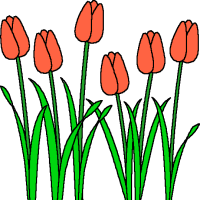
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**School Budgets…**  it’s a current news item that school budgets are very tight and some are cutting back staff to make ends meet. This year we are OK and governors have set a positive budget for the year. However the financial situation in the next few years will be difficult without further support from central government**.**

**Westgate Governing Body**

The main responsibilities of any school’s governing body are:

To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff and to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent. If you go on the school’s website you can see who our governors are. We have a strong team under the leadership of our Chairperson Martyn Jowett. The governors have recently become much more involved in the development of the school and the OFSTED inspector recognized this and encouraged them to continue their good work. These are volunteers who give their time and energy to the school generously because they care about the quality of the experiences and education our children receive. Our sincere thanks go to them for their contribution to our children and their school.

**Keep children active**

It’s a fact that many children now spend more time doing activities that require them to sit down rather than be active and physically involved. As a result of this we are seeing increasing numbers of children starting school with delayed muscular development. More children are finding it difficult to hold a pencil let alone write with one. Toddlers need to be active and encouraged to crawl, climb, run, jump, hop, skip etc. Challenging them with obstacle courses around the home or garden, playing at the park on the apparatus or going for walks in the natural environment all help children develop the strength and muscles needed for future well-being. Current advice is that children aged 6+ should have one hour of vigorous exercise per day. Younger than that, children should be active for 3 hours per day leading up to the vigorous 1 hour per day once they reach 6.

One of the reasons for our doing the one mile-a-day project is to get children into the habit of being active on a daily basis. We hope they carry this forward into their future lives in order to promote good health and well-being in the future generations.

If you want to find out more about keeping toddlers/youngsters active try the following websites:

* childdevelopmentinfo.com
* bhfactive.org



**HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE! … have a great time with the family over the holiday. School reopens on TUESDAY 18TH APRIL**

**Staff news…** As from the beginning of the summer term Mr Robinson will be dropping down to 4 days per week. Miss Bright will step up to be Headteacher on the 5th day. The aim is to keep the old guy going for a while longer!