



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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END OF SUMMER 2021 LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introduction

Well we got there !! It has been a challenging time for us all, but with the changes in guidelines looming from next week, I sincerely hope that the next year is nowhere near as disruptive as it has been since March 2020. So many people's lives have been affected, yet as a community we have become closer than ever. I would like to think that the latter is a positive legacy of COVID at Westgate Primary School.

Summer Mystery Bag Raffle

Thank you to all who bought tickets for the recent summer raffle. A lot of fun was had putting it all together and drawing the tickets. Well done to all the prize winners. I am delighted to say that we raised over **£600 !!** I would like to express a special thank you to Sharon Purcell and her Friends' Team for packing all the mystery bags and organising such a smooth event that everyone could join in with wherever they were. Well done to you all.

Goodbyes

Several colleagues are leaving us today to either retire, have babies, or take up other things. They are: Mrs Cooper who is retiring after almost 10 years with us and Mrs Laker who is retiring after an amazing 18 years with us. Miss Dalton will be starting her maternity leave and we look forward to hearing news in due course. Miss Chapman will be working at Morecambe Bay Primary from September. Mrs Peters and Miss Jones who are both pursuing other interests. We wish them all well for the future and hope they keep in touch.

Changes with Effect from Autumn 2021

The message from the Prime Minister on Monday was upbeat, but also cautious. I am pleased to say that with effect from September 2021:

- There will no longer be a requirement to walk in one direction around the school. I know this will be a huge relief to those of you with children around the other side.
- We will no longer require you to wear face coverings, but will totally support those of you who feel that you wish to continue to do so next term.
- The staggered start and end times have, on the whole, been successful and therefore the times trialled for the last fortnight will remain in place.
- We will still operate the Meet & Greet arrangement each morning as that has been welcomed by parents, pupils and staff and has been a positive way of meeting but also reducing the need to congest in the office area.
- Bubbles will come to an end. There will be different systems in place for what schools do next. We have an inkling but will share with you what we will do in any future positive cases once guidelines have been issued. But there will no longer be any whole year or class closures.
- Feedback from the recent pupil report style has been very positively received so will remain the format in future years.

Further Positive Cases of Children For Two Days After Breaking Up

If your child tests positive for COVID before the end of Sunday 18th July, then please let me know so we can inform any potential close contacts within the school community and the Local Authority. For Year 6 children this is extended to the end of Wednesday 21st July owing to meeting up on Monday 19th. After these dates, NHS Test and Trace should take over contacting close cases for you.

Dinner Money Increase

Last week, the governors agreed that dinner money will increase by 5p per day with effect from September due to rising costs. We have absorbed the costs for the summer term.

Year 6 Leavers

Sadly, the Year 6 bubble isolation does not end until the end of today. However, we have made plans for them to come back for one final time on Monday 19th July at 4pm to round off the year and their time at Westgate Primary. We hope as many as possible attend. Although, officially, guidelines will have been relaxed in the wider society from Monday, schools still have the option to keep things in place until the full end of this term. With rising numbers of cases, we will remain cautious so that everyone attending will hopefully not be subject to full isolation again in the event of positive cases, there are couple of people within that bubble who, sadly, need to continue to isolate on that day so we wish them all the success of the future as well and that we see them sometime soon.

Looking to the Future

The new term starts for children on Thursday 2nd September, with the new Reception children starting sometime later, colleagues from Early Years will be keeping in touch with parents of the new intake before the start of the term.

Launch of the New School Vision Statement

You may recall that earlier in the year, we conducted a wide-ranging survey, through Survey Monkey; on what everyone feels are the most important aspects of Westgate Primary School that we all hold dear. We were delighted with the responses and the time taken to complete them. People asked included; parents, staff, governors and, of course, the children. A small working party of people met a few times this term to draw together all that was said; to look at the most common themes; and to put this into a summarised, single page vision statement. I am delighted to present it to you at the end of this letter. This will be our 'pledge' to each other from September; to recognise what we can all offer each other to make Westgate Primary School the very best it can be. We decided on 'Pledges' rather than 'Promises' because the school is on a continuous journey and we recognise that we do not always get it right, but that we will strive together to get there. I believe we have become closer than ever as a result of the pandemic, and it is our aim to continue this journey with you all. Our main line is "United in Life-Long Learning" as we feel that captures the fact that everyone can learn here, adults as well as children. The statement is at the end of this letter and I hope you can see in the statement where your contribution has been included.

AND FINALLY

It leaves me now to offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to you all for helping us to keep things going as best as possible; to keep in touch; and to see how we can be the best we can be. We could not have done this without your support which will be long remembered and appreciated. My colleagues are looking forward to a break and having time with their families, but are set to return refreshed next term. I have the very best team of governors and colleagues anyone could ask for with new staff joining our wonderful team from September. I praise the NHS and all Key Workers for everything they have done and continue to do to keep us as safe and as well as possible. I give credit to all those who have volunteered their time working tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Last, but not least, I praise each and everyone one of your children, for being the wonderful young people they are; resilient, positive, enthusiastic, and who deserve the very best.

Keep safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday 2nd September.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Wright
Head Teacher
Westgate Primary School



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vision Statement – September 2021

“United in Life-Long Learning”

What we pledge to Children

- To provide a safe and welcoming environment
- To help you reach your full potential and to bring out the best in you
- To help you to remain determined to achieve your goals
- To help motivate you to do the best you can keeping learning fun throughout school
- To encourage you to be independent, resilient and compassionate
- To talk to you and listen to you when you need us to and respect how you are feeling
- To prepare you well for the next stage in your life in readiness and with confidence
- To ensure that adults are well trained and equipped to give you the best support we can

What we pledge to staff and governors

- To provide a safe and welcoming environment from the time you first join us
- To feel a valued part of a successful and thriving team
- To help you ensure that you have a healthy work/life balance and know when to stop
- To feel secure and supported in asking for help when needed
- To feel that there is someone to listen to you and to go to if needed
- To help you in fulfilling your aspirations with high quality personal and professional development
- That all in the school value you and show respect towards you

What we pledge to parents and carers

- That the environment is safe and welcoming for you to be an active part
- That your child is as safe as possible from the time they start
- That staff appointed have been vetted to the strictest conditions before taking up post
- That there is someone to talk to if you or your child needs help or support
- That you are included throughout your child’s journey of learning from the time they start
- That when safe to do so, you are invited into school for events where you can celebrate achievements with your child
- That your child embraces a full, enriched curriculum to lead to academic and personal success

What we pledge to the wider community

- That outside organisations who help us feel welcome when they visit the school
- That our children respect all within the community and make a positive contribution
- That our children know where they can make a difference to the issues they face locally and beyond, and that we support and listen to the needs of the wider community
- That our school is a tidy and presentable place that enhances the locality