

February 2010

Dear Parents

I have pleasure in sharing some of the achievements which Westbourne is enjoying as it celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Firstly, my thanks to all staff, pupils and parents for persevering through snowy weather conditions. We managed to stay open throughout the period and children had productive lessons in smaller classes. Although our after school activities had to be curtailed we did manage to maintain a full sporting programme. Much credit to Mr Elvidge and his team for these efforts.

Without doubt the recent ISI inspection has taken up quite a lot of focus for the school and I would like to thank all the staff for preparing so thoroughly and professionally during what is always a stressful time. I would also like to thank those parents and pupils who took the time to complete the questionnaires last month. There were lots of positives and very few concerns (i.e. less than 10% of all returns). We were only the second school in the UK to undergo this brand new style of inspection. The first 2 days (12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of January) involved the inspectors checking our compliance with regulations and a focus on our measures for safeguarding. This is an enormous paperwork exercise and has involved extra work for several key colleagues on the management team and in particular Mr Chris Heald who has been for me, an excellent ally behind the scenes. The final 3 days were completed on Monday to Wednesday this week where a great many lessons were observed. The inspectors also looked in great detail at our provision for pastoral care and the holistic development of each child.

The full analysis will be available to you in the near future however I can share these comments from the inspectors: **“The quality of teaching and learning at Westbourne is outstanding”**. **In 86 previous reports this is only the 2nd time the Reporting Inspector has written this.**

### **Year 6 Scholarship exams for entry into our Senior School**

10 internal candidates and 10 external pupils took a range of academic, sporting and musical tests last month and I am delighted to announce the winners were as follows: **Luke Chakrabarti** won an all round scholarship for his academic and musical talent; **Jemima Board** and **Sam Wolstenholme** both won sports scholarships.

**Arka Chattopadhyay** Year 11 has been awarded an **exhibition to Birkdale 6<sup>th</sup> form**

### **More News:**

Our Year 3 and Year 4 classes will bring their assessments home with them today. Y5 - Y10 will bring their home in week 7.

Emergency contact during the snowy season seemed to work quite well as we utilised mobile phone text messaging for the first time en mass. We always follow up with emails and

a message via Hallam FM/Radio Sheffield if we are closing. Please ensure you keep school informed of any change of mobile number/e-mail address.

### Some sporting news:

- **Chloe Channer** has been spotted by football scouts as a potential England school girl
- Our Scuba diving academy has got off to a great start
- Our U13 & U11 girls hockey teams recently won both South Yorkshire tournaments at Aurora, Rotherham

### Future events:

The 125<sup>th</sup> celebration in the Cathedral on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May is a mandatory event for all our pupils. We look forward to this whole school event with great excitement and we would like as many Old Westbournian's to attend as possible.

- House Hockey at Abbeydale 19th March
- House football [Year 5-Year 8]at Abbeydale 12th March & [Year 9-Year 11] 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Westbourne's 6 aside U11 & U13 football tournament at Abbeydale 5<sup>th</sup> March
- U13 netball v Mothers at Hillsborough 5th March
- Dry skiing starts Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for 4 weeks
- Year 5 to Year 8 have the opportunity to have golf lessons at Hallamshire Golf Club during April and May. Letters will be circulated after ½ term.

**The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball** (featuring the 'Sharp Cuts') organised by **Friends of Westbourne** will be held at **Baldwin Omega's on Saturday 22nd May**.

Ticket prices are £55 and again we welcome OW's to join. You can book tickets by either contacting your class rep or Louise Heath on 0783 7863 676.

A large number of our students have taken and passed exams with the **Associated Board of the Royal School of Music**. Special congratulations to the following pupils:

Tristan Gale	Year 4	Nov-09	ABRSM	Piano	2	Merit
Luke Chakrabarti	Year 6	Dec-09	ABRSM	Piano	2	Merit
Luke Chakrabarti	Year 6	Dec-09	ABRSM	Alto Sax	2	Merit
Luke Chakrabarti	Year 6	Nov-09	ABRSM	Theory	2	Distinction
Catherine Miller	Year 6	Nov-09	ABRSM	Theory	2	Distinction
Catherine Miller	Year 6	Dec-09	ABRSM	Piano	2	Merit
Amy Martindale	Year 5	Nov-09	ABRSM	Theory	3	Merit
Amy Martindale	Year 5	Dec-09	ABRSM	Piano	1	Pass

Tristan Gale, Severin Gale, Lucy Stern and Joshua Richardson will be taking Grade 1 theory in March. Catherine Miller, Lucy da Costa, Amy Martindale, Lizzie Peck and Luke Chakrabarti will be taking Grade 4 Theory in June; this is hugely accelerated for their ages and is GCSE Level work.

London Trip – please can Miss Nickson have all forms back as soon as possible to collate information. Any queries please contact [hnickson@westbourneschool.co.uk](mailto:hnickson@westbourneschool.co.uk) It promises to be a very exciting trip – the first whole school MAPS trip of any kind.

**Headmaster's surgery** is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 3.30 – 4pm in Ashdell Grove Hall

The **quality of lunches and prep tea** was analysed recently and I am pleased to inform you of the following:

Pupils will be allowed to mix salad with hot food; after ½ term pupils in Years 5 and 6 may have jacket potatoes; 'smiley faces' are to be removed from the menu; the cooking time of vegetables has been reduced so that they are firmer/crunchy;

Prep tea – all sugary cakes and jam sandwiches have been removed; we now provide a choice of sandwiches with brown bread.

There are a few remaining places for the **Junior School Easter Cookery course**. (In association with Nonna's restaurant). This will be running from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>. Please see Mrs Loasby for details.

**Ski Trip parents evening** will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 5pm in Ashdell Grove Hall

**Transition evening for Year 5 & Year 6** has been re-scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm

Year 5 – Year 10 **assessments** will be given out on 26<sup>th</sup> February

**Year 9 Parents Evening** is Week 8, Tuesday, 2nd March at 5.00pm

Second hand **uniform sales** are February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 11.30 (Mainly Junior School clothes)

**House Hockey (Year 5-9) – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – this is a new date as it was rearranged due to bad weather**

### **Staff**

Mrs Jo Roberts has announced her plans for retiring at the end of this year. Mrs Roberts first started teaching Maths here in 1991 and I would like to thank her for all the years of service and dedication she has given to the pupils at Westbourne.

Mrs Carole Longmire also leaves us at the end of this term to pursue her own business interests in dyslexia teaching. However the good news is that Westbourne pupils who take advantage of our extra support lessons will not be affected by this because Mrs Longmire will continue to teach their individual lessons.

After 18 years of service, Mrs Olwyn Robinson also retires at the end of this year and I know our Hockey teams in particular have benefitted from her coaching expertise.

Several new staff have been appointed to replace them and details will be announced shortly.

### **Two reminders:**

- Please park considerately when dropping off or collecting your children. I have had at least two irate neighbours complaining this term which of course does the school image no good whatsoever. More importantly it generally puts our children at risk.
- Please do not take your children out of school for holidays during term time. It will be classed as an unauthorised absence, unless it is for a special family event or there is an educational value attached to the trip.

I hope you have a great week's holiday and look forward to seeing you at our many events during the following 5 weeks of this Spring term.

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Yours sincerely