

Weekly Newsletter



Westgate C.P.
School
Inspire · Create · Learn

Autumn Term Week 2 Friday 12th Sept

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

Message from Mrs Kidd



Welcome back everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of the year.

A warm welcome to those of you who are new to Westgate. I hope that you all had a lovely summer and, most importantly, that your child/ren have had a good start to the new school year.

In addition to our new pupils, we also have new members of staff to welcome to the Westgate family. Mrs Grahn has joined us as class teacher of Foxes and Mrs Marrable has joined us as part of the Admin Team.

On **Wednesday 24th 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 go into 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.



Teachers are also available at the end of each school day if you need to talk to them. Alternatively, you can arrange a meeting with them or contact them through the school office: admin@westgatecp.co.uk

We have a successful Breakfast Club and After School Club, which are both open for children from Reception to Year 6.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am to 9am, with flexible drop off times.

After School Club runs from 3.30pm to 5.15pm, with flexible collection times.



Spaces are available in Breakfast Club and After School Club. If you are interested in either of our Wrap-around Care Clubs and would like more information, please contact the School Office or visit our website page: www.westgatecp.co.uk/wrap-around-care

Other clubs currently running are Young Voices, BCY's Go Wild Club and Clarke Coaching Football Club. For more information, please contact the School Office. We hope to be able to introduce more clubs soon - more information to follow.

The children have now had their first full week in school. They have had time to settle back into their new routines and we have had a lovely start to this term.

Our first assemblies have focused on our Golden Rules and Learning Behaviours, why they are important and what they look like at Westgate.



Our 3 Golden Rules are:

- Be kind in what you do and say
- Follow instructions
- Look after our school

Our 4 Learning Behaviours are

- Pride
- Courage
- Resilience
- Teamwork

This week has been all about building relationships, establishing routines and recapping and revising previous learning. There has been a wonderful calm, purposeful working atmosphere around school and I can see how much our children are enjoying being back at school.

Our Reception children have had a good start to school and have settled in really well. An important part of Early Years is to develop social skills and it has been lovely to see them playing well together, sharing items, using their imagination and just enjoying their time at school. We are very lucky with the space we have at Westgate and the children are making the most of it - they love exploring the outside area!

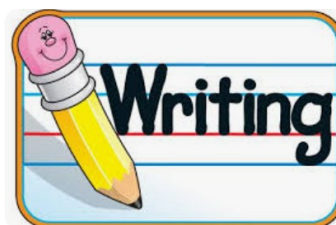


In Key Stage 1 (Year 1&2), the children enjoyed their English and Maths lessons. They are recapping their learning from last year and practising their handwriting. They are working hard to follow Westgate's 3 Handwriting Rules, as are other pupils in the school:

All letters sit on the line.

Tall letters touch the line.

Short letters are short.



In Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6), the children are also settling in well and showing a good work ethic. They have completed some grammar and writing sessions, as well as some Maths lessons, practising their number skills. The children have also enjoyed some Art, PE and Music lessons.



Tesco Stronger Starts

During the month of June, we were collecting blue tokens at the Bury St Edmunds Tesco stores. As you may remember, we were hoping to come first which would result in being awarded £1,500 to further develop our outside learning and play provisions.

We only went and won! Towards the end of the summer holidays, we were told that we had won and last week were presented with the cheque for £1,500.

We have our shopping list and will soon be adding more resources to our lunchtimes and playtimes.

Thank you to you all for supporting Westgate CP School. We couldn't have done it without you!



Year 6 – Applications for a secondary school place (September 2026)

It is now time for you to apply for a secondary school place for September 2026. The School Office has sent an information letter that gives all the information you will need to do this.

Please note that you MUST apply by the closing date of Friday 31 October 2025.

All of the information you need to help you make your decision is available from 12 September 2025 on the Suffolk website at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-2026-2027>

If you need support with this please contact the School Office.

Absences

Just a gentle reminder that all absences should be reported to the School Office. If your child is ill and will not be coming into school, please phone or email the School Office to let them know as soon as possible. There is a voicemail option to leave a message if the phones are engaged or if you are ringing before 8am. Please be aware that if you do not contact us each day your child is absent, the School Office will follow school procedures and will contact you as we need to ensure all children are accounted for every day.

There are planned absence forms available from the School Office if you need to request an absence. It is important that these are completed and handed in at least 2 weeks before the planned absence.

The school day begins at 9am, with the Spread Eagle gate opened at 8.40am and the other two gates opened at 8.50am. Please ensure your child is in on time so that they do not miss any vital learning.

Thank you for your support with this.

If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.



Parking / Car Free Site

The safety of the children, parents and staff is our priority. As such, please remember that you should not be bringing a car onto site at the start or end of the day at all unless you:

- ◇ have a disabled badge
- ◇ have made a prior arrangement with the office and have a Westgate 'Free Parking' badge
- ◇ are dropping off for Breakfast Club/collecting from After School Club.

Please come and speak to us if you believe you may be entitled to a Westgate 'Free Parking' badge.

Mr Marsh regularly monitors this, at both ends of the day. We would be grateful if you could continue to help keep our site safe.

Thank you for your support with this.



Gentle Reminders

Please ensure you write your child/ren's names onto uniform, water bottles, hats etc. This makes it much easier for us to reunite pupils with their lost property.

Children may wear a simple watch and stud earrings. Please do not send your child into school wearing dangly earrings, necklaces or bracelets. Not only is there a possible health and safety hazard but we would not like to see the jewellery getting lost or broken.

If you are interested in joining the PTA, please contact the School Office. To see their Facebook page showing some of the events they have organised, search for: Westgate CP School PTA.

School Dinners

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to universal infant free school meals. In Key Stage 2, school dinners must be paid for unless you are in receipt of Benefits Related Free School Meals. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please use the link here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals>



Please note that money for school dinners should be paid in advance via your Arbor account. If you need any help accessing this, please contact the School Office. The menus can be found on our website: <https://www.westgatecp.co.uk/lunch-free-school-meals-and-snacks/>

We are a Healthy School so please ensure any snacks you send in for playtime are fruit or cereal bars.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are given fresh fruit every day for a snack. However, parents are more than welcome to send in fruit with their children should they wish. Please note, we are a NUT FREE school - this includes chocolate spreads in sandwiches and pine nuts.

Uniform

We ask that pupils come to school wearing a school uniform. Our school uniform is made up of a blue sweatshirt or cardigan and a white polo shirt. These items should be worn with plain black or grey trousers or a knee length skirt/dress and black shoes or trainers. In the summer, grey or black tailored shorts or blue and white checked summer dresses can be worn.

Trousers, skirts and plain polo shirts can be bought in all major supermarkets and other retailers. These can be plain and do not have to show the Westgate logo

Please come and speak to us if you have any questions. Please also refer to our Uniform Policy , which can be found on our website.



Website

We have made a few changes to our website as the company that hosts it for us has changed. The same familiar pages are there but the look is slightly different. We hope the new format will be as intuitive as the old site but do let us know if you have any queries or need support with finding something.

School Policies can be found on the school website. Please note that those for this year will be uploaded to the website once they have been approved by the Governors.

Dates for the Diary (dates to be confirmed shown in red)

23rd Sep = School Photos (individual and Siblings) – more info to follow

24th Sep = Open Classroom Session (3.30pm – 4pm)

21st and 23rd October = Parents Evenings

16th Oct = PTA Disco

27th – 31st Oct = Half Term

6th Nov = Flu Immunisations

14th Nov = Children in Need

11th Nov = Open Classroom Session (3.30pm – 4pm)

5th Dec = Christmas Fair – tbc

10th Dec = Flu Immunisations – catch up

11th Dec = Christmas Jumper Day

11th Dec = KS2 Christmas Carols (2.45pm)

11th Dec = Christmas Dinner Day

16th Dec = Reception Christmas Performance (9.30am)

17th Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (9.30am and 2pm)

19th Dec = last day of term – children are invited to bring in toys/games from home

20st Dec – 5th Jan = Christmas Holidays

5th Jan = Staff training day (children not in school)

6th Jan – children back to school

6th Feb = Number Day

16th to 20th Feb = Half Term

5th March = World Book Day

17th and 19th March = Parents Evenings

28th March - 12th April = Easter Holidays

w/b 11th May = Y6 SATs Week

25th–29th May = Half Term

Friday 17th July—last day of term

