



Farsley Westroyd Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher, Miss Jenny Pashley.

Spring has certainly sprung and it feels like the world is waking up around us. Spring flowers, cherry blossom on the trees and lambs in the fields. This time of year, brings optimism and opportunity for us all, especially with the longer days and better weather, enabling us to get outside in the fresh air. For me, with a passion for running I get to enjoy peaceful early morning runs on the Chevin, which is the best preparation for a day at school!

This half term like all schools in the country we are entering a period of national assessments. At Westroyd, our Year Six team are determined to shine using all the knowledge and skills they have learnt across the primary years. Their resilience, an important skill for life, highlights how much they want to do their personal best. They are a strong team and once the assessments are over, they can enjoy the immense feeling of achievement and a few treats thrown in from the teachers! The whole school staff are particularly looking forward to taking on Y6 in a rounders match for starters!

We are over half way through the year now and at this point I wanted to thank you for making Farsley Westroyd such a positive, warm and special place. We really are a community here, and in a community, people come together and support each other. As the new Headteacher that is how it feels. So, a big thank you and let it continue. Do contact us through office@westroyd.org with any comments or suggestions.

The Legend that is Mr Coates!

It is with a sad heart and a tear in my eye, that I do need to share some important news with the school community. After twenty-seven years as the school superintendent Mr Coates is retiring in July. He has worked at the school through its many changes including a number of headteachers and the huge move from a first school to a full primary. Our school is absolutely beautiful and steeped in history. However, it is also two hundred years old in parts, and the maintenance has and continues to be a challenge. Mr Coates has worked tirelessly and with passion to maintain the building to a high standard over the last twenty seven years! He has immense working knowledge and is multi-talented turning his hand to anything! He has a particular passion/talent for woodwork and loves a good project. I am building up to ask him to create us a sheep sculpture before he leaves! He is the most resourceful person in Yorkshire and can sort any issue with his multitude of skills and his can do attitude. To Mr Coates there are no problems in life, just solutions. As the Headteacher although I wish him well with his well earned retirement plans I am absolutely gutted that he is leaving Westroyd! Since I arrived, he has supported me on many levels, extending beyond his expertise as a superintendent. He is a wise owl and a true Yorkshireman, who says it how it is. His words of wisdom and encouragement have been invaluable. I know this view is shared by all staff. We are losing our school Dad and those boots are going to be a challenge to fill. He promises he is not going to be a stranger and is keen to help us out when he can, which we are very grateful for. But we will not get in the way of his holidays planned in his caravan, his amateur dramatics or the projects that he is plotting to create in his workshop! Enjoy Mr Coates you deserve it!

This half-term we will be recruiting for a new superintendent and will send our advert out to the school community.



Music Tuition We are keen to expand our offer of small group music tuition. Currently we offer whole class Eukele lessons on a weekly basis and small group guitar lessons. We will be sending out a survey to judge if there is enough interest to offer other instrumental tuition. If you did want your child to have tuition you are able to rent instruments and some families may be eligible for a discount.

For KS1 we are going to set up a weekly recorder club over lunch. More information to follow!

School Development Priorities update.

A brief update on which areas of the school development plan have been our focus over the last half term.

Presentation & Handwriting We have been working and continue to do so, on improving our presentation skills and our handwriting. In particular our Year Three children have been making appointments with Miss Pashley to see if they are consistently adhering to our handwriting policy and thus ready to move to pen!

Marking and Feedback policy. We have a new policy in school that along with live marking by the teachers, encourages pupils to identify their own and their peer's mistakes. We also now encourage pupils to edit to improve and also to practice mistakes they have made, so that they are embedded for future application.

Read, Write, Inc. Reception will be following the new scheme from now on with aspects integrated into Year One and Year Two. Pupils across school with gaps in their phonic knowledge for reading and spelling have been identified and staff will start to use the read, write inc approach to teach those gaps, both whole class, small group and one to one where necessary.

Reading In KS2 we have worked with a local authority advisor to enhance our teaching of reading so that we are explicitly teaching children how to comprehend what they are reading. Mr Fawcett and Miss Knight Francis have been trialling this approach with their children. This half term other teachers will adopt the approach in their teaching of reading comprehension.

Maths. We continue to work with the West Yorkshire Maths Hub who are supporting the school to ensure we are teaching Maths with a mastery approach in line with the most recent evidence-based research. Our advisor has been working 1-1 with teachers and sharing best practice. We are introducing a daily Arithmetic lesson this half term to embed the key skills needed for mastery in each year group.

Curriculum design Having reviewed our whole curriculum, we are busy working with staff to refresh themes and explicitly highlight what the knowledge and skills are that the children need to learn each year. An exciting task which the school council are helping with!

Parent's Forum. We had a very positive meeting to discuss the school vision and values. We identified and celebrated what makes Farsley Westroyd special and unique. We also identified some golden threads we need to strengthen to prepare our pupils for life and enable them to make a positive contribution to society. Thank you to the parents who gave up their time and for the biscuits! It was incredibly useful to hear parent's perspective!

School trips. To enhance our learning in specific subjects we do organise school excursions. We are conscious that the cost of these excursions has risen sharply, mainly due to the cost of transport. As a school we understand the financial pressure that families are under currently and we are looking at alternatives, so that the learning is not compromised but the expense is more manageable. Costs of some excursions that have historically occurred at Westroyd have rocketed. This is not only because of transport, but because of on costs for the companies that we used. Luckily our school is in a historical paradise, so we can enhance our learning using the local community as much as we can. We also have people coming to us, like our recent Roman soldier! If you know of any local groups who may be able to help, do let us know. We have some work planned with the Mill who have become supportive friends over the last year.

Attendance. Good attendance impacts upon the development of the whole child and their outcomes. This is a reminder if you are thinking of booking a holiday, that holidays in term time will not be authorised and if the child is missing ten or more sessions in a twelve week period, you risk being fined by the local authority. Currently this is £60 per parent. From September there are significant mandatory changes from the government around how schools manage attendance. We will share these with you, but we wanted to advise you that the cost of the fine will be increasing to £80 per parent and second incidents in a three year period will be £160.

A reminder. School hours from September 2024 To enable us to implement the governments directive of 32.5 hours in the school day we carried out a survey to amend the start and end of the school day. Thank you to those people who contributed. **KS1 &KS2:** The school gates will be open from 8.30am and the teachers will come out to greet the children in the yard at 8.40am. The school door will close at 8.45am and this will be the official start to the school day. At the end of the school day, the yards will be open from 3pm, with the teachers bringing out the children at 3.10pm. The final collection time of 3.15pm, will be the official end to the school day. **Reception:** 8.45am doors open and door closes at 8.50am. At the end of the day, the staff will open to the door to Reception at 3.05pm, with a final collection time of 3.15pm, which will be the official end to the school day. **Nursery** hours to be 9am – 3pm.

Sharing recordings and images A reminder that, if you are taking photos/videos of your child participating in school events, they must be for personal use only. Everyone has a right to know how their personal data is being used and from a safeguarding perspective we need to keep everyone safe. Therefore, images and videos should be taken of only your child as much as possible and should not be shared on the internet or social media if they include images of others. Thank you.

New Business Manager. After four years without a permanent school business manager, we now have a cracker! Mrs Hart who has been with us on a temporary basis since September has decided that Westroyd is a great place to work and has taken on a permanent contract with us. We are beyond delighted as she has over thirty years experience across a number of schools. In line with our school ethos, she does not give up and will keep going and going until we find a solution. She has made our financial procedures safe and is the queen of best value exercises. With Mrs Hart at the helm, I am very confident that she will make sure our financial resources are wisely allocated.

Egg Decorating Competition

Thank you for all the entries to this year's competition. Some very creative ideas. Judging was carried out by our school council, which they found rather challenging. Here are the winners

Nursery – Zak, Reception – Carter, Year One – Riley, Year Two – Sophie R, Year Three – Rowan, Year Four – Kezia, Year Five – Edith C, Year Six – Edith T

Miss Pashley's choice was this one by Bonnie In Nursery



Mr Popple. Mr Popple joined Farsley Westroyd in January 2024. He teaches in Y5 at the end also teaches Maths in Y6. You will see him all over school in his familiar beanie hat! Mr Popple is our Maths expert and is spreading the love across school as he carefully crafts the Westroyd approach to teaching Maths Mastery. He led our curriculum review and heads up our curriculum working party to redesign aspects of the curriculum. He has high expectations and closely monitors Teaching and Learning in KS1 and KS2 supporting teachers anyway he can. He is a kind hearted chap and spends a lot of time out of school volunteering for a special needs charity. He takes them on residential weekends and school holidays. In the coming months he is about to become a Dad for the second time, to keep him on his toes. We are super pleased to have him in our Westroyd family. A committed, hardworking professional with high expectations for all!

Wraparound Provision at Westroyd Wraparound provision is available to children in Nursery to Y6, from 07:30 to 08:50 in the morning and from 15:15 to 18:00 in the afternoon. Charges are £6.00 for a morning session, and £16.50 after school. There are options for reduction in cost for siblings and if collecting early. We accept childcare vouchers and working tax credits. If you work more than 16 hours a week, you may be eligible. Contact our wraparound manager Miss Watson by emailing wraparound@westroyd.or to make a booking.

Fundraising Over the year so far, we have held a number of fundraising events. The Christmas fair, disco, movie night, egg dip, bun sales that have accumulated in a staggering £3K. This was our target to top up the funding we got from the West Yorkshire Reading Hub, so that we could buy new reading books to support the new phonics scheme that we are just introduced called Read, Write, Inc. We have a very skilled and enthusiastic group of parents who are busy promoting Friends of Westroyd and setting it up as an official charity. We are very grateful for their time and effort. They are currently busy planning our Summer Fair which is going to be awesome! Our new fundraising focus is currently top of the school councils agenda for our next meeting. If you also have any ideas, please let us know.

Tax free vouchers. To ensure we can locate childcare payments, in the money drums of the local authority, it would be helpful if you could email the office when you have made a payment. Thank you.

Calendar link So that you never miss an event, did you know you can subscribe to our calendar on the website? Simply go into the calendar section and select subscribe and follow the choices provided!

Diary Dates. Anything in green is new since the last newsletter.

Autumn term

Spring Term One	Spring Term Two	NEXT YEAR
15.4.24 School opens for Summer 16.4.23 Y4 Bikeability Level one 17.4.23 Y4 Bikeability Level one 16.4.24 Nursery closed all day 22.4.23 KS2 My Health Survery 24.4.24 Y3/Y4 TTR Rockstar Day 8.5.24 Y6 Leeds United Resilience Workshop 8.5.24 Reception trip to Hesketh Farm 10.5.24 Y1 Phonic workshop 13.5.23 Y6 SATS week 13.5.24 13.5.24 EY Open session 17.5.24 Y4 Sharing Assembly (Herd Farm) 21.5.24 Y5 Trip to Yeadon tarn 21.5.24 Movie Night TBC Y2 trip to the Seaside	3.6.24 Y4 Multiplication Check 10.6.23 Y1 Phonic Screening Test. 14.6.24 Y1 Sharing Assembly TBC Y1 trip 19.6.24 Big SING event 20.6.24 Summer Concert 20.6.24 Y3 Sleepover in School 22.6.24 Farsley Festival 24.6.23 Y6 Bikeability 26.6.24 Pudsey Olympics 27.6.24 Summer Fair 1.7.24 3.30pm Health Week 1.7.24 Chef Imogen visit 2.7.24 Skipping Workshops 3.7.24 Sports day 9.15am Nursery, 10.15am Reception 11.15am KS1 2pm KS2 3.7.24 DSIDE Drug and Alcohol workshops 9.7.24 Y6 SATS results 10.7.24 Y6 Bowling Event (6pm) 11.7.24 Y6 Show (6pm) 12.7.24 EY sharing Assembly 15.7.24 1.30pm Teachers v Y6 Rounders Match at Westroyd Park 17.7.24 Westroyd's got Talent Final 17.7.24 6pm Y6 Leavers Party 19.7.24 Recognition Assembly 19.7.24 2pm Y6 Leavers Assembly 20.7.24 School closes for Summer	3.9.24 Training Day 4.9.24 School opens 28.10.24 – 1.11.24 School Closed 15.11.24 Training Day 16.12.24 – 18.12.24 Y6 Robin Wood 23.12.24 – 3.1.24 School Closed 17.2.25 – 21.2.25 School Closed 17.3.25 – 19.3.25Y4 Herd Farm 6.4.25 – 18.4.25 School Closed May 5 th – School Closed 26.5.25 – 30.5.25 School Closed 4.7.25 Training Day 18.7.25 School Closes for Summer 21 st /22 nd July 2025 Training Days.