



# Westbrook Lane Newsletter

## Westbrook Goodbyes

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to two members of our office staff this Christmas. As you will know, Mrs Hoyle, our school business manager, is retiring at Christmas. Mrs Hoyle has worked at Westbrook since 1997 and has been an invaluable member of staff. As the first point of contact for parents and visitors, Mrs Hoyle has been a friendly, welcoming and efficient member of staff. Behind the scenes, she has proved to be a font of all knowledge and an immense support, not only to me as I took on the role of headteacher, but also to all the staff, governors, parents and children.

Through hard work and an appreciation of the pressures on schools today, she has ensured that the office runs smoothly, that there is effective communication between school and families, and that staff are well-supported in order for them to focus on the teaching and learning aspects of their role. I would like to thank her on behalf of all the staff at Westbrook for all her support over the last 21 years.

Mrs Pickford was employed as an administrative assistant to support Mrs Bailey in the office when Mrs Hoyle reduced her hours. She has been with us for seven years, supporting the smooth running of the office, covering when office staff were absent, keeping staff happy with her outstanding baking and even a few stints as a lunchtime assistant! As we have recruited for a full-time office manager, Mrs Pickford will also be leaving us at Christmas. We all wish her the very best for future and thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

The new school office manager, Mrs Bray, was appointed in November. Mrs Bray will be starting with us in January; she has already met the staff and visited Westbrook Lane for some handover sessions with Mrs Hoyle. We look forward to welcoming her in the new year.

**Reception class** welcomed visitors from Horsforth Live at Home Scheme on Friday. The children sang a selection of Christmas songs then talked with the visitors about Christmas. Mrs Mason served mince pies and tea, and some sixth formers from Horsforth School came along to play a range of instruments too. The children were so polite and we have had some lovely feedback including, "their smiles have really made my day," "that has put me in the Christmas spirit" and "the children were very friendly and everyone was very kind." We are hoping Horsforth Live at Home Scheme will visit us again in the spring term.



**Class 2** have been learning about Space and Explorers this half-term. They have learnt about Christopher Columbus and his discovery of America, and Neil Armstrong and the first moon landing. The children have designed and made planets out of Papier Mache.



**Class 3** have explored lots of interesting aspects of the Ancient Greeks including the Olympics, democracy, Greek gods and goddesses and Greek artefacts. We went on a dig and unearthed some Greek plates. We studied the designs on the plates, then had a go at creating some designs in our sketch books. We edited our final draft and finished off by making our own Greek plate using a traditional design. Our plates will be on display in our classroom in the New Year.



**Class 4** have been 'rewinding to Christmas' as part of the Horsforth churches together scheme. The children from Class 4 attended a special workshop where they explored the Christmas story. They also looked at how people celebrate Christmas and had the chance to take part in some Christmas themed activities - including dressing a friend up as a Christmas tree!

**Christmas is coming!** Children (and staff!) have been very busy rehearsing for the Christmas Concert. Reception Class and Key Stage 1 are working hard preparing for the Nativity, and the Key Stage 2 classes are practising their songs for the panto. Class 6 children are in the lead roles and are working very hard to learn the script. We hope you all enjoy watching the show.



## Sports News

It's been another busy term of sport at Westbrook. Our Key Stage Two cross country runners have taken part in four different races, and ten of our children have qualified to represent the school at the Leeds Grand final in 2019. The children have also taken part in sports hall athletics, basketball and football competitions. As always, many thanks to all the parents who have supported with transport to these events.

We were also delighted to receive our School Games Mark plaque for our gold award from the 2017/2018 academic year. The gold School Games Mark award reflects the wide range of sporting competitions and high level of pupil participation at Westbrook Lane.



**Well done to all the children who have taken part in sporting activities and represented the school this term, and thank you to the staff and parents who have supported these events.  
Keep up the good work!**



## Website Update

Our new website is now live! It has the same web address as before [www.westbrooklanepriamaryschool.co.uk](http://www.westbrooklanepriamaryschool.co.uk) but a new host and design. Please check it out over the holidays and let us know what you think.

## Our thanks to the PTA

**Christmas Fair** - well done to the PTA who organised a wonderful Christmas fair. A big thank you to everyone involved for the hard work that goes into arranging this annual event. We will let you know how much was raised as soon as we get a final figure.



## Polite Notice

We have been informed by some local residents that some parents have parked inconsiderately at drop off and pick up times. Understandingly, they are unhappy when their drives and access routes are blocked by parked cars. We appreciate that it can be a challenge at busy times of the day, but we ask that parents and visitors to the school consider the local residents when parking. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

## Bad Weather Procedures

Just a reminder about the procedures for informing parents about any changes to school opening times.

In the event that school is having to open later, or close altogether, a text message will be sent to all parents who have registered their mobile number with our text messaging provider. If you have recently changed your mobile number, please make sure you have told the office.

As it sometimes takes a while for text messages to be delivered, it is always advisable to check the school website "www.westbrooklanepriamaryschool.co.uk". 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](http://www.leeds.gov.uk) and the local radio stations will be informed. On the Leeds City Council website you need to 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.

Parents are welcome to telephone school directly but please be aware that the phone gets very busy and it can take a little while to get through.



## Best Wishes

Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work this term. We hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas events and concert performances this week. And finally, thank you for all the support we continue to receive from you. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 7th January 2019.

