

Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the end of another blustery, autumnal week. Many, many thanks to those parents who attended the Parent Partnership Meeting on Tuesday evening, where new expectations and routines around issuing homework were shared; updates around the use of the website and communication were given and a proposed overview of fundraising activities was put forward.

Fundraising

We spent some time discussing ways of generating money on three different levels: School, local community and national. Living as we do, in a time of considerable financial stresses and strains, I am incredibly mindful of the challenges many of our families may be facing. We have therefore been quite selective about the causes we have chosen to support, as constant requests for donations and contributions would be inconsiderate. Below is a provisional overview of the causes we are looking to fundraise for this academic year. The Pupil Parliament and Senior Leadership Team will be identifying the focus of fundraising for school funds this week and I will also be launching the Year 6 Pound project. Please could Year 6 parents look out for further details about this.

Westdale Junior School

Proposed fundraising overview – 2022-2023

Term	School	Community	National
Autumn 1			Macmillan Coffee Morning
Autumn 2	Christmas cake designing competition Donations from carol concert Y6 Pound project cake sale	Local Food Bank – collection School Uniform charity donation	Children in Need Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children
Spring 1	Y6 Pound project cake sale		Coffee Morning for National Charity - TBC
Spring 2	Easter cake sale/ egg competition School discos Y6 Pound project cake sale	Local Food Bank – collection School Uniform charity donation	Comic Relief/Sport Relief
Summer 1	Summer Fair Y6 Pound project cake sale		Coffee Morning for National Charity - TBC
Summer 2	School discos	Local Food Bank – collection School Uniform charity donation	

At the meeting, I did ask for volunteers for school-based fundraising events and the reason for this overview remaining provisional at this time, is that there are some events that will be dependent on parental support; namely the school discos and the summer fair. I have proposed the development of a fundraising “taskforce” and would ask that you email me directly by Friday 30th November if you are interested in joining this team. My email is rkyle@westdalejuniors.co.uk. Thank you to those who have already declared their interest. Please could I ask that anyone else let me know by Friday 30th November.

Having spoken to a number of people who were unable to attend the meeting, I will aim to hold the next Parent Partnership meeting twice; once during the school day and once after school, thus maximising the opportunities for people attending. I propose 24th January 2022 at 9.15am and 5.00pm.

School Trips, visits and after school clubs

One thing that I have almost managed to finalise is the overview of school trips, visits and after-school clubs for 2022-2023. Further communication will follow next week.

Communication

You will notice some changes on the website over the coming weeks. Teachers will be posting details of the homework on the homework tabs of the class pages, events and news from school will be posted more frequently and the school calendar will be being utilised to better effect. Please do keep your eyes open for emails with notifications of letters, all of which I will try to ensure are also posted on the website.

I have had a number of queries about inconsistencies in text messages being received. I think we have identified the issue and have a way to ensure this does not happen in the future. Any issues with the ipayimpact system should be referred in the first instance to the school office who will liaise with our School Business Manager. Please advise the office in person or email office@westdalejuniors.co.uk.

In the longer term, we do have plans to migrate to more efficient, electronic modes of communication in an effort to move towards becoming a paperless school. However, having been involved in a similar process at my previous school, I am aware of the logistics involved in managing such a move. Please bear with us while we lay the foundations of managing the transition smoothly. In the meantime, we are working really hard on making communication as transparent as possible: You have class teachers email addresses for managing day-to-day matters concerning your children; Mrs Smith, Mrs Thornhill and I can usually be found on the playground at the start and the end of the day and we have filled two vacant office posts that should return us to a full compliment of support on our reception desk. Any issues, please let me or any member of the Senior Leadership Team know.

Reminders of dates for your diary

Monday 14 th November 2022	Odd Sock Day – Launch of anti-bullying week
Tuesday 15 th and Wednesday 16 th November 2022	Parents' Evenings
Friday 18 th November 2022	Children in Need – Non-uniform. Optional donations.
Friday 25 th November 2022	Inset Day
Thursday 8 th December 2022	Christmas Jumper Day – Uniform with Christmas jumper. Optional donations.
Tuesday 20 th December 2022	Christmas Carol Concert (altered date)
Wednesday 21 st December 2022	End of term

Your sincerely,

Ruth Kyle – Head of School