

# Weekly Newsletter

Spring Term - Week 3 - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

School Website: <https://www.westgatecp.co.uk/>



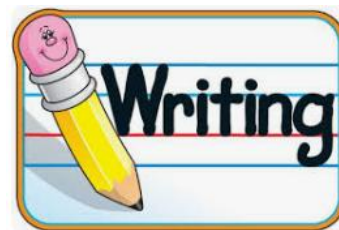
Westgate C.P.  
School

Inspire · Create · Learn

## Message from Mrs Kidd

It has been yet another busy week in school! January draws to a close and we have all settled back well into the new school year. We have had lots of visitors in school this week, all of which have praised our children for their learning and demonstrating our Westgate Learning Behaviours of pride, resilience, teamwork and courage.

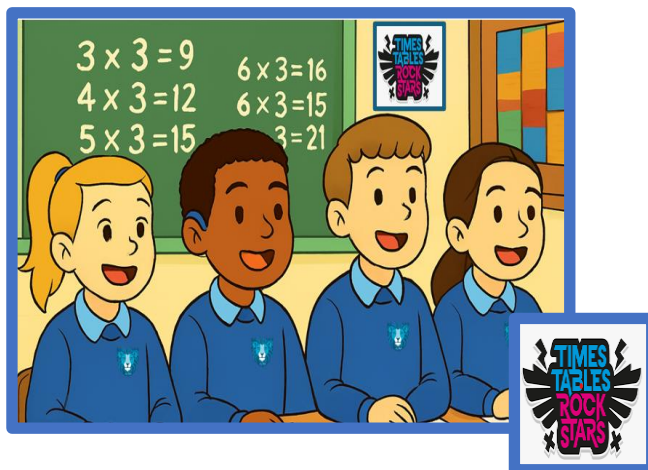
This year, we have had a school wide focus on transcription (spelling and handwriting/presentation) and times-tables. We have regular handwriting and spelling practice built into each day and the adults' focus on these during lessons is paying off. The children continue to enjoy their *I Am A Clever Writer* (IAACW) lessons and are writing some wonderful pieces.



In Maths, the children are enjoying their lessons that focus on times-tables. Each half term, the children work on a specific times-table and work on building up 'fluency and automaticity' which means that they know them by heart and can recall them almost without thinking! Knowing their times-tables in this way is a really good way to help children feel confident in Maths. When they know their times-tables it means that they don't have to stop and think about every small calculation. Knowing times-tables can also help with division, fractions, problem-solving, and other subjects for example Science.

The good news is that learning times-tables doesn't have to be boring! Short, regular practice, games, songs, and real-life examples (like sharing snacks or counting money) can make a big difference. With support at school and at home, children build strong foundations that will help them throughout their education.

For our children in KS2, Mr Scott (Maths Lead) is going to relaunch TT Rock Stars very soon – look out for me info.





We look forward to welcoming you into school on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January (3.30 – 4.00pm)** for our next Open Classroom Session where you can see what our children have been learning across the Curriculum. If you cannot make this date, please speak to the class teacher to arrange another time to pop in to look at your child's books.

### What have we been learning this week?

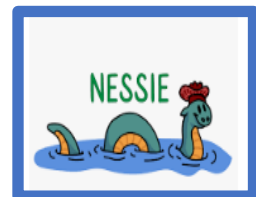
At Westgate, we think it is important to offer a wide and varied Curriculum so that our children get to experience all subjects.



In **Reception**, our children have been thinking about what they would like to be when they are grown up. They have been reading books about this and have enjoyed talking about all the different jobs that they might do in the future!

In PE this week, the children had a wonderful time getting the apparatus out. They had great fun practising their climbing and balancing skills and all of our learning behaviours were evident throughout. Great examples of teamwork, resilience and, of course, courage!

In **Years 1 and 2**, the children are learning about the United Kingdom. In English, they are reading the story 'Nessie' and have learnt about the Loch Ness Monster. They have written some lovely retells and our Drawing Club children have written some sentences about the story.



In Maths, they have been adding pairs of 2-digit numbers and in PE, their dance is linked to the weather – and in 2026 we have seen so many different types already!



In **Year 3 and 4**, the children are learning about Ancient Egypt. In Topic, they have discussed different artefacts and have loved writing their names in hieroglyphics. In English, they are reading 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx' and are enjoying finding out more about her adventures in the pyramids.

Our Year 3 children are also basing their ballet on Ancient Egypt and have had such a lovely time and gained so much confidence in their sessions with Michelle, a trained ballet teacher.

In **Years 5 and 6**, the children have been working on division in Maths lessons, a perfect example of how a good knowledge and recall of times tables comes in handy! They have also looked at scaling.

In English, the children's writing is inspired by the book 'Moonbird'. They have been using a variety of sentence starters along with personification and metaphors in their writing this week.

In Topic lessons, the children are considering whether they would like to live in a desert. They have located them around the world and looked at the physical features of a desert.



### **Wider Learning Opportunities**

At Westgate, we actively look for ways to take our learning out of the classroom and to give our children exciting opportunities that they can share with their peers.

### **Young Voices**



On Thursday, our choir travelled to the O2 in London to take part in Young Voices 2026. They had a wonderful day and were thrilled to be part of one of the biggest children's choirs! The children (and staff) have been practising for the Young Voices event since the start of the year and all their hard work and commitment paid off. Performing with over 8,000 other children from all over the UK (and the world), to a packed audience! Our children experienced a memorable night they will never forget, each and every child sang and danced their hearts out and were AMAZING! What a credit they were, and we are so proud of them!

A massive THANK YOU to Mrs McGhee and Mrs Perkins for the time, effort and hard work in making it the success it was. Their passion and enthusiasm have helped inspire our choir to perform in the way they did and I know that the children did Westgate proud with their behaviour and conduct.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, the children are looking forward to performing some of the songs to their parents.

## Year 6 Stereotype Switch Escalator Day

Also on Thursday, our Year 6 children took part in a Careers Day with a difference! The group split into a boy and girl groups and experienced workshops that featured jobs often associated with the opposite sex.

This was a pilot scheme. The children had discussions before the day about jobs that they associate with men or women. They will now have further discussions to see if any of those viewpoints have changed following the day.

Our Year 6s enjoyed the day and some of them have definitely come away with new possible careers in mind. It is important for them to know that they can aim to have a job in whichever field they would like, regardless of their gender.



## Car Free Site

The safety of the children, parents and staff is our priority. As such, we are a car free site - this includes parking and driving on site.

Please remember that you **should not** be bringing a car onto site at all at the start and the end of the day unless:

- a) you have a disabled badge, OR
- b) have made a prior arrangement with the office, OR
- c) have a Westgate parking permission badge for your car (please contact the School Office if you think you could be entitled to one), OR
- d) are dropping off for Breakfast Club/collecting from After School Club.



We also ask that you follow the one-way system if you do need to come on site and that you do not park at the old ambulance station.

The front of the school is monitored regularly and we would be grateful if you could continue to help keep our site safe.

### **Parking around Hospital Road and other areas roads near to our school**



As part of our ongoing effort to keep our school community safe, we kindly ask for your support with parking during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please do park considerately on the roads around our school, avoiding driveways, crossings, bus stops, and areas that may block visibility or access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles. Even short stops can create safety concerns for our pupils and neighbours.

### **Menu Change Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

We have sent out a message, but just a little reminder that on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, it will be Roast Beef **not** Pork.

**Dates for the Diary (new dates added are shown in red)**

27th Jan = Young Voices performance for parents

29th Jan = Open Classroom Session (3.30pm—4pm)

6<sup>th</sup> Feb = Number Day

10th Feb = Safer Internet Day

10<sup>th</sup> Feb – PINS session for staff and parents (3.30pm – 5pm)

12th Feb = PTA Spring Discos

**16th to 20th Feb = Half Term**

5<sup>th</sup> March = World Book Day

13th March = Mothers' Day Tea

17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March = Parents Evenings

20th March = Red Nose Day

24th March = Rocksteady Concert

27th March = PTA Easter Bingo

**28th March - 12th April = Easter Holidays**

w/b 11<sup>th</sup> May = Y6 SATs Week

22nd May = Staff training day (children not in school)

25th—29th May = Half Term

Friday 17th July—last day of term