



WESTWOOD'S BUCKLEY BUGLE

December's Christmas and news roundup!

Welcome to the wonderful world of Westwood!
We hope you like what you see & read!

Hello Parents & Carers, welcome to our December monthly newsletter. Our newsletter will offer you an invaluable insight into the world of Westwood, keep you updated and support the school's website and Twitter as a way of sharing information and improving communication.

Well, yet again it has been another busy month at Westwood! Amongst our amazing learning experiences, we have been wall to wall with Christmas events! From the P.T.F.A. Christmas Fair plus reindeer, the Christmas Choir singing at Costa, entertaining residents at Marleyfield and the Stroke Association at the Our Lady of the Rosary Church. There have been Christmas productions, Christmas jumper days, Christmas parties; our amazing annual Christmas community events—Christmas Bingo and the Community Tea. The children, staff and parents have worked so hard to make school life such an amazing positive experience for your child! And we have enjoyed every minute! Thank you for all of your support with our events.

As you know, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Janet Harrison. Mrs Harrison, who has been absent from school for the last 12 months with ill health, is leaving Westwood Community Primary and will be retiring at Christmas 2019. She has been a teacher at Westwood and Westlea for 36 years.

We will all be incredibly sad to see Mrs Harrison leave and I know you will extend your very best wishes to her in her well-earned retirement. We know she'll be kept busy with her family commitments, new baby granddaughter and her creative interests. Mrs Harrison will be greatly missed by parents, governors, staff and pupils; she'll be a hard act to follow!

Mrs Harrison's class has been taught by Mrs Bannister this term. Mrs Bannister will also be leaving us on Friday 20th December. I know too, that you will wish her well and thank her for her commitment and hard work at Westwood in Class 4 this term.

From January 2020, Class 4 / Year 2 will welcome Mr Gordon to our Westwood family. Mr Gordon is an experienced practitioner on secondment for two terms. I have no doubt you will show Mr Gordon your full support as our Year 2 teacher until the end of the academic year.

Finally, on behalf of the entire school staff and governors, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your family. I have had an amazing year so far as your head teacher and your support has been uplifting! I hope you have a joyous, happy and fulfilling Christmas and share plenty of fun and laughter. Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn Newydd Dda. See you all on Tuesday 7th January 2020!

Diolch yn fawr iawn gan - Mrs W & Team Westwood.

Community Engagement & School News

Christmas Bingo Ho—Ho & Community Tea

We had another record breaking Christmas Bingo-Ho-Ho this year. We had a packed hall and even with our emergency chairs, we managed to get everybody in! Thank you for squashing in and supporting us; it made for a superb, friendly atmosphere. This year we had a special guest appearance from the Mad Hatter, who brought his quirky panto humour to the event. We had a great deal of fun with you all. Well done to all of our winners and commiserations to those who came so close! A huge thank you to the team of staff who worked tirelessly to organise and manage this fun event. We managed to raise just over £890 that will be directed towards our current school development priorities and activities for our wonderful children. Amazing effort!

Our Christmas Community Tea yet again drew another big crowd and the classes from Reception to Year 6 sang for your entertainment. Again our wonderful Christmas Choir and Mrs Farrer, with a little help from Mr Thompson on the piano, made the afternoon even more magical. We even had some singing duets and a solo from our resident cornet player, Evan! Thank you for your support; it means so much!

And it wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from the 'Big Man in Red!' The children were so excited to get an early visit from Father Christmas at the Christmas Parties on Monday 16th December. Not long to go for the main event kids!



Christmas Productions & Our Choir

What a talented bunch of youngsters we have at Westwood! From the Nursery pupils to the oldest Year 6, I am very proud of every effort during each of our Christmas productions and Christmas Community events. The singing was amazing, in all of our choirs and class groups, the acting was brilliant and the costumes were dazzling. Putting on a show of any scale requires a massive amount planning, organisation and commitment from my team of staff. Even behind the scenes, a great deal of additional time and effort goes into preparing props, making costumes, scenery, music, tickets, programmes and refreshments. For this, I thank you all! I am very lucky as a Head Teacher to have such a dedicated team behind me and such a wonderful bunch of children around me. I would like to extend my gratitude to all parents, carers and relatives who have supported the Christmas productions and events this year. Your contributions and supportive engagement is hugely appreciated and makes such a difference to the development of our school.



P.T.F.A. Christmas Fair & 5p Challenge

Wow what an fantastic afternoon we had! The P.T.F.A. Christmas fair was indeed the biggest one we have held during my time at Westwood, smashing last year's total! The range of events drew in a huge crowd, with lots of new supporters, which was fabulous! Our range of events certainly thrilled the crowds from Santa with his magical reindeer to our Secret Santa, Tombolas and refreshments, there really was something for everyone. The P.T.F.A. worked tirelessly to bring you this event and they had lots of fun in the process. The support was amazing; including raffles, the P.T.F.A raised over £1100 profit! That is including the 5p challenge which raised collectively £255. The winners were Class 8 with £44.30 who will decide on what they spend the collective total on. We will start again with the 5p challenge in January! A huge thank you to all of you who supported the events and we look forward to bringing you new and exciting events in the new year!



Save the dates

6th January 2020 - Staff Training Day

7th January 2020 - School Opens for Pupils

9th January 2020 —Chester Zoo Trip—New Year Treat for Nursery & Reception

13th January 2020- Swimming for Class 10

31st January 2020 —Young Voices Concert

12th—14th February—Culmington Manor residential visit —Year 5 & 6

14th February—School closes for 1/2 term

Cymraeg Bob Mis

Nadolig Llawen — Merry Christmas

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda - Happy New Year

Polite reminder:

Attendance and punctuality is the key to success! We are carefully monitoring attendance at present. The expected attendance for pupils is 94% and over. We will be continuing to contact families with attendance below this figure, who have not provided a medical note or valid reason for absence.

A very small minority of families are excessively absent (below 90%) or regularly late. However it is important to reiterate the importance of regular attendance and punctuality in school. Lateness is not only disruptive to the school day but can seriously affect your child's readiness and capacity to learn; lates do count towards absence.

As a Flintshire school we must adhere to their process for attendance management. If you need support please speak to Mrs Thomas or myself by appointment. For more information on how absence and lateness can affect your child, and the implications for poor attendance, please visit Flintshire's site <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Education-Fixed-Penalty-Notices.aspx>

Doors open at 8.40am. We ask that all children in the main building come in promptly, and that parents and carers let children walk into the foyer independently; the main entrance can get unnecessarily busy at times and getting pupils to their classes safely is our priority.

Staff are present to monitor your children as they come in.

Therefore we thank you for your cooperation.