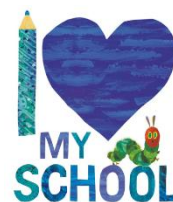


Weekly Newsletter



Autumn Term Week 3: Friday 18th September 2026

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



Message from Mrs Kidd

We are well and truly back in the swing of things and our children have settled into the new school year well. Visitors to Westgate on Friday commented on the relationships throughout the school, the engagement of the children and the positive attitude to learning.

I am so proud of the Westgate community, and am very excited about the year ahead, and being able to share it with all of you.

Open Classroom - Tuesday 22nd September

On Tuesday 22nd September, we look forward to welcoming you into school for our first Open Classroom Session of the new year. Gates will open as normal at 3.25pm and you will be able to visit your child's classroom to look at their books. The class teacher will also be there for you to say hello to and have an informal chat with, should you wish to do so. Gates will then close at 4pm.

There is an open classroom session each half term and it is always lovely to welcome you into school. Parents Evenings will take place at the end of October – information will be sent out nearer the time.

If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, please speak to them to arrange a time or email the school office: admin@westgatecp.co.uk.

Teachers are available at the start and end of the day but we would ask that where at all possible, you wait until the end of the day if you need to speak to them.

Assembly

Following last week's assembly, we are continuing to look out for little (or big) acts of kindness and the 'Kindness Tree' in the main hall has had more leaves added to it.



This week is Recycling Week and our assemblies have focused on this theme: helping everyone recycle more of the right things, more often.

Next week, we will have our first 'Country of the Month' assembly. This half term, we will be taking a closer look at Romania.

What learning has been taking place this week?

It has been lovely to visit all classrooms this week and see the wonderful learning taking place in each. The wonderful calm, purposeful working atmosphere around school has continued this week. The children have been engaged in their lessons, keen to share their learning with me and have displayed many of our Learning Behaviours.

Early Years (Reception)

Our Reception children continue to settle in well to life at school. This week, they had their first PE session and had a wonderful session. It was lovely to watch them and to see their enthusiasm.

In the classroom, they have been talking all things 'birthdays' and have been drawing some wonderful portraits. These are on display in each classroom and are very impressive.



Key Stage 1 (Year 1/2)

In Maths, the children have continued to develop a strong understanding of place value – knowing what each digit in a number represents.

In English, they have been focusing on handwriting and letter formation. They have also recapped what a sentence is and writing correctly punctuated sentences of their own.

In Science, this half term's topic is 'An introduction to plants' and this week, the children have been exploring soil.



Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4)

The children are enjoying reading the story of 'The Squirrels who Squabbled' and have based their writing on this. In Maths, they are looking at 3- and 4-digit numbers and further developing their number sense.

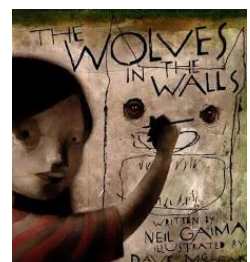


In Science this week the children are looking at the human skeleton and learning more about the bones in our body.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6)

Our Year 5 and 6 children have been focusing on 'The Wolves in the Wall' in Reading and English sessions. They are really enjoying the story and I am looking forward to reading their Star Writes based on the book.

In topic lessons, they are looking at the population and discussing why it changes. In art, they have been looking closely at typography – using letters, numbers and words to make art.



Year 6 – Applications for a secondary school place (September 2027)

It is now time for you to apply for a secondary school place for September 2027. **Please note that you MUST apply by the closing date of Saturday 31st October 2026.** All of the information you need to help you make your decision is available via this link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-2027-2028> If you require any support in completing the form, please contact the School Office.

Debts

A little reminder to please ensure that school dinner and wraparound care payments are kept up to date and paid promptly. Regular payments help us to manage these services smoothly and ensure that we can continue to provide them for our families.

Please check your account regularly and settle any outstanding balances as soon as possible. If you need support with Arbor, please contact the School Office.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



Driving safely on site

A gentle reminder to everyone using the school site to please drive slowly and carefully, particularly at busy drop-off and pick-up times when there are lots of children and families around.

Please also remember to follow the one-way system and all on-site directions.

These measures are in place to help keep everyone safe and ensure that vehicles and pedestrians can move around the site as smoothly as possible. Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe.



Prefects

Our prefects will be finalised next week and pupils will then be notified. Parents and carers will be invited then to our celebration assembly where prefects will be presented with their prefect jumper and badge.



The number of applications this year was exceptionally high, and the majority of children who applied demonstrated the qualities needed to make an effective prefect. It has therefore been a very difficult decision for the UKS2 team, who have spent a great deal of time carefully considering each application and narrowing down the final list.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who put themselves forward and showed such enthusiasm for taking on this important role. Whatever the outcome, we hope every child feels proud of themselves for having the confidence to apply and share what they could bring to our school community.

Don't forget!

Easy Fundraising

Did you know that your everyday online shopping could help raise money for Westgate CP School — at no extra cost to you?

With Easyfundraising, hundreds of retailers will make a small donation to our school when you shop through their website. From your weekly shop and children's clothes to holidays and gifts, your normal online purchases can help us raise valuable funds.

It's free, it's easy and every donation adds up!

If you haven't signed up yet, please consider joining and supporting Westgate. Every time you shop, you could be helping us provide even more opportunities and resources for our children.

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



easyfundraising
Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:

Booking.com

eBay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN LEWIS



Viking

ASOS

BT

Uber Eats



Hi Parent or Guardian,

Do you want your child to experience the magic of playing music in their very own band? Rocksteady Music School is the leading provider of in-school rock and pop band lessons for primary age children – and we're delighted to let you know we're teaching in your child's school!

How does it work?

With Rocksteady, children learn to play an instrument through weekly band lessons. It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have fun – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to boost confidence, wellbeing social skills and even academic achievement.

Your child will learn to play songs instantly through listening and playing. There's no music theory involved and lessons are designed to be fun, inclusive and accessible. They will be making progress in every lesson and can also achieve an Ofqual-regulated Trinity Music qualification, without having to take a single exam!

Here's what else you need to know:

- Most lessons take place during the school day. There's **no experience necessary** and **all instruments for lessons are provided**.
- You can choose if they shine on **vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass**.
- Proudly watch as your child performs in their **end of term concerts**, showing just how far they have come!
- Rocksteady band leaders are professional musicians who inspire a passion for music and support your child every step of the way.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. There's a **money-back guarantee** for the first month and you can **cancel at any time**.

For more details on availability and cost, visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and find your school on the sign up page or call 0330 113 0330.

Best wishes,

Rachel Hawker | Director of Education



Rocksteady

Our Rocksteady sessions take place in school every Tuesday.

Spaces are still available.

If you would like more information, contact Rocksteady or contact the School Office to arrange a chat with Mrs McGhee.

May be of interest



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

GRAND OPENING

**NEW
GYM.**

ST EDMUND
BOXING CLUB

COME AND SEE
YOUR NEW
BOXING
COMMUNITY HUB

LAUNCH NIGHT

★ ALL WELCOME ★
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

📅 THURSDAY | OCTOBER 1ST 2026 | 🕒 7PM

📍 **BROOKLANDS CLOSE**
BURY ST EDMUND'S
IP33 3JX

★ NEW GYM. NEW OPPORTUNITIES. STRONGER TOGETHER. ★

Dates for the Diary (new dates added / dates to be confirmed are shown in red)

7th Oct = Flu Immunisations

9th Oct = Mental Health Day

12th October = The Big Draw

14th October = PTA Autumn Disco

20th and 22nd October = Parents Evenings

23rd October = Young Carers / Service Children session in school

26th – 30th = Half Term

3rd and 4th Nov = Indian Dance Workshops

3rd Nov = Y5/6 trip to Gressingham Hall – please note corrected date

13th Nov = Children in Need

19th Nov = Open Classroom Session (3.30pm – 4pm)

27th Nov = Non-Uniform Day for Rainbow Raffle

4th Dec = Christmas Fair

8th Dec = Rocksteady Concert

10th Dec = Christmas Jumper Day

10th Dec = Christmas Dinner Day

11th Dec = Young Carers / Service Children session in school

15th Dec = Reception Christmas Performance (9.30am)

15th Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (2.15pm)

16th Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (9.30am)

17th Dec = KS2 Christmas Carols (2.45pm) – hot drinks served from 2.15pm

18th Dec = Carols at St Peters

18th Dec = last day of term – children are invited to bring in toys/games from home

20st Dec – 4th Jan = Christmas Holidays

5th Jan – children back to school

21st Jan = Young Voices at the O2

27th Jan = Open Classroom session

1st and 2nd Feb = Chinese Lion Dance workshops

9th Feb = Safer Internet Day

12th Feb = Young Carers / Service Children session in school

15th – 19th Feb = Half Term