

**Westgate Spring**

**News 2019**



**Exciting Event in school**

Without doubt being visited by Joe Wicks was the most exciting event in school recently. I’m not sure who were the most excited – children or staff! Joe led the whole school in a 20 minute work out and then discussed healthy living with our School Council and Sports Committee members in the school library. It’s something the children will be talking about for a long time to come – and then we were on the tv as North West News reported on the event! The event gave our drive to encourage children to make healthy life choices a real boost so our thanks go to Joe and his team for their contribution.

**Friends of Westgate** … the Friends continue to support us in providing the best we can for our children. Huge thanks go to Mrs Purcell and her team for all their

support, hard work and excellent organisation. Recent contributions have included :

£2000 towards KS2 reading books, £1,357 for KS1 books, £1,000 for resources for the Reception courtyard, £450 for books for the school library and £285 towards Golden Time resources. Plans for future contributions focus around traverse climbing walls for KS1 and KS2, resources for the junior courtyard and further investment in books for KS1. Wow! Sincere thanks on behalf of the children and staff – what would we do without you?!

**Improving our facilities**

There will be a good deal of work being carried out in school over the holiday period. The rectangle of grass between the mobile classroom and the main school is being replaced with artificial grass so the children using Westgate Wonders have a dry, safe and cushioned area for outdoor play throughout the year. The infant courtyard will be having its second coat of wood protection applied to prolong the life of all the wooden apparatus in there. The main hall floor is being sanded and varnished to ensure its life is extended and a netball court will be marked on it to accommodate indoor netball skills to be taught. Finally during the Easter break the mobile classrooms will be having some remedial works completed so we can rely on their good repair in the coming years.

There are also plans for the summer holidays including the refurbishment of Reception and Year 1 toilet facilities, the improvement of the main entrance foyer and the building of a MUGA (Multi Activity Games Area) on the all weather pitch to give us an all year round, flexible surface on which to teach and play a variety of different sports.

So while we are all enjoying the next couple of main holiday periods the school will be experiencing considerable change!

**School budget**… despite increasing costs the school has set a budget for 2019/20 without the need for major cost cutting. However the financial situation, as in many other schools, is a growing concern when looking at the years ahead. We are hoping that the government will address school finance issues once they have sorted out you know what!

**School Library**

The upgrade of the school library is now fully complete. The addition of PCs and laptops has been the final piece in the jigsaw. We now have a colourful, relaxing environment filled with lovely books and the resources to enable us to investigate and explore the Internet as well as a super teaching and training space. Thanks to everyone for their contribution – our library is something to be proud of and visitors include children, their parents and also people from the local community.