



**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 is manageable for your family. Keeping in touch on the VLE is really helpful, and a short weekly message from home, if manageable, can help to let teachers know how learning is going at home. For older children (Y3-6), they should be able to check in with their class teacher themselves to let them know how they have got on, and for younger children (Y1/2) parents might send a brief weekly message to let teachers know how you are getting on. Please don't feel that teachers should be receiving detailed accounts, however: we do appreciate all the plates families are juggling. If you are struggling, your class teacher will also be glad to know and offer suggestions to help, as will Mrs Eley, our learning mentor.

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