to the PTA for all their fundraising events in the last term. The Christmas Fair was a success and we raised just over £1,600. The disco held this term for Reception and KS1 was also very popular. Many exciting things have been funded by the PTA in the last few months. We had the egg hatching in the summer term, with two incubators of chicks in school. Funds have also paid for resources to enhance our provision for parents at home such as Numbots, Timetables Rockstars, and the new Spelling Frame. There have also been many experiences funded by the PTA, including Year 5's Anglo-Saxon workshop, Year 6's design technology project, and Year 1's Great Fire of London workshop. Funds raised by parents and children have also been donated to several good causes. Thank you for supporting the fundraising events this term.

Christmas fair raised for the PTA - £1,620
 KS1 disco raised for the PTA - £680
 Green Day raised funds for the pond area - £337
 Autumn fair raised for the PTA - £2,000
 Anti-bullying Alliance Odd Socks Day - £174
 Our Bear Hunt donation to Leeds Hospitals Charity - £1,000
 Nativity collection for drama fund - £177
 Christmas Jumpers for Candlelighters and Martin House - £113
 KS2 Panto collections for the drama fund - £481
 Donation to Homeless not Hopeless - £100



Goodbye, Miss Southwell

We say a sad goodbye to Miss Southwell who will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up a teaching position at a primary school in Leeds. Miss Southwell started with us as a student on placement in September 2022. After completing her teaching qualification, she took up a teaching assistant post at Westbrook. During her time here, she taught throughout the school, most recently spending the majority of her time in classes 1, 3 and 4. The staff and children will miss her very much, and we all wish her the very best of luck in her new job.

Support for children and families over the holiday period

We work closely with Horsforth Children's services to support our families. We can make referrals for adult counselling and parenting support which can be personalised to help you and your family. The cluster also offer a number of excellent parenting courses, including Parent Gym, supporting you and your child's emotional wellbeing, and a Cygnet course for parents/carers of children who have - or are awaiting - an autism diagnosis.

If you would like any further support or information, please contact Mrs Gibbons or Mrs Lockwood. You can also contact Horsforth Children's Services - info@horsforthchildrensservices.co.uk or 0113 3367724. Children and young people can call ChildLine on 0800 1111 at any time, or they can look at the website - [ChildLine- under12s](#).

If you have a concern about a young person, you can contact Children's Social Work Services on 0113 2224403 Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm, except Wednesdays when they are open from 10am.

Bad Weather Procedures



Just a reminder about the procedures for informing parents about any changes to school opening times. In the event that we would need to have a delayed start, or close the school, a Class Dojo message will be sent to all parents. It is always advisable to check the school website, as well, as messages will also be posted there (see link at the bottom of the page).

A red banner will be displayed across the home page showing the relevant information for that day. The information will also be posted on the Leeds City Council website www.leeds.gov.uk and the local radio stations will be informed. On the Leeds City Council website you can click on *Residents, See Our Services, Schools and Learning, School Calendar, School Closures*. The schools that have any changes to opening hours are listed alphabetically.

Please be aware that the phone line gets very busy and it may take a while to get through. Class Dojo will be used for all alerts / messages in the first instance. Please be assured that, if at all possible, we will keep the school open; we will only close if there is a health and safety concern. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

A busy time for everyone

During the autumn term, every class in school has had some amazing experiences. The pictures below, going from reception class through to year 6, are just a snap shot of all the wonderful things we have been up to since we started in September... no wonder we're all so tired!

Reception children were busy with Christmas crafts, and packing bags full of items for the charity, Homeless not Hopeless. Earlier this term, **Class 1** had a visit from King Charles II. Recently, they joined in with the Christmas crafts; their Christmas cards were inspired by the penguin artwork they had been doing.



Class 2 loved the activities at Nell Bank, inspired by the Julia Donaldson book Room on the Broom. They searched for lost characters, and made broomsticks and monsters! They also enjoyed the Christmas crafts.



Class 3 enjoyed a board games afternoon for a class treat and a very cold and a very frosty trip to the pond to look at the ice and animal footprints in the snow.



Year 4 have been looking at eyes in their art lessons with Mrs Lockwood. As part of this, they created their own dragon eyes out of clay. After some initial sketchbook work, they developed an intricate design before carefully using the clay tools to make it. The finished pieces are excellent and the children are right to be very proud of them. Year 4 then put their artistic skills to good use when making some lovely Christmas crafts.



Class 5 enjoyed an Anglo-Saxon workshop. They learned about all aspects of life in Anglo-Saxon Britain, and had the chance to handle a range of interesting artefacts. Thank you to the PTA who funded this. Class 5 also got busy with some Christmas crafting.



By some Christmas miracle, Class 6 found time to enjoy some Christmas crafts in and amongst all their hard work learning their parts for the pantomime.



Look out for more photos in the New Year and information about how you can view the videos through a secure login.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone, fully rested and refreshed, on Monday 8th January 2024