



Autumn term CARE values:

Every term we focused on 4 of our CARE values across school. I mention these in assemblies and the children and staff try to use these values throughout the term.

Our new CARE values are;

COMMUNITY, AMBITION, RESPECT AND ENJOYMENT

KEY DATES

8th October - Harvest Festival KS2 – am or pm show

9th October – Harvest Festival KS1

Week of 20th October – healthy week

20th October – Wellbeing Day

22nd October – Young leaders training

24th October – School nursing team workshops

HALF TERM – break up 24th October return 3rd November

3rd November – Glow in the dark disco

Week of 24th November – Book fair and open nights

3rd December – Festive Run AM

8th December – Christmas Fair

10th December – EYFS Christmas Show

11th December – Upper KS2 Christmas Show 2PM

12th December – Lower KS2 Christmas Show 9AM

12th December – KS1 Christmas Show 2PM

15th December – Upper KS2 Christmas Party

16th December – Lower KS2 Christmas Party

17th December – EYFS Christmas Party

18th December – Christmas Dinner and Jumpers

19th December – PJs and singalong



At Westlea; “We work together to achieve success for all.”

This week has been a hardworking week for all. The pupils are now starting to fully understand the expectations, routines and work that the teachers in their classes are asking of them. This is always planned and designed in a way that is age and ability appropriate.

Senior leaders examined pupils’ maths and science books (Y1-Y6) in school this week to ensure that the standard of teaching and quality of learning remains high.

At Westlea, **staff want the very best for every child at school** and will always expect high standards in how they conduct themselves in class and around school. School in its nature is a place of education and to learn, with this every person at school is on this journey.

We will always support and encourage students to be the best person and learner they can be. We will always be here to work alongside parents and carers in a unified way to achieve this.

Uniform, hair and earring reminders:

Can we remind all parents and carers of our school uniform and ask for your support in sending your child/ren to school wearing the uniform. If any family needs support with this, please contact school as we do have some spare uniform that could help you achieve this.

Could I also remind parents/carers of ensure your child/rens’ earrings are small and flat to the ear if worn. **No earrings should be worn on PE days or these should be covered with tape at home.**

Please see the information surrounding uniform in the newsletter.

School Football news:

Wednesday 1st October A team played against St Joseph’s RC, The score was an amazing 6-1 win for Westlea! A great start to our league fixtures.

Our Westlea B team represented the school wonderfully in the Ian Gustard Cup competition on Thursday 2nd. They performed very well for their first matches together and we came away with a draw and a loss.

Consultation letter

In our newsletter this week, there is information regarding the school entering a consultation period. Please see the letter attached within this week’s newsletter.

Applications for Primary and Secondary places

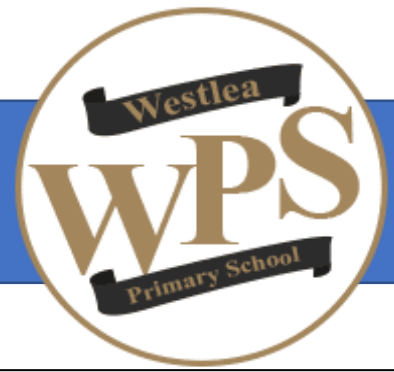
If your child is due to start primary school in September 2026, you will need to apply for a place. Even if your child is in a school nursery, you need to apply for a reception place. You need to complete the online application at

<https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. If you don’t live in Durham, you will need to make your application to the LA where you pay your council tax. The closing date for all applications is 15 January 2026. You are advised to list at least three school preferences on your application. **It is very important that if you want your child to attend Westlea that you put us down as first choice.**

Secondary school applications: If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2026, you need to complete the online application at

<https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> If you don’t live in Durham you will need to make your application to the LA where you pay your council tax. The closing date for all applications is 31 October 2025.. **There is no guarantee you will get your first choice.**

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 03.10.25
Class 1	90
Class 2	97.7
Class 3	93.1
Class 4	99.2
Class 5	97
Class 6	94.8
Class 7	95.3
Class 8/9	95.4

Attendance Update

The School Day starts at 8:30-8:45am

The school doors open at 8.30am, and close at 8:45am. If children arrive after this time, they will have to enter school by the main entrance where they will receive a **late mark**. Children arriving **after 9.00am** will receive an **unauthorised absence mark**. It can be very unsettling for children to arrive late, and they will have missed important teaching input. Please ensure your child is in school on time every day.

This week 4 classes reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 03.10.25 is 95.1 %

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.7%

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at 95.7%



Impact of Lateness

Being 15 minutes later each day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school



5 minutes
late
= 3 days
learning lost

10 minutes
late
= 6.5 days
learning lost

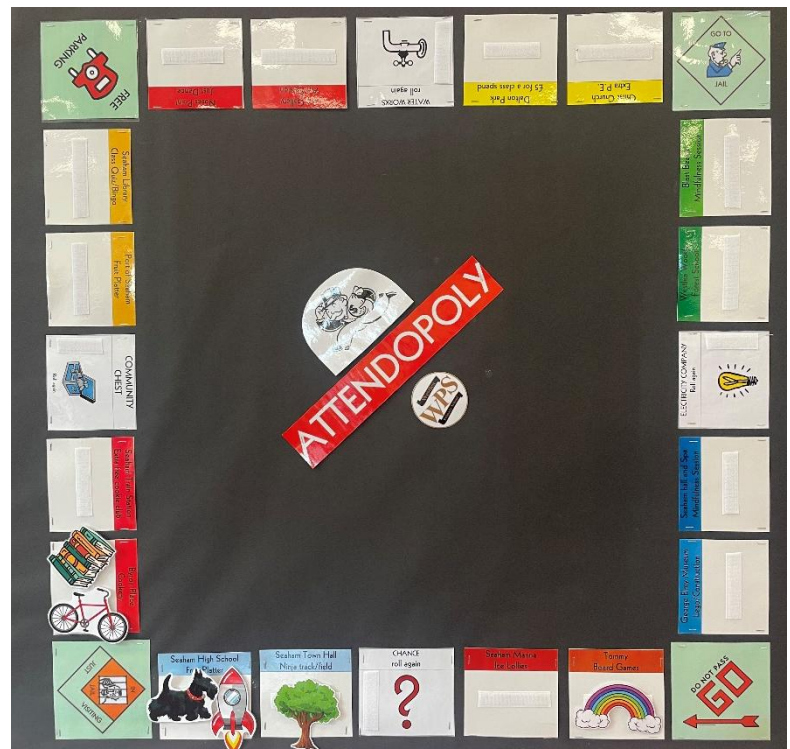
15 minutes
late
= 10 days
learning lost

20 minutes
late
= 13 days
learning lost

30 minutes
late
= 19 days
learning lost



ISI Attendance Team



SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

Mrs Scothern is our Designated Safe Guarding Lead with Mrs Davey and Mrs Simmons as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. Please get in touch with any queries or concerns.

ATTENDOPOLY OUTCOMES THIS WEEK

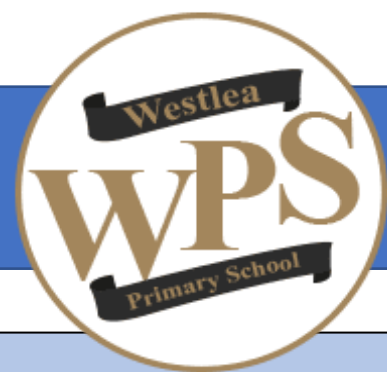
Classes who rolled the dice this week won;

Class 2 – Ninja track

Class 4 – Just dance

Class 5 – Lego/construction

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Award

Sometimes it's quiet actions that can make the most difference...

Well done to Holly K (Year 2) for always having a calming presence. Holly works diligently in every lesson. Kray and Jacob received award this week for excellent contributions and behaviours in school. Mitch was selected for his willingness to step up to represent the school in cross country.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WE 03.10.25
Class 1	Alfie
Class 2	Elliott
Class 3	Senirosi
Class 4	Ruby
Class 5	Kataleiya
Class 6	Troy
Class 7	Ava
Class 8 and 9	Eden

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 03.10.25
Class 1	Myla
Class 2	Riah-Daisy
Class 3	Alma
Class 4	Violet
Class 5	Harper
Class 6	Magnus
Class 7	Finley
Class 8 and 9	Lilly R

**Next week's Right of the week- Article 14
Your right to follow your own religion.**



Character values: CARE		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Community	Compassion	Cooperation
Ambition	Actions	Achievement
Respect	Responsibility	Resilience
Enjoyment	Endeavor	Empowerment



Pupil discussions: What do you think about our school?

I like learning and geography and science. The teachers are friendly, I like my friends. I love hot chocolate. I enjoy our trips and also European day. The pupils this week helped in giving feedback about their experiences at school. Their feedback will be on display in the main hall for others to see.

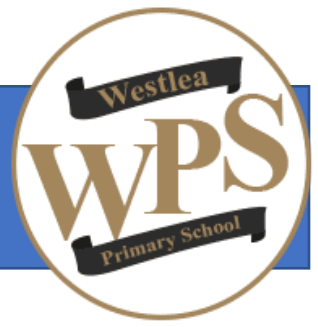


Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are...Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment

These are given to pupils in school who have shone outside of the classroom. It maybe they have shown excellent manners and held a door for a visitor or a friend or have shown our WESTLEA CARE values in some way. Perhaps they have cooperated with each other to play a game or complete a group activity or shown resilience to keep going when a task or a learning activity has been a challenge. Visitors and other members of staff can nominate these students so it is very special if you are recognised for your efforts or for just being you!

In other news...

Consultation letter 1st Oct – 26TH Nov



Please see a consultation letter regarding reducing our PAN (Pupil Admissions Number), from 38 to 30, in school. This will take effect from September 2027. Any existing classes over this number are not affected by these changes but moving forward the change in this number should have a positive benefit to the children, staff and wider community in school.

The school will also be capping our other classes Y1-Y6 to a maximum of 30 however, existing pupils in school are not affected by this.

<https://westleaprimarieschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/consultation.pdf>

In other news...

Governor news



Congratulations Rev Anita!

Rev Anita Burke is one of our co-opted governors – this means she is a member of the local community that helps the school make decisions and supports our children and staff. She is our governor for Religious Education and works alongside Mrs Mac.

Rev Anita has been working at Christ Church in Seaham for around a year now and has been an asset to the church, the community and to our school – she has now been appointed as Priest in Charge of Christ Church in Seaham. Congratulations Rev Anita!



CARE VALUES AUTUMN TERM: COMMUNITY, AMBITION, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT

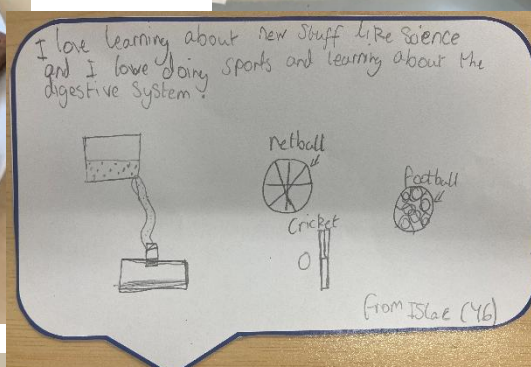
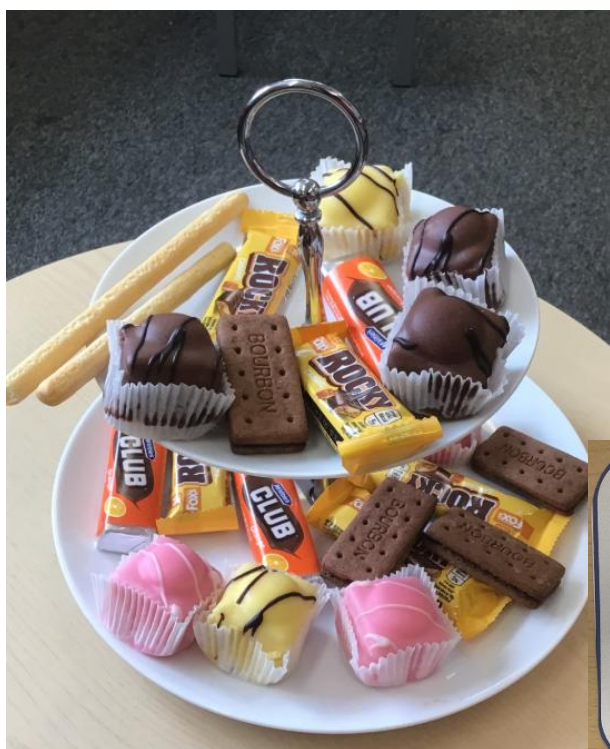
Head Teachers Chat



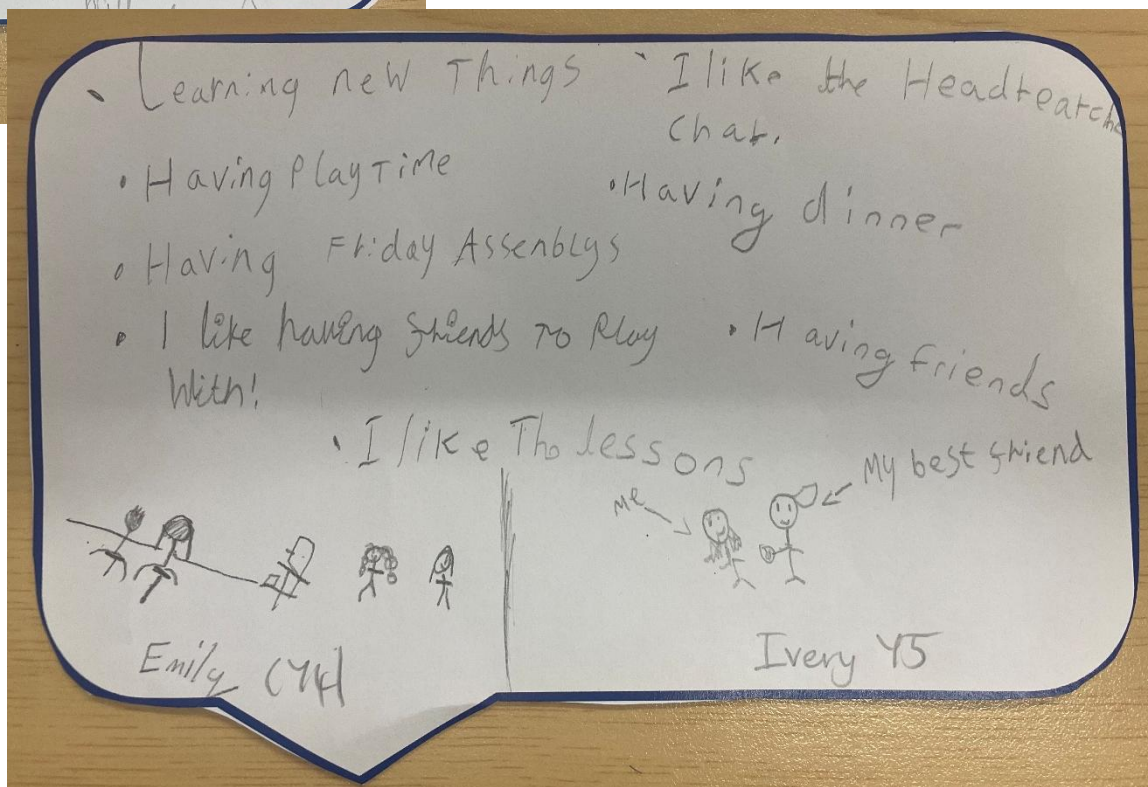
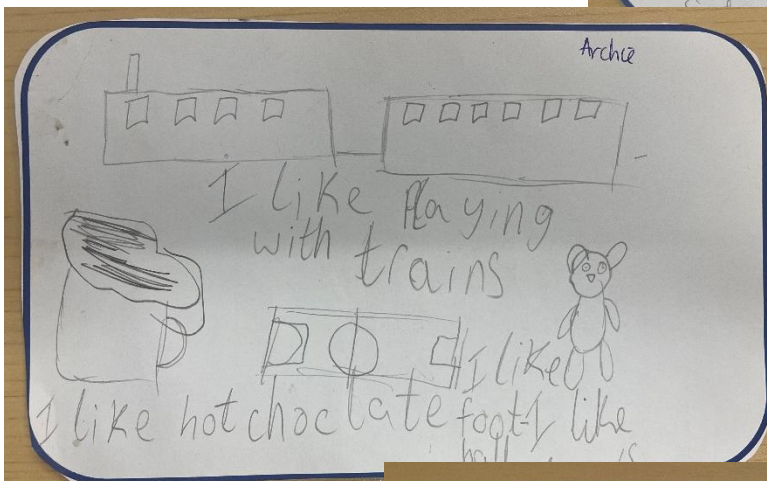
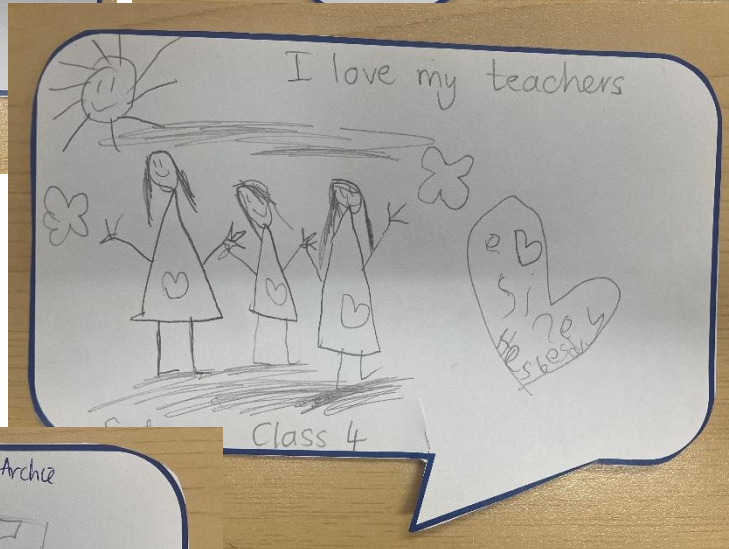
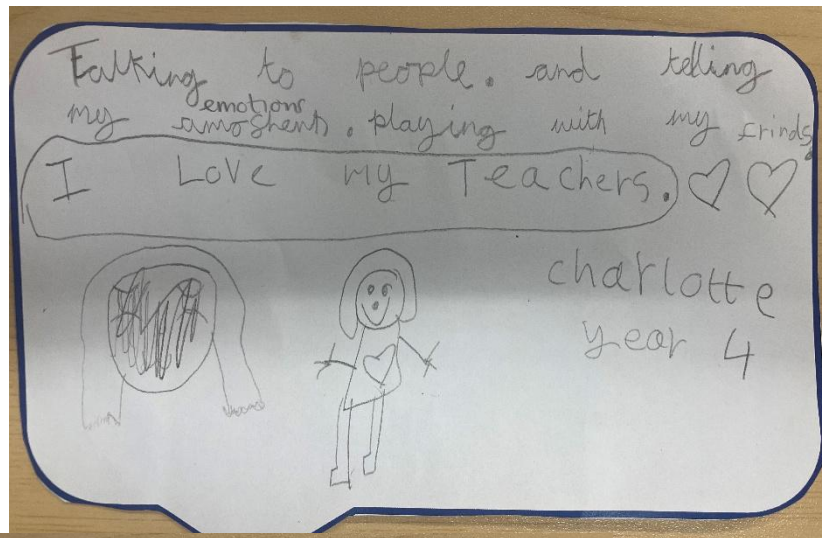
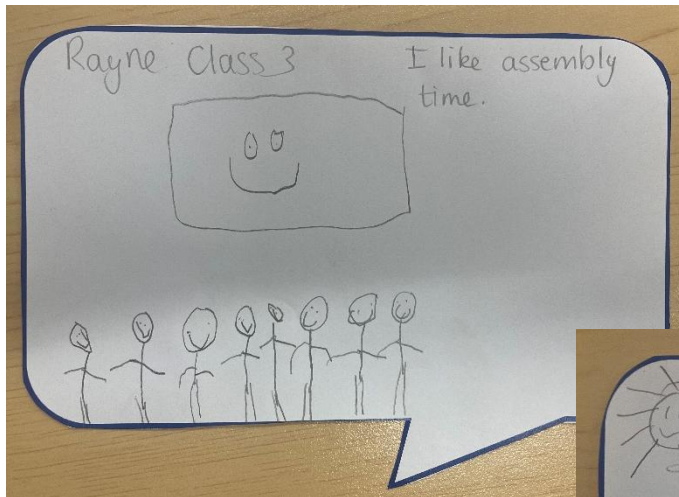
Every week, each class has a Star of the Week award that is presented in Celebration assembly. Pupils from Y1- Y6, who are recognised for this, are then asked to come along during the week for a Hot Chocolate and a pupil discussion with Mrs Scothern.

During this time, Mrs Scothern asks questions surrounding many topics in school. These discussions will range from how to keep safe, what do we mean by bullying, pupils learning experiences, homework, how do teachers help you, what are the school lunches like... the list goes on. The pupils who attend the discussions are always respectful of each other's opinions and listen carefully. Mrs Scothern takes notes and feeds these responses back to staff and Senior leaders in school.

Pupils also get to ask questions about the school and improvements or plans ahead. They really do help shape decisions made at school.

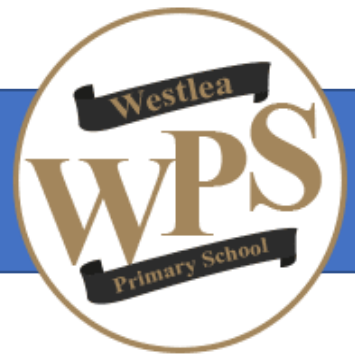


A sample of some of the brilliant responses given in this week's Head Teacher discussions.



In other news...

Safeguarding – Martyn's Law



The act which became law in April 2025 aims to help schools to minimise the impact of a terrorist attack. Its purpose is to improve protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK.

Terrorists have targeted a wide range of people and places in recent years. It is not always possible to predict where in the UK an attack might happen, or the type of premises or events that could be impacted – either directly (as the target of an attack) or indirectly (by being located near to the target of an attack). The [threat level from terrorism in the UK](#) is currently substantial, meaning an attack is likely. That is why having effective procedures in place is important.

The Department for Education (DfE) have supported the introduction of the act. They have worked with the Home Office to set out the policy for education settings.

All schools will need to have appropriate procedures in place. This includes:

- evacuation (to get people out of the building)
- invacuation (moving people to a safe place)
- lockdown (to secure the premises against attackers)
- communication

There is no requirement to put physical security measures in place.

These procedures will be developed across the next two years. The government will publish statutory guidance during this period. This guidance will assist schools to understand the requirements set out in the legislation and keep parents informed.



In other news...

Special menu day!



On Thursday 9th October Chartwells have a special menu. All pupils are welcome to stay even if usually having a packed lunch!

Jacket potatoes will also be served

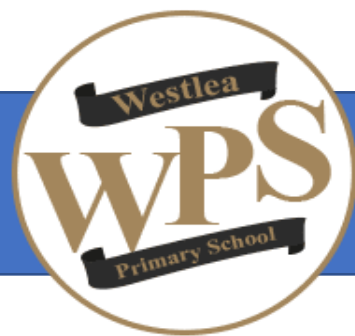


Chartwells new menu will launch after october half term and is available to view on our school website.

Reminder – no nuts or nut products in school at any time. This is very important. If we suspect nuts may be in a product we must remove the product from the main school hall and contact families.

In other news...

Cross country



Well done to all of our Cross-Country runners today. These athletes represented the school at the Easington district Cross Country competition. This was held at East Durham College, Peterlee.

Our pupils displayed grit and determination to run in their age categories against a very good standard of runners from the East Durham area. They really enjoyed the experience and were able to come back to school and share their thoughts and feelings with their classmates.

A special well done to Mitch in Year1, who stepped in at the last minute to represent school. Mitch you were amazing and really helped you team today.

This term's CARE values of Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment were fully on display!

The Results are created by adding up the positions the pupils finished in and the overall lowest score indicates the stronger running team. As you can see we did exceptionally well.

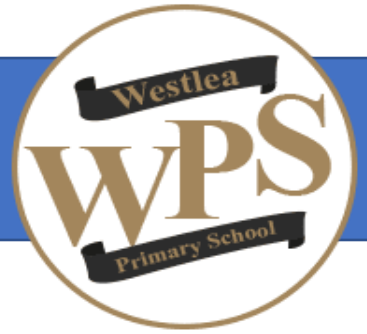
Girls Year1/Year 2 Race	3rd place small schools
Boys Year1/Year 2 Race	3rd place small schools
Girls Year3/Year 4 Race	2nd place small schools
Boys Year3/Year 4 Race	2nd place small schools
Girls Year5/Year 6 Race	2 nd place small schools
Boys Year5/Year 6 Race	4 th place small schools

A special mention to Charlotte who came 8th out of 200 runners and to Miller who came 7th out of 200 runners.



In other news...

Westlea Woods EYFS



If you go down to the wood today,
You're in for a big surprise!



You can't help but smile when you visit the Nursery pupils in the woods. You hear the chatter and discussions before seeing children enjoying nature.

The Magic of Sticks in Play

Sticks are among nature's most basic things, yet they offer endless opportunities for creative and adventurous play. Children naturally gravitate towards sticks, drawn by their texture, shape, and sheer potential. When kids play with sticks, they're not just entertaining themselves; they're engaging in a form of play that promotes physical activity, creativity, and cognitive development.

Every week, the pupils spend a full session down in the woods and explore the environment, learning through play, whilst learning, taking risks and keeping safe.

What have we found?

WHAT'S IN A STICK?

Building Physical Skills

Sparking Imagination and Creativity

Encouraging Social Interaction

Safety Around Sticks



The teachers help us know how to keep ourselves safe but enjoy and explore the woodland area.



By encouraging kids to be mindful of their surroundings, reminding them to avoid swinging or throwing sticks near others, and encouraging other safe stick-use practices, we can turn what some see as a hazard into a valuable tool for creativity and exploration. It's about finding a balance between safety and allowing children the freedom to engage with the natural world in meaningful ways.

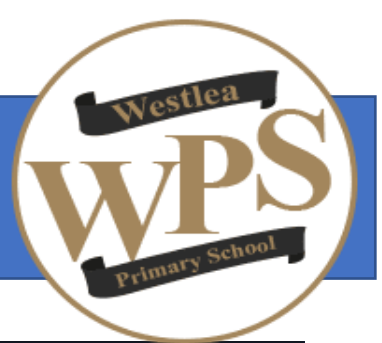


Sparking Imagination and Creativity

A stick is never just a stick. It can be transformed into anything a child desires, limited only by their imagination. This open-ended nature of stick play fosters creativity and problem-solving skills. When children engage in imaginative play with sticks, they learn to think outside the box, experiment with ideas, and invent new games and stories. This kind of play also allows kids to explore different roles and scenarios, helping them understand the world around them and their place in it.

In other news...

Digital guidance



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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