



**WESTGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Striving for Excellence • Caring for Children



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Each week, the teachers and I meet online for our virtual staff meeting, and part of the meeting is always dedicated to how we are all getting on with distance learning. I want to start by saying a heartfelt thank you, for what you are all doing at home. We understand that Lockdown is bringing to bear unique demands and pressures on our families. It is at this point, almost 6 weeks since we first closed, that the current circumstances are starting to feel like a longer term 'new normal', and this brings different emotions for each of us. Your family might be settling in to routines, feeling more accustomed to how life is now organised. Others of us however may be experiencing an increase in stress and upset, as we begin to realise that this situation may continue for longer than we had hoped, and think about the things we are missing out on.

In the meantime, teachers will continue to set learning for their classes, hopefully in a way that allows you to be flexible in the face of all the juggling you must be doing. We trust you to make decisions about what is a priority for your child(ren) and what/ how much is manageable for your family. Keeping in touch via Evidence Me has been especially appreciated by our Early Years Foundation Stage team: we've been delighted that so many of you have been able to engage with this online tool, sharing the different experiences your children are having with you at home. For children moving into Reception, or just starting Nursery, it has been especially lovely for the teachers who will be receiving your children to start to get to know more about them. Please remember that learning in Nursery and Reception is very practical and play-based. Don't feel like your child should be sitting down at a table for long periods of time- they wouldn't be doing this at school at this age and we don't expect you to do this at home.

So, I'd just like to say again, a huge thank you and well done to all of you for what you are managing. Keep letting us know how you are getting on, as appropriate, so we can make sure we provide learning tasks that will work for your child(ren).

Yours sincerely

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher