



WESTWAYS

Newsletter Issue 3

Christmas Edition



Wednesday 20th December

www.westwaysprimary.co.uk

Westways Primary School, Mona Avenue, Sheffield, S10 1NE Tel. 0114 2662471

Dates for your Diary

Monday January 8th 2018

School opens for
the Spring Term

Friday January 19th

Young Voices
Sheffield Arena

Saturday January 27th

Cross Country
Concord Park

Saturday February 10th

Cross Country
Brunswick Primary
School

Friday February 16th

Last day of term

Monday February 26th

School re-opens
following Feb half
term

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big thank you to all of you for your kind words and encouragement during the last few difficult weeks. Your support of our children and our school will help us to grow Westways in the new year and secure our future as the good school we deserve to be. Thank you also to the staff of Westways who continue to strive to do their very best for our children. I am hopeful that in 2018 our whole community can work together to achieve success.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas holiday and a peaceful new year and look forward to seeing the children again on Monday 8th January for the start of the Spring Term.

My very best wishes for 2018

Sam Fearnough

Executive Head teacher



Friends Of Westways

Thank you to Friends of Westways who give so much support to our school. We were very grateful for the refreshments provided for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christmas Concerts. Parents and Carers really appreciated being able to have a hot drink and a mince pie whilst they waited for our performances to start.

Our best wishes go with Mrs Waterman and Ms Rowley who will be leaving Westways at Christmas. We would like to thank them for their many years of service.

A warm Westways welcome to Sandra Wilson (Y5) and Fiona Bowen (Y3), two experienced teachers who are very much looking forward to working with us.

Westways Parent/Carer Garden Group

Thank you to our garden group who volunteer their time to weed, chop and plant in the garden and around school. We all very much appreciate their efforts to provide much needed greenery in our grounds. Thank you also for the lovely carol singing in the garden bringing Christmas cheer to everyone. They are always looking for new volunteers so please do get in touch if you would like to help.



Year 6 Photography art project

Have you noticed the amazing artwork on the windows around school? The Year 6 children worked with Ian Askham, a graphic artist in October and took lots of photographs around the school using tablets. The photographs were then arranged into a collage of images and transferred to a special coating applied to the windows. **Well done Y6!**

EYFS—Well done to all our children for their fantastic Christmas performance, Shine Star Shine. We are really proud of them for learning the songs and remembering their words in such an icy, snowy week.

This term we have been learning about different celebrations like Divali, birthdays, weddings in other faiths and Christmas. We have really enjoyed hearing about our children's experiences and they have enjoyed dressing up and re-enacting them. The children are all making brilliant progress in our new phonics programme, Read Write Inc. They really enjoy the sessions that are lively and interactive. There is some great reading going on Early Years. Our Longshaw visit was a great success and we had great fun jumping in muddy puddles and walking down the muddiest paths in Longshaw. We collected natural materials to make our boggarts (little woodland creatures).

Exciting news—the governors have agreed to fund the refurbishment of our outdoor learning environment and you will start to see changes in the spring. Our re-modelled indoor areas are working well and further improvements will be made during the holidays. Did you know—we are involved in projects to improve boys writing using everyday objects with a renowned Early Years Specialist and the People Project run by Queens University College in Belfast. Mrs Syed will be leaving us at Christmas and we want to wish her all the best for the future from everyone in EYFS.

Happy Christmas from everyone in the EYFS team.



The Y1s and Y2s have worked really hard at rehearsing and making things for a Christmas performance for families this half of term. My thanks go to all staff who have been involved as they have worked so hard. Special thanks also go to Friends of Westways for supporting the concert by providing hot drinks and yuletide treats.

We have had a Read Write Inc Specialist visit school who was very impressed with the progress children have made across the year groups and many children in Y2 will be coming off the scheme in January. Thank you to all of you who have regularly brought back the paper books and supported your child's reading at home.

The children have coped brilliantly with the icy weather conditions in recent days which has meant many indoor playtimes. They have been a real credit to their families!

We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Murray as the job share partner to Ms Parkin in January and two new teaching assistants in Key Stage 1. We'd also like to give thanks and say goodbye to Ms Rowley and Mrs Deehan who are leaving us this week.

The KS1 team

**Tuesday
February 27th**
KS1 open
evening 5pm-
7pm

**Wednesday
February 28th**
EYFS open
evening 5pm-
7pm

**Thursday
March 1st**
KS1 open
evening 3.30-
5.30pm

**Tuesday March
6th**
KS2 open
evening 5pm-
7pm

**Wednesday
March 7th**
EYFS open
evening 3.30pm
–5.30pm

**Thursday
March 8th**
KS2 open
evening 3.30pm-
5.30pm

Y3 news—Year 3 have had a busy half term learning all about the Peak District. They have been learning about how it has changed over time from being a warm tropical sea to its current activity-filled millstone grit and limestone valleys. With the continuation of their Sheffield topic, the children have been incredibly lucky to have visits from Sheffield artist Pete Mckee and Illustrator James Croft who we thank greatly for coming in and showing their work. The children are currently using their D. T. skills and finishing their magnet maze games as we speak. As winter rolls in, Year 3 will be starting their new topic, The Arctic Regions and will endeavour on a freezing journey to the North and South Pole, taking inspiration from past explorers, Scott and Shackleton.



Y4 news—Year 4 and their band of merry men have been learning all about the myths and legends that surround Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest. They took a trip to Sherwood Forest and saw the legendary Major Oak, learnt all about living in the forest and made themselves dens to hide from the Sheriff of Nottingham. Robin Hood, hero or villain? The children have been writing persuasive arguments to convince their teachers using their very best persuasive techniques. Next half term, Year 4 will be learning about the devastating power of the natural world in their topic, Extreme Earth. They will be studying a variety of natural forces, such as volcanoes, tsunamis and cyclones and the impacts of these events. Thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Y3/4!! Y3/4 Team



Year 5 have really enjoyed their Space topic this half term in which they have studied the phases of the Moon, the relationships between the Earth, Moon and Sun as well as looking at the other planets in the Solar System. As part of this topic, the children had a fantastic day out at the National Space Centre in Leicester where they had the opportunity to see a full size space rocket, learn about the Solar System in more detail and find out what life is like as an astronaut. Using this experience, the children then wrote moon landing diaries as Neil Armstrong and produced information leaflets about living on the International Space Centre. In addition to this, the children have created space paintings based on the abstract work of artist, Peter Thorpe.

Year 6 have continued their study of World War II this half term, looking at the way the local area was affected during the blitz and how and why the war ended, including how the Enigma machine was used to decipher German messages. Within this work, the children have written a poem from a soldier's perspective and diaries as Anne Frank, which focused on describing the Jewish experience in the 1940s. In addition to this, the children have enjoyed their Science topic this half term on Light, Shadows and the Eye. The children were lucky enough to take part in a practical session at King Edward Lower School where they dissected sheep eyes - this allowed them to link their learning on the human eye to a real life example. Further to this, they also created pinhole cameras to demonstrate how the human eye functions.

We have been really impressed with their children's efforts in Year 5 and 6 over this half term and we are seeing some really fantastic progress being made - **well done to everyone!** Y5/6 team

Saturday March 10th Graves Park (City Championships)

Tuesday March 13th Class photos

Friday March 23rd Sports relief day

Thursday March 29th School closes for Easter





Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

From everyone at

WESTWAYS