



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mr K Wright
01524 832747

Langridge Way
Westgate
Morecambe
LA4 4XF

21st July 2023

END OF SUMMER 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introduction

Here we are again, at the end of another school year and what a year it has been.

Sports Day Results

We finally got all the Sports Days done before the end of term despite the wet weather! A big thank you to Mrs Hudson, Mr Breeze and the Year 5 helpers who made it all happen.

The results are as follows:

	Cobras	Dragons	Lions	Sharks
Points	2,370	2,638	2,482	2,672
Position	4 th	2 nd	3 rd	1 st

A big well done to the Sharks who won overall!

Goodbyes and Hellos

Several colleagues leave us today entering new chapters in their lives. We are very sad to be losing Mr Walton today who is moving to Spain with his family. Mr Walton has taught at Westgate since 2008 and has been such a great part of the team. Mrs Wilcox is also leaving us to take up a post at Morecambe Road Specialist school. Mrs Wilcox has formed part of the Reception team since 2016 and played such a big part in giving the children of Westgate a great start to their school like. Mrs Finnerty is starting her maternity leave and we welcome Mrs Hay back after a period of maternity leave

From the support staff, Mrs Beaumont, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Burgess, Mrs Graham and Miss Crossley-John are also leaving us to pastures new. We thank them for their dedication, supporting the children in our school in the unique Westgate way. We all wish them well in the future.

Year 6 Leavers

Today we say farewell to our Year 6s. It has been wonderful to get to know them all and to see them complete their time at Westgate Primary School. It was great to watch the Year 6 pantomime last week, they did and you so proud. Several of the pupils really came out of their comfort zones in their acting and singing – what a joy to see.

We all wish them every success for the future wherever they are going and hope they keep in touch. They have done their families proud with what they have endured over the last couple of years.

Attendance

As you may be aware, the Department for Education are continuing to raise expectations for pupils to be in school as much as possible. School attendance has nationally seen a sharp decline since the pandemic and they are expecting all schools to work hard to support families to ensure their children have good school attendance.

We have seen a high number of families requesting time off for holidays this term and have had to refer some of these cases to the local authority for Fixed Penalty Notices for persistent absence. We appreciate that holidays are much cheaper in term time but when attendance is below 96%, we are expected by the DFE to act accordingly.

Staff are obliged to follow the expectations of the Department for Education in ensuring that children are in school as much as possible. We will continue to work with you to ensure your child's attendance is as high as it can be but will continue to issue Fixed Penalty Notices in September and beyond when required.

Illnesses will always count as authorised absence, but will accumulate the total absence overall.

School Uniform

This is a reminder of the uniform policy for your information. Please ensure that if your child is returning to Westgate in September, they have the following uniform.

Normal Days

Royal Blue Jumper – Logo preferred but not compulsory

White polo shirt, shirt, blouse,

Navy blue trousers, skirts / pinafores (Grey or black hand-me-downs will be okay)

Black shoes or plain black trainers, velcro / buckle preferred – non-explicitly branded

PE Days – Arrive in PE clothes as this saves time which means more time doing the lesson.

School hoodie / school jumper

White t-shirt

Plain leggings or tracksuit bottoms in winter or navy or royal blue shorts during warmer weather

Trainers (not pumps)

Contacts over the holiday

During the summer holiday you are able to contact a member of the Inclusion Team with any urgent matters, for example in relation to any safeguarding issues or for a referral to the foodbank and they will respond to you as soon as they are able.

Emma Finch (Inclusion Support Lead) - e.finch@westgatesch.com

Marie Wilkinson (Inclusion Support Co-ordinator) – m.wilkinson@westgatesch.com

However, if there is an emergency safeguarding matter, you should contact
Children's Social Care **0300 123 6720** - Police **101 / 999**

DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Looking ahead to the first half of the Autumn Term, below are some key dates for you to note:-

Friday 1 st September	*	Staff Training Day – School Closed
Monday 4 th September	*	Children return to school
Friday 20 th October	*	Break up for Half Term

AND FINALLY...

You will be aware that Mr Wright has been on a long term absence since May. We are still in touch with him and hoping to see him return within the Autumn term. In the meantime, Mrs Henderson will continue to be Acting Head Teacher.

On behalf of all here at Westgate Primary School, I wish you a great summer break and we look forward to seeing all our returning children in September along with the new intake of Reception children and their families. All the very best to our outgoing Year 6s you have been stars!!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Henderson
Acting Head Teacher
Westgate Primary School