



Friday 27th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are already through four school weeks, and it is lovely to see the children so settled into the new term already. I capture a few key messages below including a link to the Meet the Teacher Presentations and a link to a form that I would be so grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete. And as a bonus, details of free gym and swimming for your children and family through October at Westgate Leisure Centre!

Thank you so much for your support and have a lovely weekend,
Mr Chamberlin

School Day Consultation

The problem: The timings of the school day are different for the infants and junior schools. This was because the schools used to be on two different sites. Now that we are on one site, the different timings mean there is a lot of waiting around before and after school for lots of children, families and staff.

The proposal: We change the timings to make them the same across both schools.

An action for all parents: [Please click on this link to have your say on this proposed change.](#)
(Nothing will change yet; we are just seeking opinions at the moment!)

OPTION 1



Gates open: 8.30am - 8.45am

Opening 5 minutes later than currently to reduce the time children are waiting.

Juniors: 8.30am - 3.10pm

Infants: 8.35am - 3.15pm

The staggered timings are unchanged.

OPTION 2



Gates open: 8.30am - 8.45am

Opening 5 minutes later than currently to reduce the time children are waiting.

Juniors: 8.30am - 3.10pm

Infants: 8.30am - 3.10pm

Both schools have the same timings with the infants moving 5 minutes earlier to reduce the time waiting at both ends of the day.

Meet the Teacher Presentations

It has been lovely to see so many parents at our meet the teacher sessions over the past two Fridays. If you weren't able to attend, you can access the presentations [on our website here.](#)

Sunrise & Sunset bookings

Thank you for your patience as we have got to grips with a new payment system for before and after school club. Mrs Harding – our school bursar – will be supporting parents to make it as straightforward as possible!



Break time snacks

Snacks for morning break are important to help the children to access their learning throughout the morning. Children in the infant school are provided with fruit each day. Children in the junior school should bring their own snack. This should be fruit and fruit only. If your child brings other snacks, please don't be surprised if your teacher gives you a call to remind you. Thank you in advance for your support in helping our children to learn healthy habits at this early stage.

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Attendance

Attendance winners this week: Oak Class (99.5%) and Cedar Class (99%) - Our school Owls will be looked after by the winning classes next week.

We always celebrate great attendance because it matters so much! We will keep working with you to see all our children have excellent attendance.

Please be aware: There has been [a change in government legislation](#) about school attendance that can make parents liable to be fined up to £2,500 for non-attendance at school. If you are experiencing challenges to attendance, please reach out to Mrs Sheppard in the school office who would be glad to support you.

Looking ahead

We have lots to look forward to this term and we are busy making arrangements for a harvest service, parents' evenings, open mornings, a children's disco, and all sorts of festive fun. We will share these dates in the coming weeks. For now, two things to look forward to next week:

- An author visit – The children will be visited by a children's author next week who will read to them and do a book signing session in our new junior library.
 - Teaching and learning monitoring – Next week sees our first teaching and learning monitoring week of the year. This is where senior leaders and governors visit lessons and see all the lovely learning taking place. This is a regular part of our practice to ensure the very best teaching and learning across our schools.
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Free swimming for families in the month of October

As part of Westgate Leisure Centre's 'Adopt a School' programme to promote being fit and healthy, you have access to:

- **1 month FREE** swimming lessons for all children that attend St Joseph's Infant or Junior School (Aged 10 and under)
- **1 month FREE** membership for parents/guardians
- **1 month FREE** Junior membership for older siblings (Aged 11-15)
- **20% OFF** one birthday party booking.

You can sign up for these perks and book in sessions at the Westgate Leisure Centre by calling them and quoting "Adopt a School St Joseph's". These perks are only available to us for the month of October so please call up early and book as soon as possible. Their contact number is [01243 785651](tel:01243785651).

READY

LEARN AND LET OTHERS LEARN

RESPECTFUL

KIND WORDS AND KIND ACTIONS

SAFE

BE HONEST AND SAFE

