

# Westdale Junior School

## Newsletter

Spring Term 1

Friday 9th January  
2009

## Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you have had a good break and managed to find time to relax during the busy Christmas period.

### Attendance

Coming home tonight will be a print out of your child's attendance over the Autumn Term. This will give the percentage attendance between the first day of the term in September and the last day of the term in December. Well done to all those children who have achieved 100%.



Attendance above 95% is the target to aim for. We know that genuine illness can not be helped, but most poor attendance is due to holidays in term time and regular absence patterns, Fridays and Mondays being the most common.

The implications of poor attendance on a child's education are tremendous. Research has shown that children who are not in school are the most vulnerable and are easily drawn into crime.

Research also shows that in primary schools less than 65% of children get good results in Maths and English in schools with an average of 15 days absence compared to around 90% in schools where the average is less than 8 days.

Many parents are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence. Every lesson in school matters and children who have time off find it difficult to catch up.

### Welcome to Westdale

We are pleased to welcome Dylan, Josh, Claudio and Ellie to Years 5, 4 and 3. We also welcome Mrs Ayre, our new personal care assistant, to Westdale. We hope that they settle in quickly and that they enjoy their time with us.

### Term Dates

On the reverse of this letter you will find the dates of the activities already planned in school for this term. We will give you further details of events as they occur and of additional events as we plan these in.

### Travel Plan Meeting

There will be a travel plan meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 27th January in school. This is a joint meeting with Infants and all parents / carers are welcome to attend.



Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.



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If you require this newsletter in an alternative format please contact the school office, alternatively it can be accessed from our website .

## Dates for the Term

26th January	Nutcracker Theatre Performance for all children in school
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Travel Plan Meeting 6pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Road Safety Quiz
<b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Break up for Half Term</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>INSET</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Class Photographs
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Caythorpe residential for the weekend
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Timetravelling to Southwell Minster
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Activity Day for Year 5 and 6
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Activity Day for Year 3 and 4
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 3/4 Production
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 3/4 Production
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Break up for Easter</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Back to school</b>