



**WESTGATE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Striving for Excellence • Caring for Children



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

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Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

### Re: School Closure

Westgate's staff and I watched the news this evening and learned along with you all that we will close on Friday. Like you, we have received this news with an emotional mix of relief and anxiety.

This week, our staff has worked incredibly hard to continue to teach as normal while putting as much in place as possible for the possibility of closure, working on the situation across the rest of the continent. I am extremely proud and grateful to work with such an incredible staff team.

**Over the next couple of days, these efforts will continue and I will share further, more detailed information with you as it becomes available.**

This is a situation that none of us have any experience of and inevitably, the things we plan may be more or less successful. Please bear with us as we all learn together and refine what we do to make it as effective as possible for everyone. At the same time, you should be pragmatic about what is achievable for your child through remote learning: as a staff we have talked extensively about this already.

You will appreciate that the amount of work being undertaken this week severely limits our ability to respond to non-urgent queries. Thank you for your understanding and patience: rest assured that as information becomes available, and as solutions to problems emerge, we will share them with you as quickly as possible.

Please can you call or email school tomorrow if you think your family might fall into the key worker category (official clarification will be available tomorrow from the Cabinet Office, but an indication would help with planning), as an urgent job before the end of the week is now to plan what school-based childcare will look like: days, times, children, ages, staffing, resources.

Tomorrow morning, we expect children to arrive full of questions about what happens next and, quite probably, feeling anxious and uncertain. The day will begin with a whole school assembly about the closure and staff will work with their classes over the next two days to reassure and prepare them.

Westgate is a strong, close, caring community and together we will get through this. I look forward to the not too distant future, when things return to normal for all of us. In the meantime, please take care of each other.

Yours sincerely

Helen Carpenter  
Head teacher