



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

"United in Life-Long Learning"

Head Teacher: Mr K Wright
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22 October 2021

OCTOBER 2021 HALF-TERM LETTER

Dear Parents / Carers,

INTRODUCTION

It has been a long half-term. We had hoped that we would be free of any disruption due to COVID but sadly that has not always been the case. Despite this, children across all years have settled back well, particularly children starting new in Reception so thank you to all who have helped this be the case.

✿ COVID UPDATE ✿

I am pleased to say that because of your support and willingness to take your child for a PCR test when you have been notified of a close contact in their class, we have been able to identify many children with COVID but without symptoms. As a result, the number of cases has fallen sharply and there has been very little disruption.

As at today we have 8 children with suspected cases of COVID; 4 children with COVID; and no staff either suspected or with COVID. All people with COVID are recovering or are without symptoms. We have been aware that some children and adults have taken longer than the 10 days to recover.

We are aware that cases are rising sharply across the country and that the usual autumn bugs are looming. So your continued support after half-term will really help keep things running smoothly.

The Government may put measures in from November, and we will act accordingly and let you know, but at this point we will continue with the current situation.

SQUID GAME

Schools have been increasingly concerned that many young children are watching a programme on Netflix called Squid Game; it also features in Minecraft and Roblox. The series emulates children's playground games but is very violent and explicit and certainly not suitable for people under the age of 15. Many children are telling us about the series, this worries us as we have needed to talk about the suitability of the programme and why these games should not be copied at playtimes. Please check that your child is not accessing this without you knowing.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

We are pleased to be able to offer photographs of your child again. Academy Photographers will be visiting on Tuesday 2nd November. As last year, discussion has been had about how to keep everyone

safe when doing this. As a result, we will only be able to offer individual photos rather than siblings. This is to avoid lots of children from different age groups meeting at the same time. We hope you will understand our decision to do this again.

ELECTION OF GOVERNORS

As you know, information was sent out for a new parent governor to join the Governing Body. By the closing date last week we had two expressions of interest. We also have a vacancy for a co-opted governor to join where one retired at the end of last term. As a result no election was required because, following conversation with each person, I am pleased to announce the following:-

Mrs Claire Schuyler has been appointed the new Parent Governor and;
Mrs Hannah Lindsay has been appointed the new Co-Opted Governor.

We congratulate and welcome them to the Board and look forward to using their skills and contribution to the continued development of the school. Their terms of office will be four years.

MRS JOHNSON CHANGES

Children and parents in Class 3LJ/SR will already know this, but for personal reasons, Mrs Johnson will be taking a period of extended leave until the end of the summer term 2022. As a result, Mr Clarke will be moving to Class 3LJ/SR from Monday 1st November while Mrs Fielding will teach full time in Class 6TC where she already has a teaching commitment. Parents and children of those classes were informed of the necessary change last week. Mr Clarke will now be the substantive Assistant Head Teacher for Years 3 – 6 until Mrs Johnson returns. Ms Newton will take the Year Lead role in Year 6.



SCHOOL DINNERS

Thank you for your patience in relation to the limited menu choice that the Local Authority catering department have needed to impose. I am pleased to say that from Monday 1st November, the full menu option will be available again with a healthy stock of food. The new menu is already available on the school website and we will be starting on **Week 2** of the rota listed. You can find it as a tab under the 'Parents' section.

CERTIFICATE WINNERS

The winners of the Excellent Effort Certificates this week are as follows:

Joshua Radford – RJL	Nikola Sokol – RRR	Lily Somers – RVW
Edison Cragg-Jackson – 1RP	Evie Beswick – 1ST	Esme Sloman – 1JR
Millie Watson – 2SE	James Todd – 2TR	Jaxon Edmonds – 2GR
Fraser Whiteside – 3LJ/SR	Sofia Smith – 3JP	Emmie Holt – 3LS
Junior Noon – 4AB	Jakub Gorecki – 4CF	Finn Griffiths – 4TW
Gracie Stainsby – 5NH	Poppie Booth – 5SD/ER	Amelia Haigh – 5SW
Lucy Carter – 6TC	Ruby-Jean Barnes – 6LN	Joseph Marshall – 6MB

A very well done to them all !!



Thank you again for helping us to keep some control over the spread of the virus. Schools have been advised to expect spikes again in the future and to be vigilant about symptoms and cases. There will also be the usual bouts of colds and other bugs, but together we will do our utmost to keep things running as normal as possible in these unusual times.

There will need to be some restrictions on events we have always enjoyed, but hopefully, the next half-term will be very much as familiar as we like it to be.

There will be Staff Training Day on Friday 26th November so the school will be closed. There was also a local election planned for Thursday 25th November but we have persuaded the authorities to move it to the Friday so the school does not need to close as well on the Thursday.

We hope you have a good half-term break, we return on Monday 1st November. The clocks go back one hour on Sunday 31st October.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Wright
Head Teacher
Westgate Primary School