



# Newsletter



## Message from the Headteacher, Miss Jenny Pashley.

The festive season is upon us and the end of term – along with the shortest day – is firmly in sight. It has been another busy half term at Westroyd, and the children and staff are ready for a well-deserved break!

I continue to feel very proud to be the Headteacher at Westroyd and it has been a joy to see the children enjoying their learning and celebrating their achievements this term. I love it when I hear a knock on my door and there is someone waiting proudly to show me and tell me about a piece of learning. Yesterday, I was overwhelmed by the standard of writing and presentation that two Year Six pupils, brought to me. In their books, I could see the whole writing process, from planning, editing, redraft to a final published piece. I tried hard to catch them out with questions about their use of grammar, but they had the right answers everytime! I have had to restock my tin of sheep stickers, there has been that much to celebrate!

We have had many visitors into school this half term, helping to evaluate the school's strengths and areas for development. I would like to thank those of you who have taken time out of your busy schedules to talk with me and help with this process. Whenever someone visits us, I get the same consistent feedback. I'm told how polite and friendly our children are, and what a buzz and energy there is across school. Your children certainly do have an eye for fun, which just makes Westroyd a great place to be! A highlight for me has to be the Christmas performances. In my whole career I have never seen a group of children enjoy performing so much and with such enthusiasm.

With 2023 coming to a close, old chapters end and new ones begin. I am sure you will join me in thanking staff who are leaving this week for all their hard work and care of our students. Mrs Edwards, Mrs Pearson and Mr Charlton are all moving on to new pastures. We have a more settled staffing picture moving forwards. Joining us we have Mr Popple our new Assistant Headteacher, Miss Knight-Francis new to Y4, Miss Considine will be our new Y1 teacher and Miss Dennison is our new part-time Reception teacher. Mrs Moore is joining our school engine and will be working in the office! We have also got four new governors on our board! Exciting times ahead for the school!

**I do hope that you all have a magical Christmas and you come back in January safe and well, ready for another exciting term at Westroyd!**

**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 is a reduction for siblings and an early collection. Contact our wraparound manager Miss Watson by emailing [wraparound@westroyd.or](mailto:wraparound@westroyd.or) to make a booking.

**Friends of Westroyd** A big thank you to all the parents who rolled up their sleeves and helped to plan, organise and implement the Christmas Enterprise Fair. We raised a staggering £1,900! This is well on the way to our £3,000 target to pay for new phonic reading books. We are currently establishing ourselves as a charity to open the door to more fundraising opportunities. We have a valentines disco and movie night next half-term.



**Dinner Ordering.** Thank you for engaging in our new dinner ordering routine. We know this is a pocket of time taken from your busy lives, but we are now able to increase our direct teaching time at a prime time of the day. A reminder that if you have not ordered by the Friday for the following week, the only option available is a purple choice. It is important that you keep up with payments to avoid your account going into arrears. Please be advised that if payment is not made within two weeks, you will be unable to book further school meals.

#### **School Development Priorities update.**

**Maths.** We are now active members of the West Yorkshire Maths Hub and we have started to work with expert Maths teachers from other settings across Yorkshire. Some of our teachers have already been out and about to other schools to evaluate Maths teaching in other settings. Mr Popple, is our new Maths lead and he will be developing our Maths mastery approach. This includes an increased focus on fluency and arithmetic in lessons which will make problem solving and reasoning easier! He will also be teaching the teachers about how to use manipulatives and accurate Maths language to develop understanding.

**Phonics and Early Reading.** Having evaluated our current approach to teaching phonics, with the help of the West Yorkshire Early Reading Hub we made the decision to buy into a new more consistent and rigorous scheme called Read, Write, Inc. Mrs Hollingshead is passionate about early reading and phonics and is busy planning the training programme and how we will implement this approach. The scheme also provides materials to support pupils throughout school with reading and spelling.

**Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG).** We have carried out book scrutiny and identified that spelling and punctuation is an area for improvement. We appreciate you practicing spellings each week at home. The children are enjoying seeing their progress each week and it motivates them. To help the children to improve further, we have created a new marking and feedback policy. Our new approach places more emphasis on the pupils, to identify their mistakes and also creates more opportunity to practice to improve.

**Handwriting.** We are having a push on general presentation in our books and promoting a high standard of handwriting. Pupils will need to be forming all letters accurately before moving to pen. So far, they are loving the challenge and specific feedback!

**School Uniform** We are noticing that particularly on PE days, children are not all wearing our PE uniform. It is important to the children's wellbeing that they feel like they belong to our strong Westroyd team. The Children should wear plain black shorts/plain black leggings/plain black joggers, a red T-shirt a red school hoodie or red school jumper/cardigan. 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, so that pupils do not feel excluded from the team. If the children come to school in the wrong uniform we can lend them items from our supply, as we do not want them to feel excluded.

**Parent's Forum.** We had our second parent's forum last week, which was well attended by a group of enthusiastic and incredibly helpful parents. We discussed progress towards our school improvement plan and evaluated the effectiveness of the school's communication systems. The parents had some good suggestions to improve website usage, and gave feedback on the platform we use for payments, called School Comms. As a school we are currently exploring other payment platforms. The parents also had some super ideas for fundraising opportunities to pay for our new reading books. We will meet again on 19<sup>th</sup> March @2pm to discuss reading routines.

**Financial constraints.** You may have seen in the media about the financial challenges that schools are facing. At Westroyd, as a small school those challenges do have more impact. We really appreciate, you working with us, to promptly pay for dinners, wraparound and for trips/residentials. We appreciate that our online payment system School Comms is not the best system and we are exploring other providers for when our SLA ends in the summer. Also, we know with the cost of living everyone is feeling the pinch. We are looking at all our trips and experiences and exploring how we can have the same impact but with less cost! We are open to suggestions around this!

**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 upon their attendance. We may involve other agencies in this process if required. A reminder if you are thinking of booking a holiday, that holidays in term 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. 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.

**Building links with the community** As Farsley's original village school, we were proud to lead out the other schools at the recent Christmas light switch on. Thank you to all of you who joined us on such a cold evening. The turnout showed how much we care about our community.

We are very proud of a group of Y5 singers who performed with the Leeds choir recently at a Winter Voices concert at Pudsey Civic. Our performing arts children have had a busy few weeks spreading Christmas cheer around Farsley.

We have been nominated as Greggs's school of choice this year and they will be helping us with fundraising and the odd bun here and there. They welcomed us to their canteen the other day to sing to the bakers whilst they ate their lunch.

Miss Pashley has been down to Sunny Bank Mills and met the owners the Gaunt brothers. It was fascinating to learn about the history of the mill and the history of the village. KS2 are investigating a visit down to the archive as part of an upcoming history topic.

Farsley Celtic were present at our Christmas fair and have kindly donated family tickets for this weekend's home game.

**School council** Representatives from across school have been elected and we now have a full school council. More from them in the Spring term!

**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 provided!

### **IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE**

**To enable us to have whole school training on our new approach to teaching reading and phonics, we need to move our July 5th training day to March 22nd. We have explored twilights and weekend training, but the providers can only do specific dates. For this reason, school will be closed to everyone on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 and will now be open on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Sorry if this causes any disruption. It is not a decision we have made lightly.**

**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.

### **Lunchtime Supervisor Mrs Downing**

**Hello my job in school is to ensure that all the children have a happy, active and safe playtime. I also line manage the lunchtime staff coordinating who does what and how best to support the children over the lunch period. I am first aid trained and love our new medi-tracker as it enables me and my staff to swiftly record any injuries, and I know the message has got home to parents. I have a big woolly hat to keep me warm in winter outside on the yard, but the weather never stops us from having fun. Recently Miss Pashley and Miss Rayit did a learning walk at lunchtime. They commented upon how sociable our lunch hall was and how well the children played games together outside. This makes me think me and my team are doing a good job!**

**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](http://www.leedsdomesticviolenceandabuse.co.uk)

**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.**

**Internet Safety.** This week DSIDE DAVE has been in school delivering workshops to each class on how to stay safe online. With new gadgets possibly being on lots of Santa lists this year, we thought this was a timely intervention to help children make good choices when on the internet. You will find further information about how to stay safe online on the NSPCC website or the Safer Internet Centre.

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

Autumn term

Spring	Summer	Holiday dates 24/25
8.1.24 School opens 22.1.24 Y4 2.30pm Herd Farm meeting 24/25.1.24 Y4 Cycle Training 24.1.24 Movie night 7.2.24 Valentines Disco 2.2.24 Y2 Sharing Assembly 7.2.24 EY open session 9.2.24 School closes 12.2.24 School opens 28.2.24 EY Local Walk 4.3.24 Y6 MOCKS SATS WEEK 4.3.24 Westroyd Spelling Bee 8.3.24 Sing and Swing Performing Arts 12&13.3. 24 Parent Consultations 15.3.24 Y5 Sharing Assembly 19.3.24 2pm Parent Forum 21.3.24 10am Music Concert 21.3.24 9am Y1 Phonics meet 22.3.24 SCHOOL CLOSED 25- 27.3.24 Y4 Herd Farm Residential 28.3.24 Walk the Walls 26.3.24 EY Open sessions 29.3.24 School closes for Easter	15.4.24 School opens for Summer 24.4.24 Y3/Y4 TTR Rockstar Day 13.5.23 Y6 SATS week 13.5.24 3.6.24 Y4 Multiplication Check 10.6.23 Y1 Phonic Screening Test. 13.5.24 EY Open session 17.5.24 Y4 Sharing Assembly 8.5.24 Reception trip to Hesketh Farm 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 5.7.24 School Closed for training 12.7.24 EY sharing Assembly 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 <sup>th</sup> – School Closed 26.5.25 – 30.5.25 School Closed 23.7.25 School Closes for Summer X5 Training Days TBC.