

Weekly Newsletter



Autumn Term Week 5: Friday 2nd October 2026

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

Message from Mrs Kidd

Happy October! The children have now had a month back at school and are well and truly into the swing of things. I am sure the last 3 weeks leading up to Half Term (w/c 26th October) will be equally successful.

Assembly – The Big Draw 2026

Our assembly this week focused on the upcoming 'Big Draw Festival'! The Big Draw Festival is the world's largest celebration of drawing, bringing people together through the power of creativity. This year, the theme is 'Make a Mark' and it builds on last year's theme. This year, we will focus on drawing as a process and celebrating everyone as an artist. As always, there is lots planned to make it a special day in school.



Harvest Week (w/c 19th October)

We will be celebrating Harvest Week during the last week of this half term and will once again be collecting donations to go to a local foodbank.



Food banks take longer life products that they can store for those in need - fresh food can spoil quickly and not all banks have chiller facilities. As such, we will be asking for donations of cereals, rice and pasta, and tinned food (soup, beans, vegetables, tuna, meat, fruit etc).

For those wishing to donate, we will be asking for non-perishable items to be brought into school during the week beginning 19th October.

PTA Autumn Discos – Wednesday 14th October

The PTA Autumn Discos are planned for Wednesday 14th October.

This is open to all children from Year 1 to Year 6 - our Reception children will have the opportunity to have their own taster disco at the end of the school day.

Letters giving you all the information you will need have been sent out.



Please contact the School Office (Tel: 01284 755988 / Email: admin@westgatecp.co.uk) if you have any questions, or need any support with Arbor.

Christmas Cards



It is a little bit early to start mentioning Christmas but it has come to Westgate for a short time!

Following previous successes, we have once again partnered up with school fundraiser to help us raise money this Christmas. Our pupils have all designed a festive/winter picture and you can buy your child's personalised products to give as gifts and to help support Westgate.

The children will soon bring home their Christmas/winter card design / flyer. This will show your child's personal design and give you details on how you can order items from the online shop. There is an organisational code specifically for Westgate CP and also a design code that is unique for each child.

Ordering should be simple for you to do. All payments must be made online when you place your order. Anything ordered is delivered free to Westgate and will arrive in plenty of time for Christmas!

If you need any help ordering your cards, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Therapy Dog in school

As many of you are already aware, Westgate is signed up to the Pets as Therapy (PAT) charity group, where dog owners volunteer with the PAT group and visit a range of establishments, such as schools, to help improve confidence and self-esteem and improve literacy skills. The aim of the PAT groups is to enrich lives through regular visits.



We have been lucky enough to have secured a Therapy Dog as part of the PAT 'Read 2 Dogs' scheme and have been welcoming Opie, a golden retriever, and her owner Suzanne into school every Monday afternoon for around 3 years.

So that more children can access Opie and Suzanne, they will visit each class to read with them. A letter has been sent out to families – we understand that some children may be allergic to dogs or nervous around them. If you have not already done so, please speak to your child's class teacher or to the School Office about this.

Early Years Phonics Workshop -Thursday 8th October

Parents of children in Reception are invited into school on Thursday 8th October for a 'Learning Together Phonics Workshop'. This will have a focus on reading, writing and phonics.



The workshop starts at 9.15. Once you have dropped your child off, please come to the front office to sign in.

Please speak to the Early Years team for more information and refer to the letter sent out earlier this week.

What learning has been taking place this week?

As I say in pretty much every newsletter, one of the best parts of my job is to visit each classroom. It is always wonderful to see the children engaged and taking pride in their learning, and them being so keen to share what they are doing with me.

Early Years (Reception)

The children continue to read traditional tales. This week, they have been reading about The Three Little Pigs. The children have enjoyed learning the story, particularly joining in with the 'I'll huff and I'll puff' sections! Some of the discussions about the stories have been lovely to see. The children really enjoy Drawing Club and have produced some wonderful pictures.



Key Stage 1 (Year 1/2)

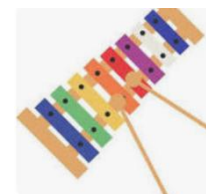
In English, the children have been reading 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and have written some lovely retells. I have had some wonderful conversations about how they would feel about a tiger turning up for tea one day – many are hopeful for that knock on the door!



This week in topic, the children were learning about key features where we live. They were finding out about all the different ways aerial photographs are taken of those key features, and again, there were some great discussions taking place.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4)

Our Year 3 and 4 children have been playing the glockenspiels in their music lessons, and using the Scratch programme in Computing.



In Maths, they are continuing to develop their understanding of numbers. This week, they have been learning the rules of rounding, and had also been subtracting and finding 'less than' another number. Oracy is an important part of Maths lessons and it is lovely to hear the children discussing their learning - explaining, proving, predicting and so much more.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6)

Our Year 5 and 6 children continue to base their writing on Oscar Wilde's story of 'The Selfish Giant'. Their retells are written from the perspective of the trees in the garden and they have produced some wonderful examples.



In Maths, the Year 6s have started to use Learning by Questions (LbQ). They will have brought home their login details – please contact the class teacher via the School Office if your child has any difficulty logging in.

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.

Applications for a primary school place (September 2027)

It is now time to apply for a primary school place for September 2027. If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, you must apply for a full-time Reception Year school place by **15th January 2027**.

You must make an application even if your child already has a sibling at the school or is attending a pre-school next to the school site.

For more information, contact the School Office or visit the Suffolk County Council Admissions page:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-primary-school-place-2027-2028>

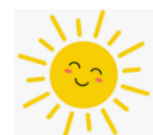


Our next school tours for prospective parents are on the following dates:

- Wednesday 14th October at 9.30am
- Wednesday 4th November at 9.30am
- Tuesday 1st December at 1.30pm
- Wednesday 6th January at 9.30am

If you know anyone who has a child due to start Reception in September 2027, please share the dates with them.

Hello Yellow – Wear Yellow for World Mental Health Day (Friday 9th October 2026)



Friday 9th October is World Mental Health Day. Children and staff are invited to wear something yellow to school that day. Yellow is a colour that often represents sunshine and happiness. It is important for us all to know that to be happy we need to be both physically and mentally healthy.

We are planning a sponsored afternoon, with some of the money raised going to the Young Minds Charity. More information will be sent out on Monday 5th October.

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

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 Chocolate Tombola

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