

Westbrook Lane Newsletter



Thank you and seasonal best wishes



Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work during the autumn term: it has certainly been unlike any other autumn term. However, in spite of the challenges in the outside world, school has been a hive of activity and glittery abandon in the run up to Christmas! I hope you have had chance to see all the photos and videos uploaded to Class Dojo, Twitter and the website. It has been such a shame not having parents and grandparents in school for Christmas workshop days, the nativity and panto, and the Christmas Fair. However, the staff have worked really hard to make Christmas in school very special this year, and walking through the corridors, I can see they have certainly achieved that.

I would also like to thank parents and carers for all their support this term. Many of the decisions I have had to make have been difficult and sometimes unpopular, but the fact that we have had so much support has enabled us to work all term with the minimum of disruption to teaching and learning, whilst maintaining high quality provision and a broad and engaging curriculum.

Our thanks to the PTA



The PTA have funded some wonderful experiences for the children this term and I thank you on behalf of the children and staff. All classes have benefitted from the donations to the class Christmas fund and school is looking particularly sparkly at the moment. Classes have enjoyed the following workshops - Romans (Class 4), Ancient Greece (Class 3), a WWII evacuation day and a visit from a WWII soldier who regaled the children with fascinating facts (Class 6). Classes are also looking forward to a Superhero day in January (Class 2) and two history-based workshops on the Anglo Saxons followed by the Vikings (Class 5). Although there have been no fundraising opportunities so far this year, the PTA have ring-fenced a substantial amount of money to go towards a new pavilion (see below).

Playground Development

We are having a new pavilion installed in the February half-term break. We will be having a larger pavilion this time in order to be able to comfortably seat a class of older children. The design will include windows so we can use it as an outdoor classroom in all weathers, removable benches and a larger floor area so that we can use it for PE activities such as yoga, dance, drama, and even a base for orienteering. Now that we have our fence installed, we can invest money in such developments in the hope that they are less likely to be damaged by trespassers. The pavilion will be sited slightly further back than the previous one so that we can develop the area around it with a block paving pathway and, eventually, more seating near the Friendship bench. This will give children more space at playtime if the grass is wet and muddy. It will also give us additional outside teaching spaces. This pavilion project is significantly more expensive than the previous one and the majority of the funding has come from the PTA for which we are very grateful.





Christmas Celebrations

It has been a very different Christmas for everyone this year. In spite of all the restrictions, we have had a wonderful time. There have been Christmas activity days and parties. We even had a special visit from Father Christmas - socially distanced, of course! Hope you enjoy the photos and videos on Class Dojo.



Support over the Christmas period

Please see our website (link at the bottom of the page) for links to advice and support families can access over the holiday period. A letter was also sent out recently from Horsforth Children's Service on Class Dojo listing contacts and websites full of useful advice.

Asda free meals - Asda supermarket cafes will provide children under the age of 16 with [a meal completely free of charge](#) via a takeaway service. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer. The offer will run from December 1st to 31st December except Christmas Day when stores are closed.

Bad Weather Procedures

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

In the event that school will need to have a delayed start, or close altogether, a Class Dojo message will be sent to all parents. It is always advisable to check the school website as messages will also be posted there (see link at the bottom of the page).

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 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.

Please be aware that the phone line gets very busy and it can take a little while to get through. Class Dojo will be used for all alerts and messages in the first instance and, hopefully, the messages will be instant - unlike the old texting service.

Please be assured that, if at all possible, we will keep the school open; we will only close if there is a health and safety concern. Your co-operation is much appreciated.



I know the winter months after Christmas may bring some difficult times, but I hope that once we move into the spring and summer months, we can see some light at the end of the tunnel and the beginnings of a return to something more like normal. I hope you all have a wonderful and restful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you all safely back in the New Year on Monday 4th January 2021

