Westgate Primary School

Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

Message from Mrs Crosley:

As I sit and write this message, I am filled with so much joy and a great sense of pride at all the children have accomplished this term. It has been wonderful to gather as a community and celebrate our children whilst also celebrating the festive season. Thank you for all you do to support our school: Westgate is a wonderful place to be because of the collaborative relationship we have.

From all the staff at Westgate, may we wish you a wonderful and restful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 6th January 2025.

After School Clubs

The following school clubs begin next term on the following days:

Mondays – Years 1 - 6 – Dodgeball Club
Mondays – Years 1, 2 & 3 – Creative Drawing Club
Monday (Lunchtime) - Year 3-6 - Choir Club
Tuesdays – Years 4, 5 and 6 – Netball Club
Tuesdays – Years 1, 2 and 3 – How to draw… Club
Tuesday – Years 4, 5 and 6 – Dance Club
Wednesday – Years 4, 5 and 6 – Football Club
Wednesday and Thursday – Years 1 - 6 – Healthy Eating Cooking Club
Thursday - Years 1 and 2 – Band of Buddies
Friday – Years 1 – 6 – Wave Gymnastics Club

All clubs can be booked via Arbor. Please remember to collect your child at 4:15pm from the School Office.

Due to the darker evenings, **all children** must be collected from their club. **Children will not be allowed to walk home alone.**

Fundraisers/Supporting Charities

Across the term, we have raised money for different charities, including Children in Need and Save the Children. We raised a total of **£198** which will help to make a difference to many children's lives. Thank you for your donations.

Diary Dates - 2025

First day of term – Monday 6th January 2025

Learning Showcase for Parents - Friday 17th January 2025 @ 9-9:30am
Our doors will be open for parents to visit their child's classroom. It would be lovely to see you there 😊

Last day of term – Thursday 13th February 2025

INSET Day - Friday 14th February 2025

Attendance Matters!

Well done to Year 6 for achieving the best attendance across the whole of the autumn term.

We expect all children to be in school **on time every day**. Our registers close at 8:50am. Encouraging regular attendance at school promotes children's well-being, develops friendships and social skills, raises progress in learning and helps pupils maximise their potential.

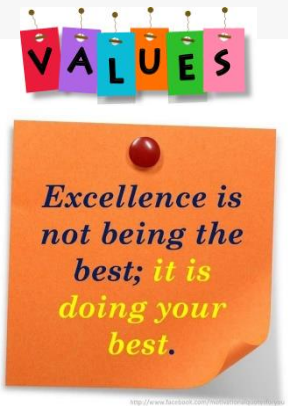
Attendance

YR - 93.96%
Y1 - 95.46%
Y2 - 93.86%
Y3 - 95.69%
Y4 - 93.52%
Y5 - 96.18%
Y6 – 96.93%

We will be focusing on the value of ***excellence*** *across the month of January.*

😊

How can you show excellence?



What has been happening this term?

The Autumn Term has flown by; the children have learnt so much already! From developing field work skills in Geography, as well as becoming designers in DT and perfecting their drawing skills in Art - the curriculum has been full of exciting new learning. Across the term, our classes have also taken part in a range of exciting events, including trips outside of school and visits to the Miskin Theatre and the local cinema for the Into Film Festival. The children cannot wait for you to visit the classrooms next term so they can share their new knowledge and skills. Below are just some of the highlights from the term:

Dartford Festival of Light

This year, we were lucky to have two of our KS2 classes represent the school at the Festival of Light in Dartford. Both our Year 3 and Year 5 children enjoyed parading and dancing through Dartford town centre with the colourful lanterns they had created. Thank you to the staff and parents who came along to support this event; we are always so proud of our pupils and how they conduct themselves during this festival.

Sienna – Y3 "I loved it when the fireworks started and the noisy rockets fired!" Tomi – Y3 "I liked making my lantern dance!"

Reception Nativity

Our Reception class came together to retell the Christmas story in their very own nativity show. The children looked amazing in their costumes and were proud to perform to their parents and families. They sang enthusiastically, using actions, and showed confidence and bravery on the stage in front of the audience. Well done Reception! 😊

Twinkly Nativity – KS1 Performance

It has been fantastic to see our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils grow in confidence this term whilst practising for their nativity performance. The children really were 'twinkly' stars, remembering their lines *and* the words and actions to each song. Thank you to Mrs Bird and Mrs Emmanuel for putting such a fabulous show together. Well done KS1 – you shone brightly on stage!

Hannah – Y2 – one of the stars said: "My name was Flashy in the show. I loved saying my lines!"

KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

There is nothing quite like our annual KS2 carol concert. It was lovely to see the church filled with our Westgate community again this year. Twinkling lights and the children's beautiful voices brightened up the church. A huge well done to all the pupils who took part and acted out the nativity story or sang songs. It truly was a wonderful evening together. Thank you to those parents/carers who came to support the children and to Christ Church, Dartford for hosting us again.

Charlie – Y4 – "Being on stage was great because I could see the whole audience."

What has been happening this term?

Christmas Dinner

A delicious Christmas dinner was served on Tuesday 17th December to both the pupils and staff thanks to our Independent Catering team. Each child was given a Christmas hat to wear, and they loved sharing their lunch time with the staff. How very festive!

Westgate Choir

Yet again, our Westgate School Choir, have been praised by others in the local community for their wonderful singing. This term, they have performed in Dartford Town Centre and at Darent Valley Hospital, raising money for the hospital charity. We are SO lucky to have Mrs Medley, who teaches the choir and also inspires them along the way. Thank you, Mrs Medley, and well done choir!

Artists in the Making!

Our Year 3 class enjoyed travelling to London to visit the National Portrait Gallery. The children took part in a 'Drawing Portraits: Beyond the Pencil' workshop, to build upon what they had already learnt in class this term. They explored the power of drawing, learning how artists use different drawing techniques and materials to make portraits. The children then experimented with different techniques, building their own drawing and portraiture skills along the way.

Our KS1 classes have taken part in a drawing competition this term – called Super Me. Their pictures could be chosen to be published in a book and the top five artists will win a goody bag!

Fun at the Christmas Fair

It was wonderful to see so many of you join us at our Christmas Fair. With face painting, festive treats to buy and Christmas crafts to make, along with a very busy Santa's Grotto, it was a great success.

With your contributions, we managed to raise over £600 towards our school funds.

We would like to add a special mention to the main man himself - Santa Claus - for taking the time out of his busy schedule to have photos with the children, and to Iyanka, one of our governors, who took the photographs.

Another popular stall was our non-alcoholic mulled wine stall, run by one of our Y4 parent volunteers. The mulled wine was delicious and received lots of compliments!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

Thank you to all our Westgate staff for working behind the scenes to prepare the stalls for the fair too. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team

What has been happening this term?

🔥 iRock Winter Concert 🔥

A number of our pupils take part in weekly music lessons with iRock on Thursday mornings in school. The children are put into bands and they learn to play different instruments, including the keyboard, guitar and drums. Recently, our bands performed their chosen tracks in an end of term concert – what a SHOW it was indeed! Such rock stars!

Each band continues to impress us week by week with their musicality and confidence. Visit the iRock website to sign up or find out more: www.irockschool.com

House Point Totals

The children have been working hard to collect house points for their teams across the Autumn term. Our Sports Ambassadors have collected the totals which are shown in the table below:

House	Total
Romans	757
Vikings	797
Normans	744
Saxons	765

Will the other house teams manage to push Vikings out of the top spot? Keep up the great work everyone!

Useful Links from Dartford STLS

Specialist Teaching and Learning Service have shared the following links that parents and carers may find useful:

IASK (Information and Advice Service in Kent)
www.iask.org.uk

We Are Beams (Support for disabled children and their families)
www.wearebeams.org.uk

Kent PACT (Parent and Carers Together) www.kentpact.org.uk

Don't forget to sign up to the Winter Mini Reading Challenge at our local Dartford library to keep reading over the Winter break. Find out more by visiting:
Winter Mini Challenge | Kent

Support for Our Parents and Families

The Christmas season is a special but sometimes difficult time of year. Follow the below link to the school website to find information that may support you over the Winter break.
Westgate Primary School - Wellbeing Support for Children and Families

Other Information/Reminders

Keep up to date with what's happening at Westgate by **following us on Facebook** and interacting with our posts. Remember we also use our Teams class pages to share information and celebrate in school achievements. **Home Learning** tasks are also set via Teams **every Friday**. Remember to login so your child is able to complete these home learning tasks. We love to see photographs of their successes and achievements outside of school so remember to post these on the **Class Celebrations** channel. Thank you.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy your break. We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 6th January 2025**.