

Weekly Newsletter



Westgate C.P.
School
Inspire - Create - Learn

Autumn Term Week 10 Friday 14th November School Website: <https://www.westgatecp.co.uk/>

Message from Mrs Kidd

It is gloomy and grey outside, with rain forecast all day but today in school will be a splash of colour! As it is Children in Need today, we have come to school in non-uniform and the Westgate blue has been swapped for a range of colours. Thank you for supporting this charity.



Last week, you helped us raise almost £200 by supporting the cake sale and we were also able to take several boxes to food to the local food bank. As always, thank you for your support and generosity.

We have once again partnered up with the school fundraiser, where our children designed a festive/winter picture that is available to order as a Christmas card and other items. The money raised for school will support art projects in school. Thank you to all of you who have already purchased Christmas cards and other Christmassy items. For those of you who missed it, the online shop reopens on Friday 21st November right through to 1st December for those of you who may want to buy more items. More details will be sent out next week.



It has been another busy couple of weeks in school.

Last Wednesday, the Crafty Foxes visited school and worked with Years 3 and 4 to create Christmas decorations for one of the Christmas Trees inside Abbey Gardens. Some of our children (and Miss Phipps) were featured on the radio, talking about the project. You can click on this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002lpxm?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile> It starts at 2:27:32 until 2:32:53 - it's well worth a listen!



On Tuesday morning, the Reception children went to the Abbeygate cinema to watch The Smurfs. They had a wonderful morning and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. They did so well walking there and back - there were definitely some tired legs for the afternoon session.



For those of us in school on Tuesday, we marked Remembrance Day with a 2 minute silence at 11am.

All of our children have learnt about Remembrance Day in PSHE sessions and in our Key Stage assemblies. They have all made poppies in class too - some have been coloured, others have been painted and some made on the computers.



Bury in Bloom

On Wednesday, we were invited to the Bury in Bloom awards ceremony. This year, the theme was 'Trains' and we had two entries in the Primary Schools category. Kestrels and Key Stage 1 both worked so hard on their entries. We were so proud to receive a bronze award for our efforts, which we will display proudly in school.



This week's learning



Lots of learning has also been going on in school. It was lovely to see so many of you in for the Open Classroom session on Thursday. For those of you who missed it, there will be another after Christmas.

In Reception, the children have enjoyed spending time in the forest area. We are so lucky with the space that we have in Early Years and are sure to make the most of it, come rain or shine. The children love their time outside and enjoy exploring and using their imagination when in the forest area.

Inside, the children had great fun creating firework paintings. They watched clips of some fireworks displays and talked about the colours they could see before painting their own pictures.



In Year 1 and 2, the children enjoyed painting poppies to mark Remembrance Day. They also learnt about what Remembrance Day is and why it is important that we mark it each year.

In English, they have been reading the Flat Stanley book and wrote some wonderful retells of the story, including retelling some of the adventures Stanley got up to.



In PE, they are enjoying their Dance unit and it is really lovely to see them working collaboratively and imaginatively in these sessions.

In Year 3 and 4, the children are learning about electricity in Science lessons. They have enjoyed the practical sessions and have particularly liked the sessions where they have made and tested circuits.



In PE, the children have been enthusiastic about their PE lessons. The new unit for indoor PE is Parkour and they have really enjoyed these.

In History, they are learning about the Tudors. They have started to compare Tudor times to life today and realise how different it was.

In Year 5 and 6, the children are learning about WW2. In English, they have written war poems and are currently reading 'Erika's Story' in English lessons. This week they have written some wonderful, emotive letters. The adults in those classes are extremely proud of the children, who have grasped the compassion and empathy needed for the situation and have conveyed that really well in their writing.



In Maths, the children have been recapping and practising calculations, in particular column addition and subtraction.

Westgate Shout Out

This week's **Shout Out** goes to Ella B (Y3), who met a Rugby World Cup winner, red Roses' Zoe Harrison.

Ella plays rugby herself for the BSE U8's following her big sister's footsteps and inspiration from the Red Roses.

Ella was obsessed with watching Zoe Harrison's every move and she cheered with every kick throughout the summer (this girl does NOT miss!!) so tonight was just incredible meeting Zoe and her family who took time out to speak and interact with Ella and her big sister, wishing them both good luck in their future careers in



Our second shout out goes to Ben W (Y4).

Ben was part of the Remembrance Day parade for the 1st Wickhambrook Cubs and carried the wreath. Both he and his parents were really proud.



Book Fair - Thursday 27th November to Tuesday 2nd December

The Scholastic Book Fair will be back in school from next week.

The children will have a chance to have a look at the books on offer with their class.

The Book Fair will be open to parents from Thursday 27th November up to and including, Tuesday 2nd December. It will run in the main hall from 3.30pm to 4.15pm.

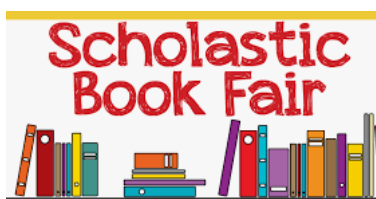
If you would like to come along, please collect your child(ren) first and come in via the computer suite (down the slope from the early years gate) and exit school via the main office.

You can also browse titles online.

There are over 200 books to browse and for every book bought, you help to earn free books for our school! You can also browse titles online.

More information will be sent out soon.

As always, thank you for your support.



Attendance, including late arrivals

Just a gentle reminder that all absences should be reported to the School Office. Unfortunately, we still have a number of absences where parents have not notified 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 7.45am.

If you need to request an absence, please collect a planned absence form from the School Office. It is important that these are completed and handed in at least 2 weeks before the planned absence. Please try to give as much information as possible and if possible, please explain why the absence will be in term time. As a school, we have procedures that we have to follow and are challenged on absences too.

Unfortunately, bugs and viruses are doing the rounds again. If your child has any sickness or diarrhoea, please ensure they have had 48 hours clear before sending them back into school. If your child is running a temperature, please do not send them to school. We continue to encourage good hygiene in school and hope that cases of illness drop soon.

The school day begins at 9am, with the gates being opened at 8.50am. (the Spread Eagle gate opens at 8.40am). Please ensure your child is in on time so that they do not miss any vital learning. There are still a number of children arriving late at the School Office. These children are missing important learning time but the Admin Team are having to deal with late arrivals rather than do the dinner numbers for the day, or other important jobs.

Thank you for your support with this.

Adverse Weather

The weather has been milder but this week the temperature has definitely dropped. Weather forecasts have already mentioned the possibility of snow, although hopefully that will be further north. If it does reach East Anglia, let's hope that it is only a smattering!

However, as we approach winter, it is a good idea to remind everyone of what happens if snow forces school closures.

In case of school closure due to adverse weather, here are the procedures:

Local radio (BBC Radio Suffolk and HEART) will broadcast information from 7.30am onwards and notices will be placed on the school website. We will contact parents/carers via Arbor.

Information about school closures is available on the Suffolk County Education website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-closures/>



❖ You're Invited! ❖

Tea, Coffee & Chat
with PINS - Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in
Schools

📅 Date: Tuesday 2nd December

🕒 Time: 2-3.30

📍 Venue: Westgate CP School

Come along for an informal get-together with other parents and carers.

This is a safe space to:

- 🗣️ Share experiences
- 👂 Hear about PINS and what it means for our school
- 🤝 Connect with staff and families

What is PINS?

PINS is all about inclusion. It brings together health, education, and parent carer teams to build knowledge and understanding across the whole school - staff, parents, and carers - so every child can thrive.

Everyone is welcome - whether your child is neurodivergent, or you think they might be, or you'd just like to learn more.

We look forward to seeing you! ❤️

Applications for a Reception Place - September 2026

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, you must apply for a full-time Reception Year school place by **15th January 2026**.

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-2026-2027>

The deadline for primary school
place applications is 15 January

SCHOOL

GOV.UK

**If your child was born between
1 September 2021 and
31 August 2022,
you must apply for a full-time
Reception Year school place by
15 January 2026**



You **must** make an application even if your child already has a place in a nursery class, pre-school or family hub

To apply for a place or for more information you can visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Information is also available from:

- The Admissions Team on **0345 600 0981**
- Your local school

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/>



Baubles making

Gonk making

Arts and crafts

Arts and crafts

£10 per head

Hosted at Southgate community centre

Monday 22nd December
Tuesday 23rd December

Sweet waffles, juices and ice cream included

Contact: 07864505958
Email: sarahmac1232@gmail.com

10am - 1pm

C H E S S B E N E F I T S

Problem-solving
Decision-making
Focus & Concentration
Time Management
Make Friends
Game/Sport for Life

EST. 1988

Suffolk Junior Chess

JOIN A CLUB

suffolkjuniorchess.org

LEARN BASICS
Leagues & Tournaments

FRIENDLY GAMES
Prizes & Awards

COACHING
Puzzles

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bury St Edmunds - Friday
Ipswich - Sunday
Online - Wednesday
School Chess Clubs

For all levels & abilities
suffolkjuniorchess@gmail.com

May be of interest

Come and make.... *Completely free!*

Christmas Crafts

for children aged 5 - 13yrs

Bake your own Christmas goodies
Design your own Christmas cards
Discover the meaning of Christmas
Make Christmas decorations
And much more.....

Saturday 6th
December

10 am to 12 noon

Lancaster Gospel Hall
Tollgate Lane

To register call or text
Paul & Caroline Coe
Tel: 07563 855173

Come and join the fun

Come and make.... *Completely free!*

Christmas Crafts

for children aged 5 - 13yrs

Lancaster Gospel Hall
Tollgate Lane, Bury St Edmunds. IP32 6DF

To register call or text
Paul & Caroline Coe Tel: 07563 855173

There is no charge for the craft activities, but you do need to register your child's place.
Don't delay-register today!

All of our children's workers have been checked against the new DBS system and we work to a child protection policy according to CSS guidelines. Christian Safeguarding Services

lancastergospelhall.org.uk

Dates for the Diary (new dates added are shown in red)

14th Nov = Children in Need

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

18th Nov = Flu Immunisations

21st Nov = Y2 Skills Escalator Day at West Suffolk College (more info to follow)

2nd Dec = Rocksteady Concert

5th Dec = Christmas Fair

10th Dec = Flu Immunisations – catch up

11th Dec = Christmas Jumper Day

11th Dec = Christmas Dinner Day

11th Dec = KS2 Christmas Carols (2.45pm)

16th Dec = Reception Christmas Performance (9.30am)

16th Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (2pm) - please note change of date

17th Dec = KS1 Christmas Performance (9.30am)

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

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

10th Feb = Safer Internet Day

12th Feb = PTA Spring Discos

16th to 20th Feb = Half Term

5th March = World Book Day

13th March = Mothers Day Tea

17th and 19th 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 11th May = Y6 SATs Week

25th—29th May = Half Term

Friday 17th July—last day of term

