

Weekly Newsletter



Autumn Term Week 8: Friday 23rd October 2026

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

Message from Mrs Kidd

As we reach the end of our first half term, it is hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by! It has been a successful start to the school year, with children settling into their routines, embracing new learning and showing our Westgate values of Pride, Courage, Resilience and Teamwork. A special mention to our Reception children, who have completed their first seven weeks of school and made such a positive start to their learning journey. We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled in and grown in confidence.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful half-term break, ready to return refreshed for another busy and exciting half term! We look forward to welcoming children back on Monday 2nd November.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school for Parents' Evening and to share how the children are getting on with their learning. If you were unable to attend or did not manage to book an appointment, please contact the School Office to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher after half term. This can be either face-to-face or by telephone.

A yellow rectangular sticky note with a slightly distressed, torn-edge appearance. It contains the handwritten text 'Don't forget parents evening!' in a dark, casual script.

Indian Dance Workshops – 3rd and 4th November 2026

Following the success of our previous workshops, including circus skills and African dance, we are delighted to be welcoming an exciting Indian Dance Workshop to Westgate after half term.



The workshop will give the children the opportunity to celebrate the energy and diversity of Indian culture through Bollywood dance and will also link to our learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

We ask that the children come to school in their PE kit on the day of their workshop:

- Tuesday 3rd November – Ladybirds, Butterflies, Finches, Robins and Wagtails
- Wednesday 4th November – Hedgehogs, Foxes, Otters, Eagles, Falcons and Hawks

We would be grateful for a voluntary donation of £2 per child towards the cost of the workshop. This will be payable via Arbor.

For more information, see the letter sent out at the start of the week.

What have we been learning this week?

We are approaching the end of this half term, and the children have been completing end-of-unit assessments across different curriculum areas to help us celebrate their progress and identify next steps in their learning. It has been a busy and productive few weeks, and we are pleased to share some of the fantastic learning experiences and achievements from across the school.

Early Years (Reception)

The children have been learning all about Autumn. This week, they have been printing using conkers. To develop their fine motor skills, the children have been using tweezers to remove all the pips from pumpkins – such concentration as they do this!



I have also enjoyed seeing the children sharing their reading books with the adults in class and practising their counting.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

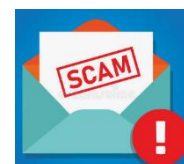
The children in Year 1 and 2 are also learning about Autumn. In art, they have shown their artistic sides by painting Autumn leaves. In Year 2, they have been writing Autumn poems whilst in Year 1, they continue to work on writing simple sentences and practise correct letter formation.

In PE sessions, the children have enjoyed their gymnastics sessions. This week, they have explored using different ways of traveling, with balance and control.



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

In Computing lessons, the children have been working on internet safety. This week, they looked at the different ways to spot a fake email and why they should never click on a link in such emails.



In RE lessons, the children have been learning about Muslim prayer rituals. They watched a short film where a young boy talked through what his family does and why.

In Music, the children worked collaboratively to perform a short piece of music on the glockenspiels.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

The children have been creating some wonderful 3D maps. They are really taking shape and I am looking forward to seeing the completed versions.

In English, they have been learning about the astronaut, Chris Hadfield, so that they can write a biography on him. They have been surprised to find out how much learning he had to do to become an astronaut.



Crafty Foxes

Thank you to all of those that have already sent in aerosol cans with lids for the Crafty Foxes Christmas project.

We still need lots more so please pop them in to the office as you get them.



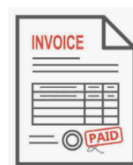
World Mental Health Day

Our sponsored afternoon was also a great success, and the children had a wonderful time taking part in their class and year group challenges! Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your sponsor money – so far we have raised around £1300. Thank you again for your generosity and support! Don't worry if you have not yet sent in your sponsorship money – you can send it in after half term.

We will be making a donation of just over £200 to the Happy Minds charity – thank you again.

Payments / Debts

A gentle reminder to please ensure that payments for school dinners and wraparound care are kept up to date. Regular, prompt payments help us to manage these services effectively and continue providing them for our families. Please also ensure that payments for school trips and other events are made by the specified deadlines, as insufficient contributions may mean that we are unable to go ahead with planned activities. Please check your Arbor account regularly and settle any outstanding balances as soon as possible. If you need any support accessing or using Arbor, please contact the School Office.



Westgate Shout Out

Our Celebration Assembly will start again next week. Don't forget to send any medals, trophies, certificates etc in for your child to share during the assembly.



If you have something that we can celebrate in our Westgate Shout Out, please email the School Office with some information and a photo, and we will celebrate it in our newsletter.

Do you know a musician/band who would be willing to perform at one of our music assemblies?

We love giving our children the opportunity to experience live music and performances, and we're always keen to introduce them to a wide variety of musical styles and talents. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in performing for our children, please let the school office know or get in touch with Mrs McGhee. We would be delighted to hear from you!

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

Applications for a secondary school place for September 2027 are open but those of you with a child in Year 6 who has not yet applied must do so by **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 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.

DfE Breakfast Club Survey – **last chance to enter**

Parents and carers are invited to take part in a short survey about your family's morning routine. You could win £100 for up to 10 minutes of your time. It's parent-approved: researchers at Ipsos worked with parents to make sure it's quick, relevant and easy to complete.

What to do:

- **Complete the 5-10-minute survey: Click here**
- Be in with a chance of a £100 voucher as a thank you.

Please complete by 23rd October 2026. Every response helps.



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

26th – 30th = Half Term

3rd and 4th Nov = Indian Dance Workshops

3rd Nov = Y5/6 trip to Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse – please note corrected date

9th Nov = Crafty Foxes in school (Y6 workshop)

12th Nov = Rocksteady Launch concert (for pupils)

13th Nov = Children in Need – more info to follow

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

25th Nov = SEND children – 2pm parent coffee afternoon – more info to follow

27th Nov = Non-Uniform Day – more info to follow

30th Nov = Flu immunisation follow up visit

4th Dec = Christmas Fair

8th Dec = Rocksteady Concert

8th Dec = Young Carers / Service Children session in school – note change of date

10th Dec = Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinner Day

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

5th Feb = Number Day

9th Feb = Safer Internet Day

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

15th – 19th Feb = Half Term

4th March = World Book Day

5th March = PTA Mother's Day Tea & 19th March Comic Relief