

# Weekly Newsletter



Summer Term – Week 2 - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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

## Message from Mrs Kidd

It has been another lovely week in school. There has been great excitement as we have had an artist in school this week, who has painted a wonderful mural for our library. We are absolutely thrilled with the final product, which incorporates so many different book characters. Although she arrived with a brief, it was lovely that she also added bits to the design that the children had requested. Many enjoyed watching her work and even gave her an impromptu round of applause earlier in the week.

For those of you who follow us on Instagram, there are more photographs of our library. A thank you to the PTA for their contribution to the mural and a huge thank you to Sarah from Sunflower Artistry for her amazing work, which has completely transformed our library.



## Assemblies

Our assemblies this week have focused on India, which is this Half Term's 'Country of the Month'. Each half term, we choose a country that our pupils have links to and find out more about it.

In Breakfast Club this week, Malaika and Aviana recreated the Indian flag on a pegboard. I think they did a great job



## **Non-Uniform Day for PTA's Family Chocolate Bingo – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

On Friday 8th May, the PTA will be hosting a Family Chocolate Bingo evening. A letter has been sent out with details how to book if you are interested in attending.



Our PTA are looking for donations of chocolate for the Chocolate Bingo. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, children and staff are invited to come to school in non-uniform and in return donate something chocolatey to the PTA .

If you are able to donate any chocolate to support the Bingo, please send in with your child or drop off at the School Office on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. However, you can continue to donate right until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you for your support, and for more information about our wonderful PTA, please see later in the newsletter.

## **Deaf Awareness Week**

We will be celebrating Deaf Awareness Week at the start of May. Mrs Dalgoutte, our Teacher of the Deaf, will be leading an assembly next week to talk to our pupils about Deaf Awareness Week.

Look out for more information on how we will be celebrating in school.

## **Site Safety**

There have been reports of some children running around the staff car park at the start and end of the day. Please ensure that children stay with you at all times to help keep them safe. Thank you for your support with this.



Also a gentle reminder that gate close at 3.35pm. The playground equipment is very tempting at the end of the day, especially when the weather is nice. However, we ask that you exit the school site by 3.35pm so that gates can be closed. With a number of clubs using the playground and field now, closing the gates promptly means those clubs can start and ensures that the school site is secure.

## **Planting and Gardening**

Across the school, we are working on tidying our outside spaces. You will begin to see some beautiful plant pots, particularly around the Year 5 and 6 classrooms. The children in Gardening Club are also tidying up the area outside Butterflies Classroom, at the bottom of the main playground. These small acts are already making a big difference. Keep an eye out and see if you can spot these small changes too.



## What have we been learning this week?

There has been lots of learning taking place this week. It is always lovely to walk around the school and see the children engaged in what they are doing and to hear them talking about their work with such pride and passion.

### Reception

Our Early Years children have made the most of the lovely weather, spending lots of time outside - in the forest area, planting and water play have been firm favourites.

The children continue to focus on growing but this week they have been looking at how much they have grown. They have had great fun looking at baby pictures and seeing if they can 'Guess the Baby'.



### Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

In Year 1 and 2, the children have been writing retells based on the story 'The Storm Whale'. They have really enjoyed this story, especially the part where Noi shocks his dad by putting a whale in the bath!

In Geography, they are learning about the UK. They have been looking at a map and identifying the countries that make up the United Kingdom. In Art this week, they have been practising their sketching skills and have produced some wonderful sketches of feathers.

### Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

In Year 3 and 4, the children have been learning more about fractions. They also continue to spend time on working on their times tables knowledge. Having a good recall of times tables is a key skill and helps with so many aspects of the Maths curriculum, particularly as they move into Years 5 and 6.



The children enjoy going in to the computer room to practise on TTRS – there are lunchtime clubs for all children to access TTRS too if they would like to. The children can access TTRS at home – please contact the School Office if you need the username or password for your child.

### Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

In Year 5 and 6, the children are also working on fractions. In English, they are basing their writing on the short film 'Alma'. They have been carefully considering how to make their writing suspenseful and have looked at other skills to make their writing the best it can be.



## Westgate Shout Out

At Westgate, we enjoy celebrating our children's achievements both in and out of school. In this week's Celebration Assembly, a number of children had brought in certificates, medals and badges to share.

It is lovely to receive emails from parents with achievements to share in our newsletter. This week, we have two 'Shout Outs'.

The first of our 'Shout Outs' goes to Cleton (Y6). His football team played at the weekend and won their match 2-0. To top off, he was awarded Man of the Match. Well done Cleton!

Our second 'Shout Out' is for Albie (Y1). He completed his marathon wrist band at the Junior Park run on Sunday. Albie displayed resilience and perseverance in achieving this so well done Albie!



## Year 5 Spelling Bee

Some of Year 5s have been taking part in a Spelling Bee. Year 5 pupils across Bury St Edmunds are invited to take part in a spelling competition.

The children have spellings to learn and are then tested on them in school. Those who make it to the final, go to County High to take part in the Grand Final against pupils from other schools. Mrs Linstead and Mrs Kirby-Green took Isaac and Charlotte along. They were a credit to our school and did a great job.



Well done to both of them and a big thank you to Mrs Linstead for organising it.

## PTA News (April 2026)

### What is the PTA?

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a friendly group of parents, carers and school staff who work together to support our school community. **Our aim is simple: to enrich the children's school experience by organising fun events and raising funds for resources and activities that benefit everyone.**



Our current team includes Hope (Chair), Pip (Treasurer), Kinga (Secretary), Hannah, Kia, Karen, Mel, Khris, Madeline, Claire and many more. We're always delighted to welcome new faces and fresh ideas.

More info: <https://www.westgatecp.co.uk/pta> Contact us: [pta@westgatecp.co.uk](mailto:pta@westgatecp.co.uk)

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### What are we raising money for?

This year, the PTA is focusing on:

-  Library renovation
-  Improvements to outdoor spaces

We also fund ad hoc treats for pupils throughout the year, including Sports Day ice lollies, Christmas crackers, Year 6 leavers' gifts, doughnuts during SATs week ... and more.

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### PTA investment in the school

 Thanks to your support, we've recently been able to fund:

- A new mural for the library wall – pictures to follow soon!
  - Doorstep Theatre visiting the school in June
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### Activities this month

- AGM held on 17th April (summary below)
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### Coming up next month

-  Chocolate Bingo – 8th May
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## Help needed

We are currently looking for volunteers to support our Summer Fair:

- A volunteer with food hygiene certification to support/run a BBQ
- Volunteers to help set up the Summer Fair (1–2 hours)
- A paramedic willing to host a feature or demonstration at the Summer Fair

You don't have to be an official PTA member to get involved - any help is hugely appreciated. Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, volunteering makes a real difference. We're especially looking for helpers for our upcoming Summer Fair, so if you're able to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support!

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## PTA AGM – Summary for Parents

The PTA held its Annual General Meeting on 17th April, attended by parents, staff and PTA members. The meeting was quorate, meaning enough members were present for decisions to be made formally.

Hope was confirmed as Chair, Pip as Treasurer, and Kinga as Secretary. A review of the PTA's finances was shared, with funds raised continuing to be allocated to school projects.

Looking ahead, the PTA agreed plans to register as a charity and to continue supporting Doorstep Theatre as an annual school event. Key fundraising priorities include improvements to the library and outdoor spaces.

Plans are also well underway for the Summer Fair, including special attractions and requests for volunteers from the school community, such as BBQ support (with food hygiene certification) and potential involvement from local emergency services.

We were pleased to receive helpful ideas from parents, including suggestions for local suppliers and community support schemes.

A key takeaway from the meeting was the importance of improving communication, as some parents were not aware of the PTA's role. We will be working on making the PTA more visible and accessible to all families.

Thank you to everyone who attended and continues to support the PTA - your involvement makes a real difference to the school.

## May be of interest

We have been asked to share the following information with parents and carers:

### Suffolk Local SEND Reforms - Parents and Carers Survey

The government is proposing changes to the SEND system. Nothing has changed yet - and your views matter from the very beginning.

Please complete the [Suffolk Local SEND Reforms - Parents and Carers Survey](#) and share your thoughts, views and ideas.

Please respond by **Thursday 30 April 2026** to help shape Suffolk's SEND Reform Plan.

To find out more information about SEND reforms, please visit [SEND reforms - Suffolk Local Offer \(suffolklocaloffer.org.uk\)](#).

### Suffolk Libraries: School Readiness Bags

Suffolk Community Libraries has created School Readiness Story Bags that families can borrow to help prepare their child for Reception.



Every bag contains three books that aim to introduce children to the concepts of starting school and building empathy for new situations they will encounter. Inside each bag is also a guidance booklet for parents to read that answers some key questions and offers support for this next step.

Reading is one of the greatest ways to prepare your child for school and to begin having conversations around what to expect on their first days. These are free to borrow via this link: [Get ready for school - Suffolk Community Libraries \(suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk\)](#)

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

1<sup>st</sup> May = non-uniform day for Easter Bingo

4<sup>th</sup> May = Bank Holiday Monday – children not in school

Wb 4<sup>th</sup> May = Deaf Awareness Week – more info to follow

8<sup>th</sup> May = PTA Easter Bingo – note change of date

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

15<sup>th</sup> May = Y6 End of SATs Celebration – more info to follow

20<sup>th</sup> May (pm) – KS2 Sports Day – more info to follow

22<sup>nd</sup> May = Staff training day (children not in school)

25<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup> May = Half Term

1<sup>st</sup> June = Y4 trip to Whitlingham Country Park

2<sup>nd</sup> June = Y5 Construction Day at WSC

3<sup>rd</sup> June (pm) = KS1 Sports Day

4<sup>th</sup> June (am) = EYs Sports Day

8<sup>th</sup> June = Doorstep Theatre KS1

10<sup>th</sup> June = Class Photo Day

11<sup>th</sup> June = EYs trip to Jimmy's Farm

12<sup>th</sup> June = Father's Day Tea

18<sup>th</sup> June = Y3 trip to Whitlingham Country Park

22<sup>nd</sup> June = Doorstep Theatre KS2

26<sup>th</sup> June = Year 6 Laser Quest and Leavers' BBQ

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

3<sup>rd</sup> July = PTA Summer Fair

8<sup>th</sup> July = Y6 Production (afternoon performance) – more info to follow

9<sup>th</sup> July = Y6 Production (evening performance) - more info to follow

14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July = Circus Skills Workshops

16<sup>th</sup> July = Bright Bites visit

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July—last day of term

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Holiday Starts

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept = Staff Training Days (children not in school)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September = children back to school