Westgate Primary School

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

Message from Miss Bethell:

Today marks the beginning of a new half term, and I'd like to extend a warm welcome back to everyone. I hope you all enjoyed a restful two-week break and that the children have returned feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning. We have several exciting events already planned, alongside the usual day-to-day buzz of activities that make our school such a vibrant and joyful place to be.

I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you at our Parents Evenings next week. Thank you, as always, for your continued support—and enjoy reading this newsletter, which celebrates some of the wonderful achievements from last term.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parent/Carer evenings will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 11th November 3.30pm — 5.30pm

Wednesday 12th November 4.00pm — 6.30pm

Please login to your Arbor account to book an appointment. The bookings are now open and they will close on Thursday 6th November.

After School Clubs

The following school clubs will run this term on the following days:

Mondays – Years 1-6 – Eco Warriors Club
Monday – Years 3-6 – Profutures Dodgeball Club
Monday (Lunchtime) - Year 3-6 - Choir Club
Tuesday – Years 1 & 2 – Lego Construction Club
Tuesday (Lunchtime) – Years 4, 5 & 6 – Netball Club
Tuesday – Years 4, 5 & 6 – Dance Club
Wednesday – Years 4, 5 & 6 – Profutures Football Club
Wednesday and Thursday – Years 1-6 – Healthy Eating Cooking Club
Thursday - Years R, 1 & 2 – Band of Buddies
Thursday – Years 3-6 – Violin Club
Friday – Years 1-6 - Chess Club
Friday – Years 3-6 – Apparatus Club

Please remember to collect your child at 4:15pm from the School Office. Due to the evenings getting darker earlier, **all children** must be collected from their club. **Children will not be allowed to walk home alone.**

Wider Development and Achievements

You're warmly invited to share any photos or comments on our *Celebrations Channel* via Teams. These contributions help us keep our wider development display in school updated and showcase the wonderful things our pupils are doing beyond the classroom.

What has been happening this term?

Harvest Festival Celebrations ❤️ 🌽 🌾

We were truly overwhelmed by the incredible generosity shown during this year's Harvest Festival. The Family Food Bank reassured us that the sheer volume of donations from our amazing Westgate community will make a meaningful difference to many local families in need. They were incredibly grateful for these donations.

Diary Dates – Term 2

KS2 Royal Opera House Trip – Wednesday 5th November*

*Please note the KS2 children will return to school between 4 - 4:30pm.

Y5 Cinema Trip – Wednesday 12th November

Individual School Photos – Wednesday 19th November

Dartford Festival of Light – Friday 21st November 6:00-7:30pm

iRock Christmas Concert – Thursday 11th December @ 10am

Last Day of Term – Friday 19th December

What has been happening this term?

Throughout the autumn term, our topic focus has been Geography; all children across the school have developed their Geographical knowledge and skills. We have been SO impressed by the home learning projects many children have completed at home extending their geographical knowledge – WOW! 😊

Year 3

Year 5

Year 4

Year 1 – Writing Postcards

In Year 1, the children have enjoyed exploring the writing area developing their independent writing skills. They were inspired to write their own postcards after reading Meerkat Mail, adding an address and stamp, and walking to the post box to post them!

Kayden – "I got my postcard. It came through my letterbox!"

Year 1

Year 2 – Local Walk around Dartford

The sun was still shining in September when our Year 2 children went on a local walk around Dartford to explore our local area. They followed a route through the town centre and spotted key features like the park, Fairfield Leisure Centre and the public library. They are learning how to use maps to navigate like true geographers.

Year 2

Mattias – "I saw Dartford Park and the Dartford museum."

Year 6 – Trip to London Zoo

Year 6

ZSL LONDON ZOO

Year 6 had a fantastic opportunity to visit London Zoo as part of their geography learning. During the trip, they explored a variety of biomes and gathered information to deepen their understanding. This inspired some brilliant home learning projects; pupils showcased their creativity and knowledge by designing and presenting their own biome models and research.

English as an additional language - Would you like to speak to a member of staff at Westgate, but worry about having to communicate in English as it is not your native language? Well, please don't worry. You can bring a friend to support you, or use google translate on your phone. We welcome feedback from all our parents so please do not hesitate to approach us if we can help you in any way.

We're here to help!

Our Student Leaders and Student Ambassadors

At the beginning of each academic year, our Year 6 pupils are invited to apply for the roles of Student Leader and Student Ambassador. These positions offer a fantastic opportunity to develop leadership skills and contribute to the wider school community. Like always, Miss Bethell received a range of thoughtful and impressive applications, each one highlighting the unique strengths and qualities of our pupils. After much consideration, we are proud to introduce this year's team of leaders and ambassadors. We are confident they will be outstanding role models throughout the school.

Congratulations to you all! 😊

Student Leaders

Sports Ambassadors

Wellbeing Ambassadors

Other Information/Reminders

Remember to login and check your child's Teams platform every week to find our **home learning** links consolidating what the children have learnt in school. Please encourage your child to watch the shared educational videos and take part in the learning activities at home. KS2 classes are now also using the Atom Learning platform to complete home learning tasks.

Although our Story Zoo trial has now come to an end, we're hopeful that with further fundraising, we will be able to bring this fantastic resource back to school. It was clearly a favourite among the children and we'd love to continue using it to support their learning. In the meantime, don't forget—the joy and value of reading physical books is just as important, and we encourage children to keep exploring stories in all forms!

Please ensure that all your child's clothing and **belongings are named**, including their PE kit and water bottles. Look out for our next pre-loved uniform sale, which the PTA will be hosting at the end of term.

Keep up to date with what's happening at Westgate by **following us on Facebook** and interacting with our posts. We would love to hear from you.

Attendance

YR - 96.19%

Y1 - 97.32%

Y2 - 95.82%

Y3 - 94.82%

Y4 - 94.22%

Y5 - 96.07%

Y6 - 97.21%

Well done to Year 1 for achieving the best attendance this term.

This term our value of the month will be …
How do you show respect?

Arrive on Time!

Please remember our school **gate opens at 8:30am**. All children must be escorted to the second school gate where they are greeted by a member of our Westgate Team. Our **register closes at 8:50am.** If you arrive after this time, please ensure you accompany your child to the school office and sign them in using the electronic screen.

Christmas Diary Dates

- KS2 Performance at Christ Church Dartford - Wednesday 10th December @6:30pm
- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 12th December
- Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 16th December
- Reception Nativity - Wednesday 17th December @ 2:15pm
- KS1 Performances - Thursday 18th December @ 9:30am and 2pm
- Class Parties/Last Day of Term – Friday 19th December

Reminder: Term 2 begins on **Monday 3rd November** and the last day of term is **Friday 19th December**.