

# Weekly Newsletter



Autumn Term Week 4 Friday 26th Sept

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

## Message from Mrs Kidd

Another great week under our belts! I am sure I am not alone in feeling that time has simply whizzed by - I cannot believe that we are almost in October! We have had a lovely start to the new school year and visitors to Westgate have commented on the positive relationships and calm, purposeful atmosphere around school.



Today is **Thank a TA Day**. We are lucky at Westgate to have such a wonderful team of support staff, who often go above and beyond for our children. I am so grateful for their hard work and dedication and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all they do.



This week, our assemblies focused on our new 'Country of the Month', which is the USA. The children were told a few interesting facts and some of our American children were able to talk to the other pupils about their country. We always pick a country that our pupils have links to. Recently, we featured Nigeria, Italy, Sri Lanka and Poland. It is always lovely for us to celebrate diversity at Westgate.



This week, the photographer was in school to take individual and sibling photos (class photos are booked for the Summer Term). The photographer will return later this term to pick up any children who were absent on Tuesday—more info to follow.



On Wednesday, it was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school for our first **Open Classroom Session** of the new year. The children are always so excited to share their learning with you.



Our next Open Classroom Session will take place on **Tuesday 11th November**. Gates will open at the normal time and close at 4pm.

Teachers are always available at the end of the 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](mailto:admin@westgatecp.co.uk)

The PTA Autumn Discos are planned for Thursday 16th October. Keep your eyes peeled for the letters, which have been sent out. The discos are open to all children, from Reception all the way up to Year 6.



## What learning has been happening in school this week?

As always, there has been some wonderful learning going on across the school.



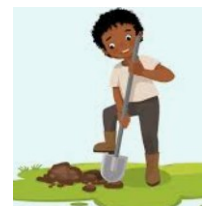
### EYFS

Our Reception children are learning about Autumn and have been keen to talk to me about conkers! This week, they have returned their Autumn bags, filled during walks at home, that they have enjoyed sharing with the class. The children have also enjoyed their outdoor learning sessions in the Early Years forest area.



### Key Stage 1

The Year 1 and 2 children have also enjoyed some time outside this week. They went out to the forest area but have also been busy in the KS1 outside area. They have tidied and helped water the plants .... they even watered Mr Marsh as he walked past, which was probably the highlight of their afternoon!



In English, they have written some recounts using time words and we have been so proud of the pride, resilience and stamina they have shown.

### Lower Key Stage 2

In Years 3 and 4, this week's PSHE focus has been on how our actions can impact other people. They have learnt about how kind words and gestures can have a real positive impact on others and have been set a challenge to test this out at home.



In Maths, the children have continued to work on Number and in Year 4, have been rounding numbers to the nearest 10.

### Upper Key Stage 2

In Year 5 and 6, the children are reading the traditional Swiss story 'A Bell for Ursli'. In Whole Class Reading sessions, they have practised reading the story aloud, thinking about the rhythm and pace needed. In English lessons, they are revising personification and are using this when writing a description of a setting - in this case, a Swiss village overlooked by mountains.



In Maths, they have been practising column addition. The presentation in their Maths books is as good as in their English books. Meanwhile, in Science, they have been learning about mixtures.

## Early Years Learning Together Workshop - please note change of date

Parents of children in Reception are invited into school on **Tuesday 7th October** for a 'Learning Together Workshop'. This will have a focus on reading, writing and phonics. The workshop starts at 9.15 and runs until 10.30am

During the workshop, you will have the opportunity to play with your child and see how the Early Years team support literacy skills within the child initiated play sessions.

At the end of the workshop, the class teachers will teach a short phonics lesson for you to watch. This will help you to support your child with their reading skills at home.

Look out for the letter coming out next week. If you would like to attend the workshop, we ask that you complete the Google form on the letter.

You will drop your child off as normal and then wait in the Early Years playground whilst we complete registration and lunch choices. You will then be invited into the classrooms to join in with the workshop.

Please do not worry if you are unable to attend. There will be other open sessions for you to attend and on the day, your child will be supported by our staff to complete the activities.

We hope to see lots of you there.

## Menu Change— week beginning 29th September

Please note that there will be a change to next week's menu.

The Thursday option of Italian chicken/Italian Quorn will now be offered on Tuesday instead.

On Thursday, the menu will offer Hot Dog (or Veggie Dog) and fries with beans or peas. The dessert will be chocolate sprinkle cake.

Jacket potatoes will still be offered on both days as normal.

Class teachers will remind the children on those days.



## Playtimes

As you are aware, we are currently working on improving our playtimes for all children.

We are currently putting together a list of items that we can buy using the Easyfundraising money and the Tesco Stronger Starts money.

### Can you help?

Before we go and buy the things on our list, we wanted to share that list with you just in case you are able to help us source any of these items.

Here is our wish list:

- Plastic crates
- Wooden pallets
- Fabric (Sheets , curtains, saris)
- Large Buckets and containers
- Dressing up clothes / items (in good condition), especially for older children.
- Small toys (farm animals/ dinosaurs / dolls / cars / Lego/ wooden toys)
- Pots, pans, metal or plastic bowls, plates, spoons, spatulas
- Guttering
- Tyres
- Sand pit toys, such as buckets and spades
- Top soil



If you are able to help in any way, please come and speak to us or send in the items via the front office or your child's class teacher.

Thank you in advance.

Coming soon – Westgate's own newspaper!

Twenty of our Y5/6 pupils are keen to start a Westgate Newspaper.

Work will start next week on this. The first stage will be to come up with a name and get some ideas of what we want to put in our newspaper.



More information to follow soon!

## Important: Parking



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.

Not only are we a car free site but a **one way system** is also in operation. We have had an increasing number of reports of parents ignoring the **No Entry** sign and parking their cars in the old ambulance station. This is not a parking area and as a result of parents trying to park here, having come down the road the wrong way, there have been at least **three near misses**. Three Westgate pupils have almost been hit by cars travelling wrong way down Brooklands Close.



We urge you to park at the top of the road and to walk down to the Car Park / Early Years gates **or** to park in the free car park near the Tesco store and walk across to the Spread Eagle gate.

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.

## Therapy Dog in school

As some 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 were lucky enough to secure a Therapy Dog as part of the PAT 'Read 2 Dogs' scheme and have welcomed Opie, a golden retriever, and her owner Suzanne, into school every Monday afternoon as part of the Read 2 Dogs scheme.

We are delighted to be able to welcome back Suzanne and Opie this year. So that more children can access Opie and Suzanne, they will visit each class to read to them.

We understand that some children may be allergic to dogs or nervous around them - please speak to your child's class teacher or to the School Office about this.



Please refer to the letter sent out yesterday.

## 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>

## Young Voices

Our Young Voices choir has started and is open to children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

The children were all very excited to start learning the songs, ready for the concert at the O2 in January. We will be learning lots of songs, including songs from Wicked, a pop medley and some well-known sea shanties this year.

It is an amazing experience, singing at the O2 with 10,000 other children.

If your child has not signed up yet and would like to join the choir, please contact the office or speak to Mrs McGhee. We would love to get more children involved!

Click on the link to find out more: <https://youngvoices.co.uk/>



## Easyfundraising

Do you shop at Tesco?

Your next online Tesco shop could secure £1,000 in free funding for our school.

Sign up to support us on Easyfundraising, then shop with Tesco online via the easyfundraising website or app, and we'll receive a free donation courtesy of Tesco.

If you do this by 30th September, we could secure an extra £1,000 funding boost.

If you haven't already signed up, please sign up to support us using this link:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westgate-cp-school/?utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=tesco-bff-fb1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westgate-cp-school/?utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=tesco-bff-fb1)



Your next Tesco shop could help us secure a **FREE £1,000 donation.**

easyfundraising | TESCO

Please contact the School Office if you have require any assistance. Thank you.

## Headlice

We have been notified of a few cases of headlice around the school.



### What you should do

1. **Check your child's hair:** Inspect your child's hair regularly, preferably once a week.
2. **Use a detection comb:** Comb through the hair using a fine-toothed detection comb. To make it easier to comb and trap the lice, wet the hair with conditioner .
3. **What to look for:** Look for live, moving lice. Nits (eggs) are small, firmly attached to the hair shaft, and are not the same as dandruff.
4. **If you find live lice:**
  - Consult a pharmacist for treatment advice.
  - Only treat if live lice are identified, not just nits.
  - Check all family members and treat anyone with live lice at the same time.

### To help prevent nits:

- Keep long hair tied up.
- Advise your child to avoid head-to-head contact with others.
- Avoid sharing items like hairbrushes, towels and hats.

### Key facts about headlice:

- They cannot jump, fly, or swim, and are only caught through head-to-head contact.
- Having head lice has nothing to do with personal hygiene.

### For more information

- Speak to your local pharmacist.
- Visit the NHS website.: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>



May be of interest

# MESSY

Harvest Arts & Crafts Special

**St Peter's** church **ALL AGES WELCOME**

LEAF PRINTING  
POTATO PRINTING  
FUN APPLE EATING CHALLENGE  
+ LOADS OF FUN ARTS & CRAFT ACTIVITIES

STORY TIME  
BREAD MAKING

**FREE**  
TEA-TIME  
FOR PARENTS/  
GUARDIANS/  
CARERS  
AND CHILDREN!

# HARVEST

Hospital Rd Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT  
4pm - 6pm Sunday 28th September  
Please email to confirm attendance: [stpetersbse.kids@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersbse.kids@gmail.com)

# PICK UP A STICK

## GIVE HOCKEY A TRY

Inclusive hockey sessions run by qualified BSEHC coaches at [Nowton Park Astro](#)

**DATE & TIME**  
Tuesday evenings  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**LOCATION**  
Nowton Park Astro  
IP29 5LU

**AGE**  
Open to all boys and girls  
aged 7 - 15

**COST**  
£30 - 6 sessions (prebooked)  
£6 - pay as you go

Sticks, equipment & competition prizes provided

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**  
For more information scan the QR code  
or email [burylarkshockey@gmail.com](mailto:burylarkshockey@gmail.com)



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

21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October = Parents Evenings

16<sup>th</sup> Oct = PTA Disco

**27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct = Half Term**

6<sup>th</sup> Nov = Flu Immunisations

14<sup>th</sup> Nov = Children in Need

11<sup>th</sup> Nov = Open Classroom Session (3.30pm – 4pm)

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov = Y2 Skills Escalator Day at West Suffolk College (more info to follow)**

**2nd Dec = Rocksteady Concert**

5<sup>th</sup> Dec = Christmas Fair

10<sup>th</sup> Dec = Flu Immunisations – catch up

11<sup>th</sup> Dec = Christmas Jumper Day

11<sup>th</sup> Dec = Christmas Dinner Day

11<sup>th</sup> Dec = KS2 Christmas Carols (2.45pm)

16<sup>th</sup> Dec = Reception Christmas Performance (9.30am)

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (2pm) - please note change of date**

17<sup>th</sup> Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (9.30am)

**19th Dec = Christmas Service at St Peters (for children)**

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

**20<sup>st</sup> Dec – 5<sup>th</sup> Jan = Christmas Holidays**

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

6<sup>th</sup> Jan – children back to school

6<sup>th</sup> Feb = Number Day

**10th Feb = Safer Internet Day**

**12th Feb = PTA Spring Discos**

**16th to 20th Feb = Half Term**

5<sup>th</sup> March = World Book Day

**13th March = Mothers Day Tea**

17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March = Parents Evenings

**20th March = Red Nose Day**

**24th March = Rocksteady Concert**

**27th March = PTA Easter Bingo**

**28th March - 12th April = Easter Holidays**

w/b 11<sup>th</sup> May = Y6 SATs Week

**25th – 29th May = Half Term**

Friday 17th July – last day of term

