



Westgate Primary School

Summerhill Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 2LP

Tel: (01322) 223382 Fax: (01322) 286979

E mail: office@westgate.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.westgateprimary.org

Head of School: Mr. D. Terry

Wednesday 7th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families that have joined us for the start of what will be another exciting and busy year.

I would like also like to take this opportunity to welcome new members of staff to Westgate. Teachers in Year 1 are Miss Hawkins and Miss Evans, Year 4 is Miss Turner together with our new HLTA Mrs Brasova and Mrs Runglall, TA.

Key dates for your diary

Kidzania Trip – 19th September

The whole school, (Years 1-6) will be attending Kidzania as part of our initial topic 'Aspirations'. If you have not yet paid for your child, then please speak to the Office as soon as possible or send in the payment. We would like all of the children to go, so if there is a reason why your child might not be able to attend, please come and speak to me. We are keen that all the children have the opportunity to take part in this exciting school trip.

Friday 23rd September – School will be open from 2.30pm (not in the morning) for children to share their aspirations and experiences from Kidzania and our Careers' Fair.

21st September – Reception and Year 6 height and weight check.

Jeans for Genes day will take place on 23rd September. Children can wear jeans and are asked to donate £1 for this worthy cause. They are expected to still wear a school t-shirt and jumper.

Friday 30th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning, more information to follow.

14th October – Individual photographs.

Friday 21st October, the school will be closed for Staff training and development.

Start of the school day

As you know, we no longer have our volunteers supervising before school. This means parents and carers are responsible for their children at all times prior to 8.30 a.m, when the gates will be opened for children to come onto the playground. The classroom doors will open from 8.40am when the children will come into class to receive dedicated feedback time.

As always we will be opening our doors every Friday morning from 8.40 to enable parents to come in and look at their child's learning from across the week. This will begin from next Friday, 16th September.

School Uniform

There is the expectation that all children are dressed in appropriate school uniform, which is available to buy from the school office. As mentioned at the end of last term, we will also expect children to use school P.E and book bags and would ask that children do not bring in ruc sacs etc. There has been an issue with delivery of new uniform, so an allowance will be made whilst we wait for this to arrive. Parents will be informed, via Parent Mail once the delivery is received. The children will be provided with all necessary equipment so will not need pencils or pencil cases. Also, please do not send your child into school with any toys as they can get distressed if they lose or break them.

Lunchboxes

As you are aware, at Westgate we aim to be a healthy eating school and ask that if you choose to provide a packed lunch for your child, it consists of healthy options. Please do not send in chocolate, sweets, fizzy drinks but instead provide fruit and vegetable snacks, yoghurts etc.

Attendance

Attendance remains a priority and we expect all children to attend school every day and arrive at school on time and ready to learn. If children are feeling slightly unwell, we do encourage that you still send them in as they usually pick up during the day and it helps to build resilience and determination to keep going, which is an essential skill for adult life. If you have any issues about getting your child to school then please speak to Mrs Wright in the office.

We also ask that you ring the school every day if your child is ill and provide a written note on their return to school. We will be continuing with the policy of not giving permission for holiday requests or absence unless they are extraordinary circumstances. A written request must be sent to Mr Terry prior to any planned absence.

PTA

We are hoping to establish a new PTA this year and are looking for parents to help set this up. PTA's play a pivotal role in helping build a community feel and raising money that is used to support the school and provide additional opportunities and resources. If you have some free time or would like to get involved, please contact the school office. We will be holding an information meeting in the next few weeks to share more details about this.

Parent Mail

We use Parent Mail to send information and letters out to parents, please ensure that we have your relevant contact information to ensure that you receive any further communication from us. If you find that you are having difficulties with Parent Mail, please contact the school office.

This is going to be another exciting year for Westgate and I am looking forward to seeing you all and watch your children continue to grow and succeed this year. If you have any queries or would like to discuss anything then please, in the first instance, speak with your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Terry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D. Terry

Head of School