

Weekly Newsletter



Spring Term – Week 10 - Friday 20th March 2026

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

Message from Mrs Kidd

It has been a busy couple of weeks and lots has been going on in school. There have been lots of opportunities to welcome you into school and it has been lovely to welcome so many of you in. Developing the relationship between school and home is a huge part of Westgate and the partnerships we have with our families is not only very important to us, but also something of which we are very proud.



Last week, we welcomed Farmer George and his tractor to Westgate. He visited our Reception and Key Stage 1 children, who had a wonderful time asking him a range of questions and climbing up into the cab of the tractor!



We also welcomed many of you into school for our annual Mother's Day Tea. The children made some lovely cards to give to their mums and enjoyed their time in the hall, having a drink and a cake. Thank you to our wonderful PTA and School Office team for organising this event. Father's Day Tea is in the diary for Friday 12th June.



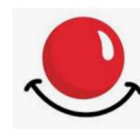
This week, we held our Spring Term Parents Evenings. It was lovely to welcome so many of you in. A big thank you to Miss Phipps and Mrs Marston for running the creche.



If you were unable to come along, or if you feel you needed more time and still have things you would like to discuss, please contact the School Office to arrange a meeting with your child/ren's class teacher/s.

Today, we celebrated Red Nose Day in school.

Children and staff have embraced our traditional 'Break the Rules Day', coming into school wearing pyjamas, football kits, wigs and so much more! We are thrilled to share that we raised over £335! Thank you for your support with this. We ended the day with a Staff vs Prefects obstacle relay race, cheered on by the whole school who came out to watch. A great end to a great day – thank you Mrs Fenning for organising it.



What learning has been going on in school?

Our children continue to show excellent learning behaviours and are keen to share what they have been doing. This week, I have had lots of children come to show me the wonderful work they have been doing in class. They are rightly so proud of their achievements and regularly show our Learning Behaviours in lessons. Visitors to our school always comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere in each class and how engaged the children are in their lessons.

Reception

The children have continued their learning about farming. This week, they have learnt about all the different things a farmer has to do. Part of this involved them looking at all the jobs a farmer uses a tractor for. As well as looking at the crops that grow on a farm, they have also spent time finding out what animals can be found on a farm.



Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

In English, the children have enjoyed reading the traditional tale of The Elves and the Shoemaker. They have enjoyed some drama to help develop their understanding of the characters. The children wrote some lovely retells of the story.



In DT, the children have been developing their sewing skills this week and have shown some real patience and resilience. In PE, they have shown teamwork and resilience as they completed a round robin of different activities.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)

The children have been reading the story of Bray, The Singing Donkey and have written retells of the story. The children are all showing off skills taught in English lessons this year, which is lovely to see.



In Geography, they continue to learn about Settlements. Next week, they will complete their assessment piece of work to show what they have learnt this half term.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

The children have been writing balanced arguments in English – the theme of these is whether or not homework should be banned. There have been some interesting discussions.

In DT, the children are making Spaghetti Bolognese – Falcons made it into the kitchen this week. The other classes will be heading there next week.



Absences

Just a gentle reminder that all absences should be reported to the School Office.

If your child is ill and will not be coming into school, please phone or email the School Office to let them know as soon as possible. There is a voicemail option to leave a message if the phones are engaged or if you are ringing before 8am. Please be aware that if you do not contact us each day your child is absent, the School Office will follow school procedures and will contact you as we need to ensure all children are accounted for every day.

There are planned absence forms available from the School Office if you need to request an absence. It is important that these are completed and handed in at least 2 weeks before the planned absence.

The school day begins at 9am, with the Spread-Eagle gate opened at 8.40am and the other two gates opened at 8.50am. Please ensure your child is in on time so that they are in class by 9am, ready to start their learning. If they arrive after that time, they are missing vital learning.

Thank you for your support with this. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.

Illness

Unfortunately, there is a lot of illness around at the moment. We have a number of children off with sickness and diarrhoea and/or high temperatures.



Please continue to encourage your child/ren to wash their hands with soap and water regularly – we are also doing this in school and wiping tables down during the day to help reduce the spread.

Please remember, if your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they must be kept off school until they have been clear for 48 hours.

Children should also stay at home if they have a high temperature (38° or above) and be kept off school until it is back to normal.

For more guidance and advice, please refer to the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

School Meals

Price Increase

Unfortunately, the cost of living continues to increase. As such, the catering costs have been reviewed and increased by our catering provider.

As such, the cost of school dinners will go up after Easter. This means that from the new Summer Term (13th April 2026), the price for a school dinner will be £2.90 for all meals.

We appreciate this is a significant increase. Unfortunately, this price is not set by the school and is a reflection of the increase in the cost of living that is impacting us all.

As you are aware, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are all entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. Once the children move into Year 3, school meals must be paid for by parents unless they are entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals.

If you think that you may be entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals or have any questions about applying for them, please contact the School Office.

Book Tokens – East Anglian Daily Times (EADT)

Please remember to collect the tokens in the EADT. To celebrate the Year of Reading, the EADT has launched a campaign that will give all schools the chance to win a share of £12,000 worth of books in partnership with Born & Read.



Tokens are printed each day, right up to 16th May 2026. If you, or anyone you know reads the paper, please cut out the tokens and bring into school. We will then be in with a chance of winning £750 worth of books or £400 worth of books. There is also a Bonus Draw and if we collect 1,000 tokens, we will be entered into a draw to win one of 75 £100 book bundles.

Please send in any tokens with your child/ren or hand in at the School Office. Thank you in advance for your support.

Parent Survey - closes on 27th March

Thank you to those of you who have completed the Parent Survey.

If you have not yet completed the survey, it is open for one more week. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/k9ZzwcdqHzEXC3v6>



We welcome your comments and feedback and thank you for the time taken to do this. We will review all responses carefully. Key themes and insights will be shared with you after the Easter Holiday. Your feedback will help guide our planning, strengthen communication, and support improvements across our school.

Thank you again - your input makes a real difference!

African Dance Workshops

Following the success of last year's African Drumming workshops, we are excited to let you know next week, we will have African Dance workshops in school.

Each class will have a 40-minute workshop session.

We ask that children come to school in PE kits on the day of their workshop.

Wednesday 25th March:

Year 5 and 6 (Eagles, Hawks and Falcons)

Year 1 and 2 (Wagtails, Robins and Finches)



Friday 27th March

Year 3 and 4 (Squirrels, Otters, Foxes and Hedgehogs)

Reception (Ladybirds and Butterflies)

Clubs

We continue to look at the clubs we offer at Westgate.

Our current lunchtime clubs will continue after Easter. These are TT Rock Stars for KS2 children (Tues – Fri), Art Club (Tues), Chess Club (Thurs) and BSL (Fri).

Next term, we will be offering more clubs – letters to sign up will be sent out next week. These are Gardening Club, Nature Club, Line Dancing Club, Netball Club and Art Club.

Go Wild and Football Club will continue.



Drop Off and Pick Up Etiquette

It has been brought to our attention that some parents are using inappropriate language at the start and end of the day, particularly when waiting for the gates to be opened.

We ask that all parents refrain from swearing when coming to drop off and collect children.

We also ask that all children push their bikes and scooters when on the school site and that they do not ride them across the playground. Our playground is often busy and walking with bikes/scooters ensures everybody's safety. Thank you for your support with this.

SEND

Westgate Parent Carer Forum

Are you aware that we have a group at Westgate dedicated to parents of children with SEND?

These parents meet up for coffee, walks and support each other through the good and bad. They discuss current issues and are sent information from school that may be of use.

The group works closely with the SENDCo and support each other with all things SEND.

If you are a parent at Westgate, and have a child with SEND, you are welcome to join this group. Please scan the QR code to join the WhatsApp group.



For more information, please speak to Mrs Sawyer or send an email to: sendco@westgatecp.co.uk

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

24th March = Rocksteady Concert

25th and 27th March = African Dancing Workshops = more info to follow

28th March - 12th April = Easter Holidays

30th and 31st March = Year 6 Easter School (please sign up for this so that we know numbers)

1st May = non-uniform day for Easter bingo

4th May = Bank Holiday Monday – children not in school

8th May = PTA Easter Bingo

w/b 11th May = Y6 SATs Week

15th May = Y6 End of SATs Celebration and picnic

wb 18th May = Y2 SATs Week

20th May (pm) – KS2 Sports Day

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

25th—29th May = Half Term

1st June = Y4 trip to Whitlingham Country Park

2nd June = Y5 Construction Day at WSC

3rd June (pm) = KS1 Sports Day

4th June (am) = EYs Sports Day

11th June = EYs trip to Jimmy's Farm

12th June = Father's Day Tea

18th June = Y3 trip to Whitlingham Country Park

26th June = Year 6 Laser Quest and Leavers' BBQ – please note change of date

29th June – 1st July = Y5/6 Eaton Vale Residential

3rd July = PTA Summer Fair

8th July = Y6 Production (afternoon performance)

9th July – Y6 Production (evening performance)

14th and 15th July = Circus Skills Workshops

16th July = Bright Bites visit

17th July = last day of term / toy day

17th July = Y6 Leavers' Assembly (pm)