

# WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Dear Families,



## World Book Day

It is World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, during the first week back after the half term break. The children will be given a World Book Day token that they can exchange for one of twelve specially written children's books, or £1 towards a different book of their choice. We hope that they all enjoy getting "stuck into a book"!

This year, each year group is choosing a specific book or poem, and children are invited to wear something in colours associated with that text on World Book Day:

Nursery - "The Tiger Who Came to Tea" by Judith Kerr: **orange** or **black** and **white** stripes

Reception - "Elmer" by David McKee: **rainbow**

KS1 (Y1/2) - "Here Come the Aliens" by Colin McNaughton: **bright**

Y3 - "The Rascally Cake" by Jeanne Willis: **green** and **red**

Y4 - "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl: **purple** and **gold**

Y5 - "How to Train Your Dragon" by Cressida Cowell: **green**

Y6 - "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes: **red** and **black**

## Virtual Book Fair

As we have been unable to run a face to face Book Fair in school this term, we have set up a virtual Scholastic Book Club instead. Please go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/westgarth/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards to buy more books for school. The children will receive a Book Club brochure with some of the latest publications.

Please place any orders online by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Thank you.

## A Fond Farewell

Sadly, Mr Woodhouse, our lovely caretaker, retires next week. Mr Woodhouse has been a hugely popular member of our school, and the Marske, community for almost 29 years. Many of you will know the extra mile he has always

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gone to to keep school safely open in all kinds of weather, for example. I am extremely grateful to Mr Woodhouse for agreeing to continue opening and locking up school after the half term break, whilst we finalise the recruitment of a new caretaker. Big shoes to fill!

Meanwhile, we all wish Mr Woodhouse a long, healthy and happy retirement.

## And finally

It is with tremendous sadness that I am also informing you of my departure from the Headship of Westgarth at the end of the summer term. I have simply loved being Headteacher here for the last five years; being part of such a welcoming community and, most of all, working alongside our fantastic children and our talented, committed staff team. It has been an absolute privilege to belong to such a happy school.

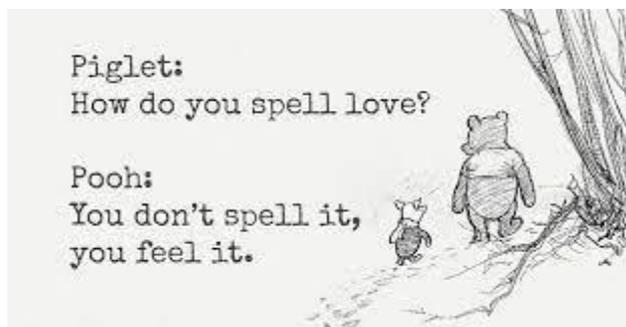
However, many events of the last four years have taken their toll on me, both personally and professionally, and some aspects of the current direction of education no long marry with my vision for children and the teaching profession entrusted with their care. So, after much soul searching, my family and I feel that it is time for me to embark upon a new chapter. I do hope to continue supporting Westgarth's English Hub for a little longer, helping schools across the north east to develop early reading; an area of the curriculum and education about which I am passionate.

An advertisement for my replacement is being posted today, and I will, obviously, do all I can to support a smooth transition for both children and staff over the next few months.

I can only hope that the easing of restrictions will allow our whole school community to come together face to face again in coming weeks, allowing us all the opportunity to meet with families properly, as we have previously enjoyed doing on so many occasions in the past.

In the meantime, I sincerely thank you for your support of, and partnership with, school, and myself, over the last five years, particularly through the most challenging period in education that I have known in eighteen years as a Headteacher.

Above all else, I know that Westgarth will always have a very special place in my heart, and I will be forever proud to have been part of our "Westgarth Way".



Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead  
Headteacher