

Weekly Newsletter



Autumn Term Week 4: Friday 25th September 2026

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

Message from Mrs Kidd

Another week has flown by and, somehow, we are already approaching the end of September! It has been another busy and enjoyable week at Westgate, with lots of wonderful learning taking place across the school.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our first Open Classroom session of the year. There was a real buzz around school as children had the opportunity to share their learning and show their families what they have been getting up to. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us – it was wonderful to see so many of you.

A reminder about punctuality

A gentle reminder that our school gates close promptly at 9.00am. We have noticed that a small number of children are still arriving after this time. Please ensure that your child arrives in good time so that they are ready to begin learning at 9.00am.



Starting the school day promptly helps children settle quickly into their learning and ensures that the adults supervising the gates can come into school to support children and staff.

Thank you for your support in helping us to ensure that every child has a calm and positive start to their school day.

Eaton Vale Residential – Important Update

Unfortunately, we have not yet received enough bookings for the Eaton Vale residential to meet the minimum number required for the visit to be viable.

We are keen to go ahead with the residential, but unless we are able to increase the number of children signed up, we may have to postpone the visit for this academic year.

If we are unable to secure sufficient numbers, we will look to rearrange the residential for September 2027, when our current Year 5 and Year 4 pupils will have the opportunity to attend.

We would therefore encourage any families who are still considering the residential to confirm their child's place as soon as possible. We would love to be able to go ahead as planned, and the number of children signed up will determine whether this is possible.

Attendance

As we begin the new school year, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of regular school attendance and the positive difference this makes to children's learning, progress and wellbeing.

Even a small number of days missed can add up over time. Regular attendance helps children to keep up with their learning, enjoy time with their friends, maintain routines and feel part of our school community.



We regularly review attendance across the school so that we can identify any children who may benefit from additional support. Following our most recent review, some children's attendance is currently at risk of falling below the government's expectation for school attendance if the current pattern continues.

We appreciate that children are sometimes unwell or need to attend appointments, and we recognise that this can have an impact on attendance. We are mindful that some children's attendance at this stage may be linked to illness or appointments, in which case we would hope to see their attendance improve over time.

If your child has had some absences already and you feel that attendance may continue to be a difficulty for them, please contact us so that we can talk through any concerns and consider whether there is anything we can do to support you.

The good news is that it is still very early in the school year, so there is plenty of time for attendance to improve. We look forward to seeing all of our children in school regularly and supporting them to have a happy and successful year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping your child to make the most of every day at school.

Site safety

A reminder to all parents and carers to remain vigilant and supervise children carefully at the beginning and end of the school day, particularly around the car park and the front of the school. Please ensure that children remain close to you at all times, especially near moving vehicles, to help keep everyone safe.



Thank you also for helping us to keep the school site bike and scooter free. Please remind children to dismount and walk their bikes and scooters when on school grounds, including across the playground. We really appreciate your continued support in helping to keep everyone safe.

What learning has been taking place this week?

Visiting classrooms this week, it has been particularly lovely to see our Learning Behaviours in action. Children have been showing Pride in their work, Resilience when things have been challenging and Courage when sharing their ideas and having a go.



I have also loved hearing children eagerly talk to me about what they have been learning and seeing the excitement they have for their work.

Early Years (Reception)

This week, the children have been reading the story of Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. They have talked about the story and the actions of each character. In Drawing Club, the children have enjoyed drawing one of the characters.



I have particularly loved seeing the children beginning to develop friendships, helping one another and showing such enthusiasm for exploring and learning. They have settled beautifully and should feel very proud of the wonderful start they have made to life at Westgate.

Key Stage 1 (Year 1/2)

In English and Maths, the children are continuing to focus on the fundamentals that provide a strong foundation for their learning. In English, this includes developing accurate letter formation, phonics, spelling and sentence writing, while in Maths the children are building their understanding of number, place value and calculation.

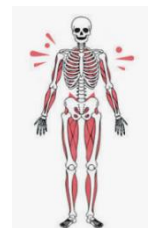


It has been lovely to see the children becoming increasingly confident in applying these skills, explaining their thinking and working independently. They are developing good learning habits and showing plenty of Pride and Resilience as they practise, persevere and learn from mistakes.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4)

Our Year 3 and 4 children have been busy building on their learning across the curriculum. In Maths, they have started Mastering Number, developing their understanding of number and strengthening their fluency and confidence. They have been exploring subtraction and using the part-whole model to deepen their understanding of how numbers are connected.

In Science, the children have continued their learning about the human body and how it works. Last week, they explored the skeleton and its important role in supporting our bodies. This week, they have been learning about tendons and how they work with our muscles and bones to help our bodies move.



Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6)

Our Year 5 and 6 children have been enjoying a busy week of learning. In French, they have been learning vocabulary linked to transport and how to get to different places, developing their confidence in using French to describe journeys and travel.

In English, the children have been enjoying one of my favourite stories, The Selfish Giant. They have been exploring the story from a different perspective, writing as though they were a tree in the garden. They have also been developing their understanding and use of direct speech, thinking carefully about how dialogue can bring their writing to life.



Prefects

Our prefects were finalised this week and the children have now been told. We had so many Year 6 children apply this year, and it was certainly no mean feat to narrow the applications down to our final eight prefects.



We are incredibly proud of every child who put themselves forward and showed such enthusiasm for taking on this important role. Applying for a position like this takes confidence and courage, and we hope every child feels proud of themselves for having the confidence to share what they could bring to our school community.

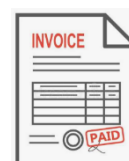
A huge congratulations to our eight prefects – we are looking forward to seeing them take on their new responsibilities and make a positive contribution to school life. We are equally proud of all those who applied and hope they will continue to look for opportunities to take on responsibility and make a difference at Westgate.

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.



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!



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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:

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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 Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse – 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