



Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher, Miss Jenny Pashley.

As I am sitting here writing this, I am thinking that it only feels like yesterday that we were preparing to break up for the last school holiday. However, there are now definite signs of spring, with snowdrops and crocuses breaking through the muddy grass and we have daylight until teatime!

Although a short half-term, lots has been happening in our classrooms to promote learning. What makes the children special at Westroyd is their determination to improve. There are no barriers, no excuses and no limits! A prime example of this has been the improvement in handwriting and presentation and how proud the children are of their achievements. We have introduced a new marking and feedback policy and our children are swiftly and enthusiastically responding to explicit direction to improve their learning. I frequently go into classes to be bombarded with children who are proud of their achievements and desperate to share their success. Being able to take and respond to feedback positively is an essential skill for life-long learning!

With Miss Harps taking her maternity leave, we welcome Mr Clough to Year Three as a permanent member of the teaching team. Mr Clough is an outstanding teacher who we have headhunted to join our team at Westroyd. He is not only a brilliant teacher, but quite a sports enthusiast with some interesting achievements!

As a school, we continue to appreciate your support and feedback. Do come and talk to us or contact us through office@westroyd.org if you have any questions or suggestions.

Wraparound Provision at Westroyd Wraparound provision is available to children in Nursery to Y6 from 07:30 to 08:50 in the morning, and 15:15 to 18:00 in the afternoon. Charges are £6.00 for a morning session and £16.50 after school. We do offer a sibling discount and there is an early collection tariff. If you are running late or held up at work, we can sometimes accommodate children in wraparound the same day. Just give us a call and we will advise, if we have space.

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.org to make a booking.

Friends of Westroyd We are busy saving up at the moment, to fund new reading materials. Last half term we had a bun sale, a very well attended movie night and a super Valentine's disco. Thank you to the parents and staff who made these events happen. Not only did you help to raise a good sum of money, the children absolutely loved it. The staff did too - I think we have some hidden DJ talents on our teaching team! Coming up this half-term we have an Easter Egg Dip and an Easter Egg decorating competition!

Breaking news. Miss Harps has had her baby! A baby girl. Mum and daughter are both doing really well and we look forward to seeing her soon!

Holiday Provision. We are currently exploring the possibility of working with an external company to provide childcare through a playscheme in the school holidays. Further information is to follow, with a tester day planned in the Easter holidays. We are currently exploring whether there is the need locally to make this a financially viable operation.



Dinner Ordering. A reminder to log on and tell us whether your child has a packed lunch or school dinner each week. Thank you for your cooperation.

Safeguarding. Please be aware that all adults must be signed in and out of the building at all times of the school day. This must be done via the school office on both sites. You will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor's badge at all times. We have a new electronic signing in system to help with this important safeguarding procedure. Thank you.

School Development Priorities update.

Maths - Mr Popple has made a cracking start to his role as Westroyd's new Maths leader. He is working closely with the West Yorkshire Maths hub, so we know that our teachers are implementing the most up to date, evidence-based approaches when teaching Maths. The support staff have had training on the use of mathematical language and the use of manipulatives to support the teaching of the four operations, whilst our teachers have been investigating how to promote Maths Mastery in lessons.

Phonics and Early Reading - Our new Phonic Scheme called Read, Write, Inc has been purchased and we now have access to the online training materials. The company are coming in to do face to face training over this half term. This scheme will be implemented primarily in Early Years, KS1 and across school where there is a need. It is going to be very effective in promoting the progress of pupils with special educational needs and is endorsed as such by the local authority and the government.

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar - This is an area of teaching along with presentation and handwriting that needed attention. We appreciate the time you spend helping your children to practise spellings each week. Our new marking and feedback policy compliments the work you do at home. We are starting to see improvements of spelling in books and accurate recall of previously learned words. As already mentioned, pupils are putting more care into their presentation and handwriting and are showing greater pride in their learning. Pupils now also have a daily grammar lesson to plug the gaps created historically. The children really enjoy these lessons - they say because it is either right or wrong! Governors came into school the last week of last half term and monitored the implementation of our school improvement priorities so far.

School Uniform - We are noticing that particularly on PE days, a small number of children are not wearing our PE uniform. It is important to the children's wellbeing that they feel like they belong to our strong Westroyd team. Children can feel uncomfortable during whole school activities, such as assemblies and mealtimes if they stand out as not being in the school uniform. A reminder that the Westroyd uniform for PE is plain black shorts/plain black leggings/plain black joggers, a red T-shirt and a red school hoodie or red school jumper/cardigan. There is no expectation that children have a hoodie; instead they can wear their red school cardigan or jumper on PE days. We have a lot of uniform in school that is pre-loved, but in good condition. If you speak to Miss Ryat she will be able to provide you with items free of charge.

Parent's Forum. We will meet again on 19th March @2pm to discuss reading routines.

World Book Day As a school we embrace the city-wide initiative to promote reading for all. On World Book day we are inviting the children to come to school dressed in their PJ's with a book to encourage bedtime reading. Throughout the day, we will be stopping and enjoying some of our favourite stories. To encourage the pupils to read, we want to increase the opportunity for having a great book to hand, by establishing a Westroyd book swap. We are asking for donations of quality age appropriate texts to get us going. If any donations could be brought to school Week Beginning 11th March

Financial constraints. Thank you for your swift payments of balances owed for dinners and trips. We really appreciate this to enable us to manage our accounts. We monitor payments and debts closely to fulfil our duty of care to ensure our families do not build up large debts. We take this role very seriously, especially in the current financial climate. If you are having difficulties making payments do get in touch sooner rather than later, then we can support you with personalised repayment plans.

Attendance. Every child has a legal right to education. Good attendance impacts upon the development of the whole child and their outcomes. The National expectation is attendance of 96%. If your child's attendance drops to 90% or below, this is called persistently absent. When this occurs, we will invite you in for a meeting to overcome the factors that are impacting their attendance. We may involve other agencies in this process if required. A reminder if you are thinking of booking a holiday; holidays in term time will not be authorised - If the child is missing ten or more sessions in a twelve week period, you risk being fined by the local authority. Here is a helpful website to help you decide if your child is well enough to attend school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Early Years Office - We now have a fully staffed office and there will be a member of staff working in the office down at Early Years again on a more regular basis. Thank you for working with us whilst we went through a recruitment process.

Cloakrooms - To ensure our cloakrooms are safe and accessible we are asking that children avoid bringing large bags into school. We just do not have the space in our cloakroom areas for bulky bags. Children struggle to hang up their coats and they end up falling on the floor, which is unsafe. The alternative is a slim book bag which can be stored in a shared box each day.

School hours from September 2023 To enable us to increase the school day to 32.5 hours in line with government guidelines we need to amend the start and end times of the school day. Thank you to those people who contributed to our consultation on the new times from September 2024. There was a large majority and therefore from September 2024 the following times will apply.

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.

Punctuality Currently, school day starts are 8.50am, which is when the gates close. We are noticing a number of children arriving after this time, meaning they are missing the start to the day's learning. One of the most important parts of the day. We appreciate there can be one off incidents that cause this to occur. However, if we see an accumulation of minutes late or patterns developing, we will get in touch to invite you in for a chat to see if we can help in resolving the issue

School council Our school council are now established in their roles, with Ella Rose as our Chair, Frankie as Vice Chair and Gurjuvan and Daisy as the secretaries. Currently they are working towards organising a whole school fundraising event.

Website. The website is the place to go to, to find out about what has been happening and what is going to happen. Each class has a class page, where you will find the weekly homework, along with the Westroyd learner award and attendance. Our calendar on the website is up to date and you can link it directly to your personal calendar by simply going to the calendar section and select subscribe and follow the choices

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.

Lost Property. We seem to be collecting a large amount of unnamed lost property. We appreciate that this is frustrating to parents when items go missing at school. If the item is named we can and do return it to the owner. Do make sure all items are clearly labelled to enable us to do this. Each half term Miss Rayit holds a lost property stall in the yard. If you are unable to make this, do contact her through the school office to help to retrieve missing items. Thank you.

Internet Safety. As a Google school and this half term the children participated in a second Google Internet Legend workshop. At Westroyd we make sure that our curriculum includes direct teaching around internet safety so that pupils can keep themselves and their friends safe online. All staff and governors are about to have PREVENT training to ensure we can all protect our children from radicalisation.

Spotlight on Miss Watson

Miss Watson is our amazing wraparound lead. She is in school early every day and the last one out at the end of every day!

Miss Watson has extensive experience working in schools and is a strong leader. She plans and implements an exciting mix of activities across the sessions, responding to the children's interests and requests. What is really special about Wraparound is the family feel Miss Watson has created. There is a welcomed expectation, that the older ones will help out at times, serving food and preparing snacks and also engaging the younger ones in play. This approach benefits everyone.

Miss Watson also manages all the bookings and accounts. She has quite a job on her hands, which she does with her usual positive attitude. She is a Westroyd always person that is for sure!

DV notifications. A joint initiative between Leeds Children's Services and West Yorkshire Police is in place to support children who are resident in households where there are incidents of domestic violence and abuse. It is designed to provide confidential notification to schools on any incidents of domestic violence and abuse which occur within a child's household that might have an impact on a child whilst they are in school. The project will ensure that a member of the school staff is trained to allow them to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, and ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic violence or abuse incident. We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is extremely beneficial for all those involved. If you would like further support or information about domestic violence and abuse please go to www.leedsdomesticviolenceandabuse.co.uk

NURSERY CLOSURE Unfortunately, our Nursery will be closed to pupils on 16th April all day to enable staff to participate in essential training. The rest of school will be open as normal.

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!

Westroyd Primary School and Nursery is committed to the safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all pupils.

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

Autumn term

Spring	Summer	Holiday dates 24/25
19.2.24 School opens 26.2.24 Performing Arts visit to Farsley Sheep 28.2.24 EY Local Walk 4.3.24 Y6 MOCKS SATS WEEK 7.3.24 World Book Day. Wear your PJ's. 8.3.24 Sing and Swing Concert Performing Arts @ Farsley Fairfield WB 8.3.24 British Science Week 4.3.24 Book Swap donations 12&13.3. 24 Parent Consultations 15.3.24 Y5 Sharing Assembly 15.3.24 Non- uniform in exchange for donation of an Easter Egg 19.3.24 2pm Parent Forum 21.3.24 10am Music Concert 21.3.24 8.45am Y1 Phonics meet 22.3.24 SCHOOL CLOSED 25.3.24 Decorated Egg entries open 25- 27.3.24 Y4 Herd Farm Residential 26.3.24 EY Open sessions 26/27/28 th Lucky Egg Dip 28.3.24 Egg Decorating judging 28.3.24 Recognition Assembly Rev Gareth Easter Assembly TBC 28.3.24 Walk the Walls 28.3.24 Last day of term.	15.4.24 School opens for Summer 16.4.24 Nursery Closed 24.4.24 Y3/Y4 TTR Rockstar Day 15/16.4.24 Y4 Cycle Training 6.5.24 May Bank Holiday 13.5.23 Y6 SATS week 13.5.24 EY Open session 17.5.24 Y4 Sharing Assembly 8.5.24 Reception trip to Hesketh Farm TBC 20.5.24 Westroyd Spelling Bee 21.5.24 Y5 Trip to Yeadon Tarn 3.6.24 Y4 Multiplication Check 10.6.23 Y1 Phonic Screening Test. 14.6.24 Y1 Sharing Assembly 24.6.23 Y6 Bikeability 27.6.24 Summer Fair 1.7.24 3.30pm Health Week 3.7.24 Sports day 9.15am Nursery, 10.15am Reception 11.15am KS1 2pm KS2 3.7.24 DSIDE Drug and Alcohol workshops 12.7.24 EY sharing Assembly 17.7.24 Westroyd's Got Talent Final 17.7.24 6pm Y6 Leavers Party 19.7.24 2pm Y6 Leavers Assembly 20.7.24 School closes for Summer	3.9.24 School opens 28.10.24 – 1.11.24 School Closed 23.12.24 – 3.1.24 School Closed 17.2.25 – 21.2.25 School Closed 6.4.25 – 18.4.25 School Closed May 5 th – School Closed 26.5.25 – 30.5.25 School Closed 23.7.25 School Closes for Summer X5 Training Days TBC.