

Western Primary School Newsletter – Friday 5th December 2014



On Friday 28th November, Y5/6 were treated to a visit by children's author David Gatwood. He recounted some hilarious tales of how he became an author and dressed in some rather silly outfits!

Some of the children, along with visitors from other Harrogate schools, spent the rest of the day in a Creative Writing Workshop, learning how a real life author sets about writing a story.

It was a truly amazing experience; we all had a lot of fun alongside some really practical and useful writing tips.

"There is nothing like his sessions - it's like you're a pen and life's your paper." **Jake Trowbridge**

Our Visit to Bolling Hall

On Friday 21st November, Mr Fraser Smith's class and Ms Smith's class went to visit Bolling Hall. The children all took part in a drama workshop and had a tour around the rooms of this Tudor house. This was a fantastic trip to conclude our topic about the Tudors.

"I enjoyed looking in the ghost room. It was sort of scary." Amira Chibhaga.

"It was really exciting and we got to run around in the garden." George Priestley.

"There were some huge keys in one of the rooms. It was fun." William Graham.

"Bolling Hall was good because we got to find out lots of interesting facts." Jessica Ballantine.

"My favourite part was the tour because you got to see lots of fascinating rooms." Alice Lashua.

"I liked the ghost room because it was exciting." Ben Tetley.



Thanksgiving Talk KS1

Last Thursday, Mr and Mrs Pietrowski came in to tell us all about Thanksgiving. They shared how they celebrate this exciting time and told us the story behind this celebration. We made fantastic turkeys, whilst eating delicious pumpkin buns, that showed the things we are thankful for in our lives. A huge thank you from KS1 for spending the morning with us.

Information for Parents



Playing After School

We have noticed that a number of children are climbing on the railings at the front of school, which is extremely hazardous. In the interests of health and safety, we must ask that all parents need to ensure that their children do not put themselves at risk and are supervised appropriately.

What Happens If It Snows?

As the winter progresses, we can expect a heavy snow fall at any time. While we make every effort to keep the school open, there may be times when we have to close, either for a full day or during the day. We understand that the majority of our pupils live within walking distance of Western and can get to school in most circumstances. However, many of our staff team live further afield and have difficulty getting in during heavy snow, making it impossible to maintain our pupil to staff ratios. There are a number of other health and safety issues we need to consider to ensure the safety of everyone while they are in school.

In the event of snow, please note the following:

- Assume Western will open in the first instance.
- Check you text messages – we will let you know if school is going to be closed for the day as early as we can. We will also let you know if school closes during the day by text. If you do not receive school text messages, please let the office have your mobile number.
- Listen to Stray FM on 97.2. They will read out lists of schools that are closed.
- Please do not telephone the school – we try to keep these lines open so that staff can contact us to let us know their situation.
- If the school closes during the day, staff that live near to school will stay with children who cannot be picked up quickly; please travel safely on these occasions and remember the children will be in good hands.

We hope this guidance is clear – there is also a copy on our website.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 12th December 2014

On Friday 12th December, we are inviting all pupils to take part in Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Everyone is invited to wear their silliest, sparkliest or cosiest Christmas woollies and make a donation to help save children's lives around the world. If your child doesn't have a festive sweater, don't worry – it's easy to decorate a plain jumper with tinsel, baubles or homemade snowflakes. To find out more you can visit the website www.christmasjumperday.org . Thank you.

Spare Uniform for Reception

We are desperate for spare uniform to keep in our Reception classrooms. If you have any unwanted trousers or skirts suitable for reception children, please hand them to a member of the Reception staff. Thank you.

Western Community Christmas Celebration

Western Community Christmas Celebration, 'Light up Christmas!' will take place on Monday 15th December 6.00-6.45pm. at St Peter's Church, Harrogate. The celebration is suitable for all ages, with refreshments to follow.



Dance Fitness – Jane Gray

Feel like dancing? Come and join us, learn some moves and get fit. We would like to invite parents/carers to join our adult dance fitness sessions on Tuesdays at 4.15 in the school hall. The sessions are fun and suitable for all. Unfortunately there are no child care facilities available for the session. Please see Mrs Jane Gray if you have any questions.



Improving Family Life

The last session will be held on Tuesday the 9th December. The workshop will focus on:

- Emotional well-being
- Naming behaviours
- See through the eyes of the child

The workshop is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided. If you are unable to attend but would like some of the course material or to speak about a specific concern you may have, you can contact Clare Woolaston, Family Support Worker through the school office or email woolastonc@western.n-yorks.sch.uk. All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence.



New Starters for Nursery – January 2015

If you, or anyone you know, have a Nursery-aged child who you would like to start in our Nursery in January, can you please contact the school office for a registration form as soon as possible to reserve your space.

As well as the core free 15 hours per week, we also offer additional sessions during the day, at lunchtime and before and after school. Our nursery is open from 8.00am. until 5.30pm.

Many thanks.





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Swimming

Year 2 Swimming Dates:

Thursday 11th December – Miss Jones' class
Thursday 18th December – Mrs Taylor's class

Year 3/4 Swimming:

Tuesday 9th December – The last swimming lesson for Mrs Coatesworth's class
Tuesday 16th December – Tuesday 14th April – Mr Fraser Smith's class
Tuesday 21st April – Tuesday 14th July – Mrs Collett's and Ms Smith's classes

Awards

House Point Winners:

Lupton House

Key Stage 1 Awards

Mary-Jane Prutton-O'Neil
Emme Storey
Eleanor Moor
Ollie Dunsmore
Vendel Sipos
Kitty Williams
Evelyn Pollitt
Eva Bailey
Freddie Ashworth
Esme Potts
Madison Towers
Liliana Isaac

Key Stage 2 Awards

Rosie Simmons
Daniel Duffy
James Turner
Lily England-Shave
Lily Stockburn
Seb Smallwood
Matas Laukatis
Kaya Senturk
Izzy Frostick
Isla Shepherd
Charlie Straker
Anya Nicholson

MATHLETES OF THE WEEK: Tom Owen and Tom Priestley

Lunchtime Awards

1st Place Lupton

Joint 2nd Place Askew and
Croft

4th Place Wallbank



Well done everyone!

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 9th December – Y2 to Pantomime 1-5pm
Wednesday 10th December – FS Nativity 2.00pm
Thursday 11th December – FS Nativity 9.30am
Thursday 11th December – Y5/6 Victorian Christmas market
Event 2-3pm
Friday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day for the whole
school
Friday 12th December – KS1 Carols around the tree 2.30pm
Monday 15th December – Christmas Service at St Peter's Church
6.00-6.45pm
Thursday 16th December – Y5/6 cinema visit
Wednesday 17th December – KS2 Carols around the tree
2.30pm

School Holidays

Christmas Holiday:

School Closes: Friday 19th December at **2.30pm**
Return to School: Tuesday 6th January at 8.55am

Spring Half-Term Holiday:

School Closes: Friday 13th February at 3.15pm
Return to School: Monday 23rd February at 8.55am

Easter Holiday:

School Closes: Friday 27th March at **2.30pm**
Return to School: Tuesday 14th April at 8.55am

Summer Half-Term Holiday:

School Closes: Friday 22nd May at 3.15pm
Return to School: Tuesday 2nd June at 8.55am

Summer Holiday:

School Closes: Friday 17th July at **2.30pm**



PTA News!



Upcoming Events

6 th December (Sat)	Christmas tree sale
10 th December (Wed)	Christmas Fair

Western Christmas Fair – Wednesday 10th December from 3:15pm

Our Christmas Fair is rapidly approaching (see attached poster). There will be lots of stalls, games & crafts. The school choir and rock band will be providing entertainment, and refreshments will be available in the canteen. Do come along and join in the festivities!

We would appreciate donations of the following (please place under the pergola on the morning of the Fair):

- cakes, biscuits etc for the catering stall
- toys, games, or puzzles in good working order and condition for a toy stall.
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Tombola prizes will also be gratefully received. Please bring to the school office asap! Thank you.



Father Christmas is coming!

Father Christmas is looking forward to meeting some of our lovely children and reading them a Christmas story in his Grotto during the Christmas Fair. Tickets are £2.50 each, and will be on sale in the playground on Friday 5th & Monday 8th December before and after school. Tickets are limited so don't miss out!

Get Your Christmas Tree – TOMORROW (Saturday 6th December)!

Our annual sale of Christmas trees, sourced from Stockeld Park, will be on Saturday 6th December in the school playground, 10-11:30am. Stockeld Park generously allows us to keep up to 50% of the proceeds. The trees will be mainly Nordman Firs (with a few Norway Spruce also available) and will range from 5-8ft in height. They are excellent quality trees. You can drive up the side of the school into the back playground and load your tree straight into your vehicle.

Prices:

5-6ft £25

6-7ft £35

7-8ft £40

Please note we are only able to accept cash.



School calendars & tea towels – only a few left!

We have a limited number of school calendars and KS2 tea towels still for sale. Calendars are £7.50 each. Tea towels are £4 each or 3 for £10. They are ideal Christmas presents! If you are interested in purchasing any, please contact Kate on westernprimarypta@gmail.com. Unfortunately, FS/KS1 tea towels are sold out.

Thinking about Christmas shopping? Shop Online and Raise Money!

Have you heard about easyfundraising? It's the easiest way to help raise money for Western Family & Friends! If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Waitrose, House of Fraser, Tesco, Sainsburys, Play.com, Vodafone and Boden, then we need you to sign up (for free) to raise money while you shop!

How does it work?

It's like Nectar, but instead of earning points each purchase generates a donation. So instead of going directly to a retailer's website, go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westernfamilyandfriends> first and choose the retailer you want to shop with, then what you spend with that retailer earns a free donation for Western Family & Friends. It's completely free to use and your shopping won't cost you a penny more.

On average, each retailer will donate 5% of the cost of your shopping. Those donations soon mount up! So whatever you need to buy, from Christmas shopping to your weekly grocery shop, a fashion must-have, your business travel, office supplies or mobile phone, buy it via easyfundraising and raise money for Western Family & Friends at no extra cost to you! Sign up at

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westernfamilyandfriends> and start making a difference...simply by shopping.

Cake Bake Dates:

**When it is your child's class cake bake, please leave cakes under the pergola on Friday morning, ready for the cake bake after school.
Thank You!**



**Friday 5th December Reception – Miss Hindle
Friday 12th December Y3/4 – Mr Fraser-Smith**

Congratulations to Miss Jones' class who raised £63.90 at their cake bake last week.