# Westgate Primary School

# Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

## Message from Miss Bethell:

What a busy and rewarding term it has been, filled with fun learning experiences and exciting activities. I am immensely proud of the achievements our pupils make within school and equally impressed by how they continue to shine and represent Westgate so well beyond the classroom. I have greatly enjoyed accompanying the children and staff on several extra-curricular trips, including visits to the Royal Opera House, ice skating, and events with the School Choir. We have received several messages from members of the public expressing their admiration for how well-behaved and courteous our children are. Thank you for all you do to support this; the children really are a credit to our school. From all the staff at Westgate, we wish you a wonderful and restful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th January 2026.

## After School Clubs

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

**Mondays – Years 1 - 6 –** Eco Warriors Club
**Mondays – Years 4, 5 & 6 –** Netball Club
**Mondays - Year 3-6 –** Pro Futures Handball Club
**Tuesdays – Years 4, 5 and 6 –** Dance Club
**Tuesdays – Years 1, 2 and 3 –** Lego Construction 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
**Thursday – Years 3-6 –** Violin Club
**Friday – Years 1 – 6 –** Pro Futures Dodgeball Club
**Friday – Years 1-6 –** Chess Club
**Choir will also run on Tuesday lunchtimes.**

All clubs can be booked via Arbor. Please remember to collect your child at **4:15pm** from the School Office. **It is important that all children are collected on time.** 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

Thank you for continuing to support both local and global charities through your donations and fundraising efforts. Our children love taking part in activities linked to fundraising. We make sure to discuss the importance of how these funds help others in our community and across the wider world, giving the children time to reflect and share what they are thankful for. The school have raised £384 this term alone. 💙

## Diary Dates - 2026

First day of term – Monday 5th January 2026

Learning Showcase for Parents - Friday 16th January 2026 @ 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 12th February 2026

INSET Day - Friday 13th February 2026

## Attendance Matters!

**It was a close call, but Year 6 achieved the best attendance for Autumn Term 2.**

Thank you for your cooperation this term with ensuring that your child is in school on time for 8:50am despite the number of illnesses that have been going around. Please be reassured that the school office will contact you if your child is not well. With your permission, we can also administer medicine if required.

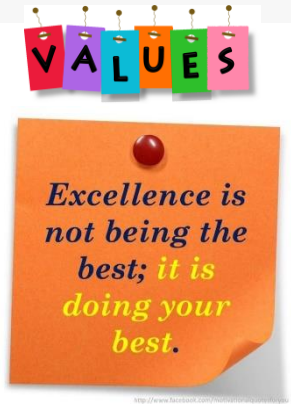
## Attendance

**YR - 94.84%**
**Y1 - 96.76%**
**Y2 - 93.3%**
**Y3 – 90.9%**
**Y4 - 93.83%**
**Y5 - 94.83%**
**Y6 – 96.88%**

*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, and the children have already achieved so much! From developing fieldwork skills in Geography to becoming creative designers in DT and refining their artistic techniques in Art, the curriculum has been packed with exciting opportunities. Alongside their classroom work, pupils have enjoyed a range of memorable experiences, including trips beyond school and end of term performances. The children are already looking forward to welcoming you into their classrooms next term, where they can proudly share their new knowledge and skills. Here are just a few of the highlights from this term:

### Dartford Festival of Light

Our children, along with several other Dartford schools, lit up the streets with their beautiful handmade lanterns, filling Dartford with colour and joy during the Festival of Light, this year. The band brought the rhythm and energy, keeping spirits high and the crowd dancing along. It was lovely to see families and friends come together to celebrate the community. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event.

*Ellie – Y3 "The festival of light was so much fun!"*

*Alfie – Y3 "I loved making my lantern!"*

### An incredible few days at Bluewater Ice Rink!

Our children were lucky enough to enjoy a fantastic FREE ice skating trip at Bluewater. With the whole school attending, the children, staff and parent helpers made the most of every moment. From first-time skaters to confident gliders, everyone embraced the challenge with enthusiasm. Even when they wobbled or took a tumble, the children showed brilliant resilience and got straight back up with huge smiles.

It was wonderful to see friends supporting each other and creating memories that will last long after the ice has melted. A huge thank you to our amazing parent helpers who joined us on each trip - this experience wouldn't have been possible without you.

*David – Y1 – "I enjoyed playing walking ice tag with my friends!"*

*Marcel – Y3 – "It was a little bit slippery but I didn't give up. I was* proud of myself!

*Ava – Y2 – "I kept watching so I didn't bump into anyone. I skated really fast*!"

## What has been happening this term?

The festive events just keep coming!

### 🎄 Christmas Dinner 🎄

A delicious Christmas dinner was served on Tuesday 16th 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 WOW the crowds

Our Westgate School Choir, have performed at several events, wowing their audiences with their beautiful singing. Below are some quotes from messages we received from members of the public:

*'I really enjoyed their singing and it made me smile. My favourite song was 'It was on a starry night'.*

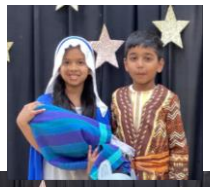
*'You really brought a smile to everyone's face and a number of people have said how lovely it was to see you perform.'*

A HUGE Thank you Mrs Medley for sharing her enthusiasm and passion for singing with our children.

Valley Hospital Charity
You were all amazing!! Thank you so much for putting huge smiles on everyones faces 😀🙏

### ⭐ Reception Nativity ⭐

Our Reception class delighted everyone with their nativity performance, beautifully retelling the Christmas story. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and were so proud to perform for their parents and families. They sang enthusiastically, showing confidence on stage in front of the audience. A huge well done to them – what a wonderful way to celebrate the season!



### ⭐ Knock! Knock! The Nativity ⭐

Our KS1 classes have been working incredibly hard over the last few weeks preparing for their nativity performance. They performed with passion, entertaining their audiences with their fantastic singing and dancing. Thank you to Miss Velasco and Mrs Emmanuel, Mrs Williams and Mrs Bronzini for putting such a fabulous show together. Well done KS1 – you shone brightly on stage!

### 🎄 KS2 Christmas Carol Concert 🎄

There is always something quite magical about coming together to perform inside a church at Christmas. Our KS2 children truly sang their hearts out during their evening performance at Christ Church, Dartford. Their angelic singing filled the room. It was a beautiful celebration of togetherness and joy shone through in every song. Thank you to all of you who came along to support the children.

## What has been happening this term?

### 😊 Another Fab 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 fantastic success!

Thanks to your generous contributions, we raised just over £500 towards our school funds. A huge thank you to our PTA for making this event possible.

Santa Claus even sent a special message to our children to thank them for visiting him. How lucky we were that he took time out of his busy schedule to see us all. He said all of the children were nice and not naughty! Phew! 😊

### 🔥 iRock Winter Concert 🔥

iRock
Unleash their full potential

This term, both new and previous iRockers have come together to create new iRock bands. Alongside our new coach, Liam, they have met weekly for their music lessons in preparation for their end of term concert. Playing the drums and guitar is always popular; however, we also have some budding singers and keyboard players within the bands. When they put on a show, they really do give it their all! Are you ready to rock?

Visit the iRock website to sign up or find out more: www.irockschool.com

It takes a lot of confidence to stand up on a stage and perform and we are really proud of all of the children.

**Shout out to our wonderful Westgate staff!**

A huge thank you to all our staff - from teachers and teaching assistants to midday supervisors, our office team and site manager. Our staff continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes and in the classroom to provide the very best outcomes and opportunities for our pupils. Every day, they go above and beyond, and we are truly grateful to have such a committed and hardworking team! 😊

**Thank you Team Westgate!**

## Further Information…

### Online Safety over Christmas

As children enjoy their devices over the festive break, please take a moment to remind them about staying safe online. Encourage the use of parental controls, monitor screen time and talk to them about not sharing personal information or speaking to strangers. A little guidance goes a long way in ensuring a fun and safe holiday experience. Follow the below link for some top tips to keep you and your child safe over the Christmas period:

[Have a safe online Christmas - Get Safe Online]

### Office Reminders for next term:

- The school office hours are 8:15am to 4:15pm.
- **School Meal prices are increasing to £2.75 per day from January.**
- All school clubs finish promptly at 4:15pm*
  *Apart from Violin Club which ends at 4pm.
- If you are going to be late collecting your child at the end of the school day or after a club, please telephone the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

### 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 | 767 |
| Vikings | 721 |
| Normans | 613 |
| Saxons | 709 |

Well done to the **Romans** for winning Term 2's intra speed bounce challenge and for achieving the most house points this term.

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

**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 Libraries (spydus.co.uk)]

### 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

Kent County Council

Dartford STLS
Commissioned by KCC

### 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 can 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 5th January 2026**.