

Volume 17, Edition 8, 8th March 2021
www.westgateprimary.co.uk
admin@westgateprimary.co.uk

WELCOME BACK

Everyone is delighted that the children are back at school this week. I am sure that all of us are experiencing a range of emotions: as well as relief that children are back in school, you might be worried about the possible impact on the local case rate, and also anxious about your child's emotional health and academic attainment- particularly given the very gloomy coverage in the media at the moment. I want to reassure you that we are committed to making the return to school as positive and productive for children as possible. Our approach to supporting children's emotional wellbeing is based on Westgate's 5 Rs:

- **Reconnecting Relationships:** helping children to re-establish social relationships and a sense of belonging at Westgate
- **Emotional Regulation:** helping children to manage their feelings as they negotiate the challenges they have been dealing with through the pandemic
- **Routines:** providing children with structure and predictability, making sure they are safe
- **Resilience:** giving children the tools they need to understand and manage challenge
- **Reflection:** to identify what they have achieved and to be proud of themselves

Then alongside this, we will be continuing with a broad, balanced and vibrant curriculum for all pupils. We know from our experiences last term that once children are back full-time in the classroom, with dedicated staff and great teaching, children can and will make very good progress. We are excited about getting back to enjoying learning. We don't want to focus on the deficit picture being painted in the press: your children have much to be proud of and we will be celebrating and building up.

And of course, we are beginning to plan special events and projects to celebrate our 150th anniversary as a school- something really special and positive for us all to focus on after the challenges of the last 12 months.

Finally, this week's online consultation evenings will be an opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher about your child's experience of lockdown and the return to school. Make sure you log on in good time for your appointments!

Helen Carpenter
Head Teacher

Anything in a red box in this newsletter may require action on your part. Thank you 😊

150th SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY



We are making progress with our anniversary plans, including a collaborative whole school artwork and a songwriting project for Y6 with Woolpack Studios. Friends of Westgate are also working with us to make sure that families have a chance to come together to celebrate too- subject of course to any restrictions that may still be in place. We would also like to include former pupils and members of staff in our celebrations. If you or someone you know has a memory of school days at Westgate that you would like to share, you can send it to us by emailing 150@westgateprimary.co.uk. Perhaps you have a fond memory of a particular teacher or event, lessons, school dinners, carnival, friendships, school productions, special visitors... reminiscences and photographs are all welcome!

LATERAL FLOW DEVICE (LFD) TESTING FOR PUPIL HOUSEHOLDS



Please ensure you have read the letter which was sent last week, explaining how you can obtain LFD testing kits for members of your family. It is **not** intended to carry out twice weekly LFD testing on primary school pupils, however. Families wishing to take part should follow the instructions on how to obtain their kits: unfortunately we cannot supply them from school.

Thank you ☺

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please find below a reminder dates for the next two months. **At the moment, many of our larger events are in question, so dates after**

this are provisional, subject to the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

09/03/21 Consultation Evening 15:45
11/03/21 Consultation Evening 17:00
16/03/21 FOW meeting 19:30 via Zoom
01/04/21 FOW Virtual Disco
01/04/21 Break up for Easter
02/04/21 Bank Holiday
19/04/21 Back to School
03/05/21 Bank Holiday

In view of the current restrictions and health & safety advice, we will be communicating separately with Y5&6 about their residential next term.

We have also set next year's training days/ term dates as follows:

06/09/21 Training day- school closed to pupils
07/09/21 Back to school
12/10/21 Whole school Team Teach training after school- **no afternoon WOOSH on this day**
25/10/21 Break up for half term
01/11/21 Back to school
11/11/21 Whole school Team Teach training after school- **no afternoon WOOSH on this day**
17/12/21 Break up for Christmas
04/01/22 Training day- school closed to pupils
05/01/22 Back to school
18/02/22 Break up for half term
28/02/22 Back to school
01/04/22 Break up for Easter
19/04/22 Back to school
27/05/22 Break up for half term
06/06/22 Back to school
22/07/22 Break up for summer
25/07/22 Training Day- disaggregated
26/07/22 Training Day- disaggregated
27/07/22 Training Day- disaggregated



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

As you know from last week's letter, we are no longer using eSchools for parent communications. You should now **delete** the eSchools app from any smartphone or tablet that you have and install the **SIMS Parent** app instead, if you haven't yet done so.

WESTGATE WINDFALL

February's winners will be announced in the next newsletter.



As of February we have **64** members. If you would like to join the monthly draw, please contact [Mrs Bleasdale](#) in the office for application details. You can pay by standing order or cash/ cheque in advance. **We would really like to increase our membership this term, and the more members we have the larger the prize fund to be won!** All proceeds go to Westgate School Fund. Current projects we are seeking funding for include: upgrading pupil laptops; climate-proofing the outdoor spaces through planting; improvements to the kitchen facilities for EYFS/ pupils. **Average monthly prizes last academic year were £142.17, £35.54 and £17.77!**

TRAVEL TRACKER/ ACTIVITY TRACKER



We continue to encourage and celebrate sustainable travel for your school journey. Don't forget that Scarborough Road is **closed to traffic** from 08:20 to 09:20 and 14:45 to 15:45 each day as part of the School Streets initiative. Children are rewarded for making active travel choices such as walking, cycling or scooting. Children in Nursery & Reception have their own cycle and scooter storage just inside the black gate, and everyone else has access to the cycle and scooter parking at the front of school. If you need to use your car, for example because of onward journeys, we have an agreement with Waitrose that parents can use the store car park for Park & Stride. More information can be found [here](#) on the school website. **Please take care around construction traffic on Scarborough Road at the moment.**



Well done to everyone who is

using Times Table Rockstars & Numbots regularly each week. They are important tools to help children develop automatic recall of essential number facts- and they are fun too. The following table shows the **proportion of children engaging** in each class in recent weeks:

Class	12.02.21	26.02.21	
Rec	29%	19%	Num bots
Y1	30%	13%	
Y2	73%	63%	Times Table Rockstars
Y3	77%	74%	
Y4	43%	30%	
Y5	67%	37%	
Y6	86%	93%	

Read on to see a summary of our recent parent survey about our remote learning offer during the latest Lockdown.

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE



Don't forget you can raise funds at no cost to yourself! [Easy Fundraising](#) for a wide range of online retailers- support FOW Friends of

Westgate. We have raised over **£815** in this way so far!

[Amazon Smile](#) for direct donations when shopping on Amazon- select Friends of Westgate.

<https://www.easy2name.com/> when buying name labels (select Westgate Primary School when prompted.)

Our next Friends of Westgate meeting takes place on Zoom on 16/03/21.

Contact v.fuller@westgateprimary.co.uk for more details if you would like to attend.

Planning this year will include contributing to school's 150th anniversary celebrations later in 2021, and community and fundraising events that we can safely hold while complying with the COVID-19 rules. We are focusing on fundraising to help school to replace pupil laptops at the moment.

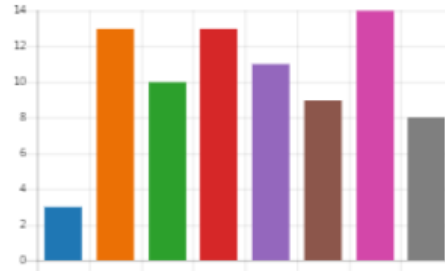
Finally, look out for more information about our end of term virtual school disco on 1st April!

REMOTE LEARNING SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this consultation. Here are the results:

1. Your child(ren)'s class(es):

● Nursery	3
● Reception	13
● Year 1	10
● Year 2	13
● Year 3	11
● Year 4	9
● Year 5	14
● Year 6	8



2. We have found Microsoft Teams a straightforward platform to access and navigate:

● Yes - very easy	46
● Yes - somewhat easy	31
● No - somewhat difficult	4
● No - very difficult	0



3. Have the remote learning activities provided by school been enjoyable for your child?

● Yes	50
● No	3
● Sometimes	28



4. The amount of remote learning activities has been:

● Too much	10
● Just right	69
● Not enough	2

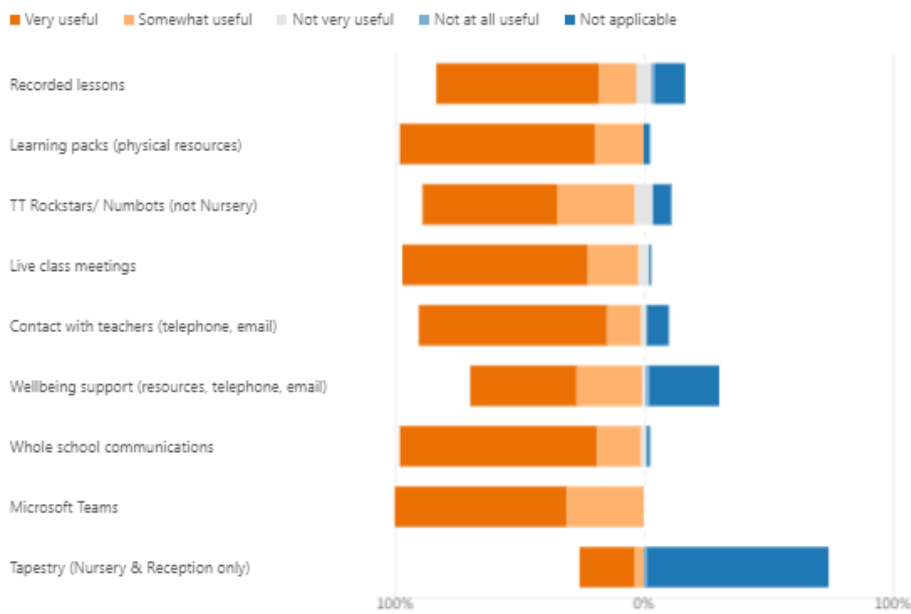


5. My child has been able to complete activities independently:

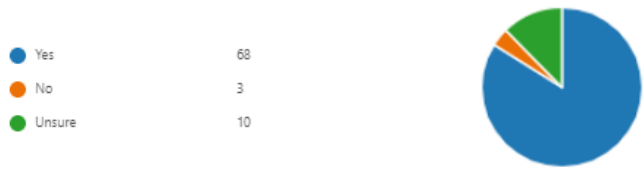
● Yes - all	4
● Yes - with minimal adult supp...	31
● No - a lot of adult support ne...	37
● We chose to complete activiti...	9



6. Please rate the following aspects of our remote learning offer during Lockdown in 2021:



9. Do you think Westgate has been able to strike the right balance for families between maintaining learning and supporting wellbeing?



10. Please rate technical support, eg instructions, help with passwords, issues logging on, resolution of any online learning issues (please leave blank if you did not need any technical help)



11. What is your overall opinion of the remote learning provision we are offering?



Thank you too for the overwhelmingly positive comments, which indicated that overall families have really appreciated our remote learning offer and understood the difficulties and limitations of working in this way. The small number of issues that were raised will inform our future planning.