



## Spring Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

### Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings

Thank you to the parents who attended our consultations and completed our surveys. Thank you also for your support in relation to staff absence confidential matters and understanding that the Academy ensures qualified supply teachers are used for cover as necessary.

### School Jotter - Parents' Evening System

Thank you to all the parents who booked their parents' evening appointment using the School Jotter system. We would like to ensure that everyone is able to book on the system for the next consultations in October so please check that you are able to log-in as early as possible so that we can resolve any issues. If you have experienced problems, please follow the instructions below:

*"After contacting the technical support for the Bookings system, we have been advised to make sure email addresses are up-to-date. We have added this email address to your contact details held in school, which may resolve issues with resetting your School Jotter password from the website or within the app. Unfortunately, we have no access in school to passwords for School Jotter.*

*If you would prefer a different email address to be used as your primary contact, please provide this to the school office. For forgotten usernames, this would usually be your first name and surname separated by a dot e.g. John Smith would be john.smith"*

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March and children can bring in their favourite book, comic or magazine to share with the class. If they would like to, children are encouraged to dress up as a book character and we will look forward to seeing everyone's favourite book. Your child will also be bringing home a voucher for them to either choose a £1 book or put this towards a book of their choice.

The dinner menu for the day to celebrate World Book Day will be:

- The Rainbow Fish
- Green Eggs and Ham
- Charlie and Lola's Cloud Fluff (Cottage Pie)
- Biff and Kipper Chips
- Peter Rabbit Carrots
- Tooth Fairies (Sweetcorn)
- Gruffalo Cake (Lemon Cake)
- Jelly That Wouldn't Wobble (Jelly)

### Sport Relief

On Friday 13th March, we will be raising money for Sport Relief. We are requesting a £1 donation payable on ParentPay to come into school wearing sports clothing, this can be tracksuits or team kits if you wish. Headbands and sweatbands are encouraged! As we will have just celebrated World Book Day, please do not purchase anything especially for the day. The theme for the day will be a danceathon which each year group will be taking part in.



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### **Easter Hamper Raffle**

Last year was a great success with the Easter Hamper Raffle so we will be holding this again instead of an Easter Fayre.

Each year group will be given a hamper item and we ask that the children from that year group bring that item in as a donation. All donations to be received by no later than Wednesday 25th March.

Nursery – Easter Eggs/Chocolates/Sweets

Reception – Bottled Beverages

Year 1 – Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate

Year 2 – Easter Eggs

Year 3 – Cakes

Year 4 – Tinned Fruit/Snacks

Year 5 – Biscuits

Year 6 – Jam/Marmalade/Preserves

Staff in school will collate all the items donated and will use the items to create Easter Hampers. As usual, all foods donated will need to be nut free. Please also check that the best before dates of items donated are after the 1st April.

The hampers will be raffled off in order to raise funds for the school.

To be included in the raffle, £2.50 per entry can be made via Parent Pay.

The raffle will be drawn at 3:45 pm on Friday 27th March in the school hall. You are welcome to join us for the raffle draw to see if you have won!

We hope that many of you will support our hamper idea and we look forward to seeing all the delicious hampers once they have been put together. Hopefully, they will raise much needed funds for the school.

### **Class Photographs**

Our photographer will be back on the afternoon of Tuesday 17th March and all day on Wednesday 18th March. If your child is part of orchestra or a football team, please ensure that they have their musical instrument or kit with them on Tuesday so that they can be part of the group photograph.

### **Welcome**

We would like to welcome our new Emotional Health, Well-Being and Family Support Worker, Mrs Jane Sayers, who will be commencing her new role on Monday 9th March.

Mrs Sayers will be part of our therapeutic team and will be working alongside Mr Eustace working with families who require support and helping to improve the attendance of pupils. We are looking forward to Mrs Sayers joining our academy.

### **Minibus Support Service**

We now also offer further support with our morning minibus service which can collect up to a total of 15 children, between 8.10 am and 8.40 am. This is for use when there is an urgent need for support to enable our children to attend school, for example:

- Vehicular breakdown
- Parents/carers too ill to transport children
- Ill children and no child care for siblings who are well enough to attend but can be collected.

The service is free, driven by our volunteer, Mr Makin, accompanied by a colleague. If circumstances dictate a need for this service, please call our school office between 8.00 am and 8.10 am.

### **Well Done!**

Well done to Maisie, Abigail and Daisy in Year 5 who raised £328 for Martin House Children's Hospice for children and young people. They had a bake sale, a tombola, a raffle and a book sale.

Scarlett and Lauren, also in Year 5, are members of 3rd Middleton Brownies and in January they supported those impacted by the bushfires in Australia by holding a raffle and also saving as much spare change as possible in sweet boxes. The money raised so far is £95.45 and will be put towards helping the local Australian Brownies and Guides in providing shelter to those who've been evacuated, packing supplies for those in need and crafting wraps and blankets for injured animals. The girls have been awarded a special Australia Bushfire Crisis badge for their efforts.

An 'Oscar Ceremony' was held for our 'movie-makers' from Year 6, Josh, Roan, Matthew, Oliver, Dylan and Sophia. Well done for the creation of 'Traction Man: Rest in Pieces'. Watch out Spielberg and Tarantino, just saying!

### **Music**

On Tuesday 3rd March, some of our orchestra pupils attended a concert at Leeds Town Hall where they listened to different orchestral youth groups. The children enjoyed the experience as did Mrs Bedford and Mrs Dawson.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## Sport

### Cross Country

On Wednesday 5th February, 30 children from Year 4, 5 and 6 represented Westerton in the Leeds Cross Country Final. They all coped really well with the long distance and the cold weather and did the school proud. Luke from Year 6 has qualified for the West Yorkshire Cross Country Final on Wednesday 11th March.

On Thursday 13th February, 16 children from Year 4 and 6 participated in the Morley Schools Cross Country Event. We had many children finishing in the top ten, with Abi in Year 4, and Luke and Amy in Year 6 winning their races. Westerton were the overall winners of the event - huge congratulations to all the children who participated.

### Football

On Thursday 13th February, Year 6 team played against Garforth Green Lane Academy in the Under 11's Cup. The game was 1-1 after full-time and extra time. Westerton won 4-3 on penalties and are through to the quarter finals. Good luck in the next round.

## Hungry Little Minds - Early Years Website and Apps

Hungry Little Minds is a new website that has simple, fun activities for new-born to five year olds. You will find short videos and simple, fun activities that you and your child can do together which support children's early language and literacy development. Jonathan Douglas, Director at the National Literacy Trust, said:

*"Early language skills are the foundation of all literacy and learning and parents have a uniquely powerful role in developing these skills in their children through talking and reading together. Technology is now such a powerful component of the home that it's important to recognise the powerful resource it can be in enriching these interactions. We believe that the apps which we have chosen will help parents feed their children's hungry little minds with great stories, exciting and fun experience of language and offer the support for the early reading experiences which provide the foundation for a lifetime of learning."*

The website to choose the different activities and videos can be found at: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

## Parking

We would like to remind parents and colleagues that no parking is allowed in the drop-off zone or the minibus parking area in the school car park except for people who hold a blue badge. Priority should also be given to school staff for parking spaces so please do not park when dropping your children off in the morning. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Please avoid parking in the **British Oak** car park on a Friday due to an earlier opening time and deliveries.

## Inclement Weather

If the weather is particularly wet or when it becomes freezing conditions, our staff in year groups will open the doors early to allow the children to enter the building. I would like to thank the staff for their kindness as this helps everyone enormously but due to the greater supervision ratios required for the younger children it may mean that doors for our Foundation Stage cannot open until enough staff are on the premises.

In conditions of snow and ice, our Site Manager, Mr Canning will try to clear and grit paths on the premises from the gates to the main doors of the Nursery, Key Stage 1, Year 3 and the main office. If possible and if time allows, with sufficient volunteers, paths will be cleared to Reception and other Key Stage 2 entrances. Parents will be guided on arrival about this.



We will always aim to keep the school open and all our staff know this and make every effort to get in, setting off earlier and preparing for hazardous journeys. A decision to close will only be made when insufficient numbers of staff can get in safely, to fulfil Health and Safety supervision requirements. In that unlikely event, we aim to make the decision as early as possible, by 8.15 am, informing parents using the following methods:

- **A text will be sent using ParentPay to the registered contacts only** so please ensure that you have kept your details up-to-date. If you've not already registered on ParentPay please contact the office for an activation letter.
- Information will be on the Leeds City Council website: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-closures>
- The school answering message and website will be updated as soon as possible.

**parentgym**  
FOR PARENTS WHO CARE

Parent Gym is a great opportunity for adults with school age children to come together in a fun, interactive way and get ideas and tips on how to be an even better parent. Suitable for any significant adult in a child's life who is interested in sharing their and others' experience, practical tools and ideas within a friendly group environment. You won't be expected to perform gymnastics, but you will pick up useful strategies, build your confidence and improve your relationship with your child.

Christine Bragg and Tracey Jones are running a 45 minute taster session on Thursday 23 April at 4:30pm. The 6 week, term-time, programme will commence on Thursday 30 October at 4:30pm-6:45pm. This is a repeat of the successful autumn programme, with later hours to accommodate those parents who cannot attend during the school day.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



### Could A Career In Teaching Be For You?

Westerton Partnership provides high quality Initial Teacher Training. You can apply for your opportunity to train to be a teacher NOW! Apply today on UCAS by searching for the following course codes:

328W – Primary 3-7 Programme

328X – Primary 5-11 Programme

### School Lottery

#### Win Organic Fruit and Veg For A Year!

Play this term and you could win 12 monthly fruit and veg boxes. Every month you'll receive a box of mixed organic fruit and vegetables, delivered to your door!

A ticket costs £1 per week and **all** funds raised go directly to **our** school. Each ticket will also enter you in **TWO** draws:

- A jackpot prize draw for **£25,000.00**.
- A local draw with a **guaranteed** prize for one of the supporters of our school. The size of the prize will depend on the number of tickets bought for the school that week.

The lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to improve our school. But we need your help to make the lottery the best it can be, so please support the lottery today - and who knows maybe you'll be the next £25,000 winner! To enter, please follow the link at : <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/westerton-primary-academy>

### Coronavirus Update

We would like to reassure everyone that we are continuing to follow the Government' guidelines regarding the Coronavirus. We have had no incidents of any members of our school community showing any symptoms of the virus but anyone who does become ill will be sent home. If you or a family member do become unwell with the symptoms, please seek advice by telephoning your GP or 111. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

### Dental Survey - Nursery

If your child received a dental survey before half term, please ensure that you have returned your form as soon as possible. The survey is taking place in school on Wednesday 11th March.

### Community News

Junior Bake Off is looking for the UK's best young bakers aged 9-15. Applications close Sunday 5th April 2020. For further information: [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk) or email [applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk](mailto:applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk)

### University of Leeds - Healthy Weight Study

Are you interested in losing weight and improving the health of your family? If so, and you feel yourself and your child would benefit from becoming a healthier weight, you may be eligible to take part in a study exploring the potential impact of a parent attending a commercial weight loss programme on their child's weight. Children must be aged between 5 and 11 years. For more information about the study please visit: <https://ctr.leeds.ac.uk/wwchild> or contact the research team at [WWChild@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:WWChild@leeds.ac.uk) or on 0113 343 7685.

### Be Curious

*Parkinson Building, University of Leeds - Saturday 28 March 2020 from 10am to 4pm*

Where can you donate your footprint to science, listen to a volcanic tremor, build your very own windmill, see dancing dentists or use maths to discover more about your favourite cartoon character? Join us for a day of **free**, family friendly activities, as part of Be Curious and find out what really goes on in a University!

Among the highlights is the Deep Ocean Lab – a voyage of discovery with Greg Foot, YouTuber and BBC TV and radio presenter (reserve your place at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/becurious>). He'll even introduce you to a creature from the deep! There's no need to book, just come along on the day and join in with more than 60 hands-on stalls and performances, with activities suitable for all ages. The University is just a short walk from Leeds City Centre, or accessible by a number of bus routes, including 1, 6, 28, 56 and 97, which all stop outside the Parkinson Building. For full details and the latest updates visit <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/becurious>

### Dates For Your Diaries

Friday 6th March	9.15 am Year 5 and 6 Assembly
Tuesday 10th March	Year 3 to Skelton Grange
Wednesday 11th March	Year 3 to Skelton Grange
Thursday 12th March	Year 3 to Skelton Grange
Friday 13th March	9.15 am Year 2 Assembly
Saturday 14th March	Schools Music Festival at Morley Town Hall

Yours faithfully

*S. R. Makin*

S R Makin  
Principal



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