



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

Week of 24th November – Book fair and open nights

NEW: Friday 28th November: 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' Day- Bring Chocolate (KS1), Bottles (KS2)

3rd December – Festive Run AM

8th December – Christmas Fair

NEW: 9th December: Class 2 and Class 4: In school- nature experience workshop. (New, to replace cancelled trip)

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 – KS1 and Lower KS2 Christmas Party

17th December – EYFS Christmas Party

18th December – Christmas Dinner and Jumpers

19th December – PJs and singalong



Hello Everyone,

The weather can't stop enjoyment and learning at Westlea with lots of activities and enriching lessons happening across school. Next week, we look forward to our Book fair visiting school. This will be open to pupils, parents and carers every night after school next week (Monday-Thursday).

OPEN NIGHTS:

Open nights are Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th or Wednesday 26th this week. Your children's class teachers will have sent home a letter with the time and day for the appointment. This is a really important meeting where families and teachers can discuss your children's progress in learning and support they receive in school.

SNOW ARRANGEMENTS:

Thank you to everyone who braved the wintery weather this week – staff had paths across the school site gritted for access. In future any snowy days will be the same – field gate locked and access through breakfast club or key stage doors.

BOOKING NEW CLUBS BEGINNING IN JANUARY

New clubs will be available to book on to on Monday 1st December at 5pm. Remember all pupils need to be booked on to clubs to secure a place. Limited spaces are available. Parents and carers book these clubs on Parent Pay. Remember that all clubs are free of charge except for Football coaching by SAFC.

New clubs available to book for January...

Art for KS1

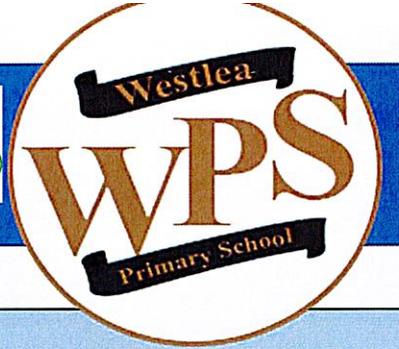
Art club KS2

Music and movement ks1

There will be a break from Gardening club and Netball club whilst the darker nights and wintery weather persists. These will reappear after Easter.

Mrs Scothern

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Award

Chloe (Y6) for displaying kindness and compassion towards a younger pupil.
Layton (Y6) for high quality mathematics work, showing determination and effort to succeed.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WE 21.11.25
Class 1	Poppy
Class 2	Nevaeh
Class 3	Ria
Class 4	Ben
Class 5	Sienna
Class 6	Ijaz
Class 7	Veronica
Class 8 and 9	Lilly and Layton

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 21.11.25
Class 1	Willow
Class 2	Kayden
Class 3	Danni-Leigh
Class 4	Amber
Class 5	Kianna
Class 6	Grace
Class 7	Caleb
Class 8 and 9	Mya and Malaya

Next week's Right of the week- Article 13 your right to have information

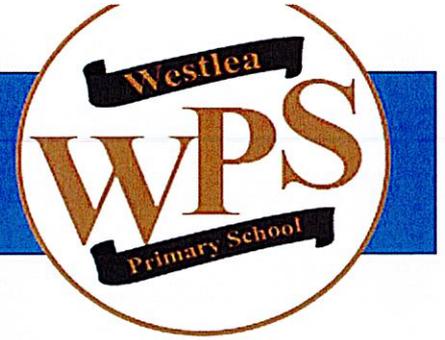
Character values: CARE		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Community	Compassion	Cooperation
Ambition	Actions	Achievement
Respect	Responsibility	Resilience
Enjoyment	Endeavor	Empowerment



Pupil discussions: This week we discussed our term's CARE values of Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment. All of the pupils were able to explain these values and give examples of how we work towards these values at school.



THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 21.11.25
Class 1	95.4%
Class 2	92.3%
Class 3	95.4%
Class 4	94.6%
Class 5	90.4%
Class 6	90.4%
Class 7	98.4%
Class 8/9	92.6%

Attendance Update

We will continue to use our Attendopoly board with the classes to encourage great class attendance. Your child's class rolls the dice if they collectively have an attendance over 96% (which is our school target).

The pupils really enjoy participating with the game and finding out what space they will land on and what extra treat that might be for the class!

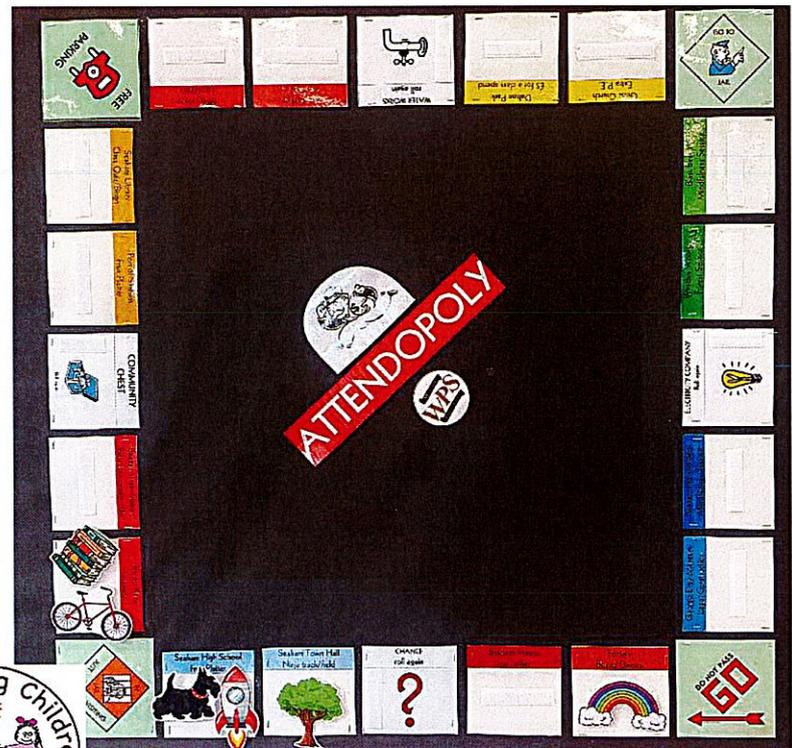
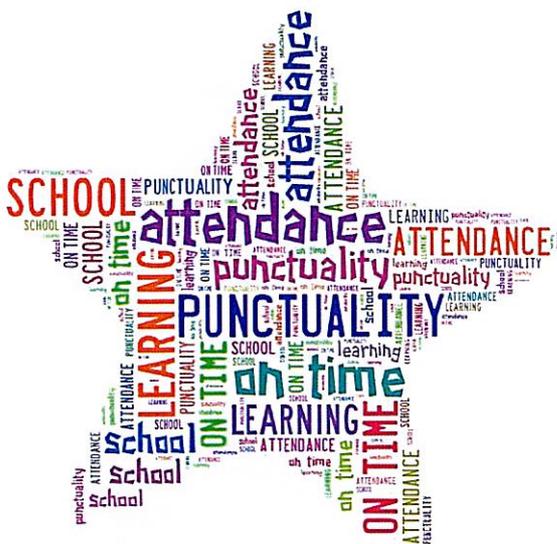
This week class 7 reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 21.11.25 is 94%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.8%

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



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.

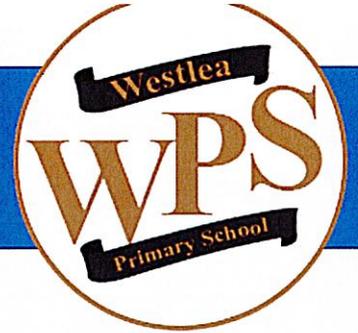
ATTENDOPOLY OUTCOMES THIS WEEK

Classes who rolled the dice this week won;

Class 7 – fruit platter

Y3/4 Indoor Athletics

Curriculum and learning



These amazing students smashed their ESPP indoor athletics competition at East Durham College. There was a combination of track and field events and after all of the 10 events Westlea came 2nd in the small schools category. Mr Bainbridge and Mr Unsworth were so proud of how you all took part showing great determination, enjoyment and teamwork. You are all a credit to our school. #sustainable excellence



Local athletics clubs to join

[HOME | Phoenix Flyers AC](#) (Belmont area)

[About | Chester le Street and District athletics club | England](#) (Chester-le-street)

[Houghton Harriers & AC – North East England Running and Athletics Club](#) (Houghton)

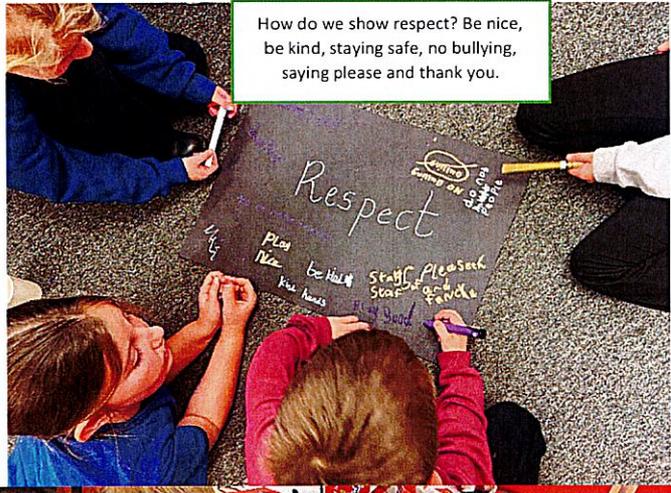
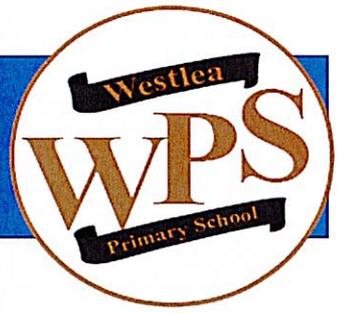
These clubs will train for cross country and

For more information click the link [About Sportshall Athletics - Sportshall Athletics introduction](#)

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS is an indoor form of track and field for children between the ages of 4 and 16. It was created by George Bunner MBE to provide a safe and warm environment for young athletes to train during the cold and dark winter months. Following Sportshall Athletics introduction it quickly developed into a new form of team competition and the first ever Sportshall competition took place in 1976 with the annual UK CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIPS being established in 1984.

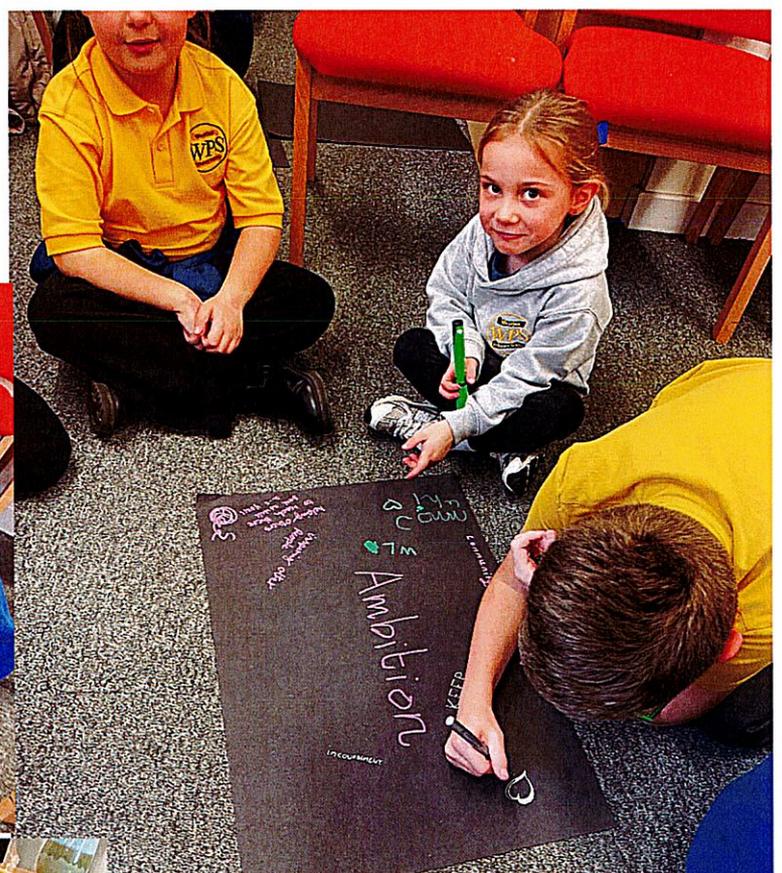
Today Sportshall is the largest competition within the School Games framework and with an estimated user-base of well over 1 million children, Sportshall has more participants than any other School Sport Competition. The programme focusses on fitness and multi-skill development providing a grounding for all sports. It is totally inclusive, encourages children to get fit and promotes friendship whilst having lots of fun. Additionally, Sportshall promotes a wide range of community benefits as it provides a focus for mums, dads and grandparents to actively come and support their children. Sportshall also provides a stepping stone into after-schools sporting activity.

In other news... Behaviour and attendance, Personal development: Pupil discussions



How do we show respect? Be nice, be kind, staying safe, no bullying, saying please and thank you.

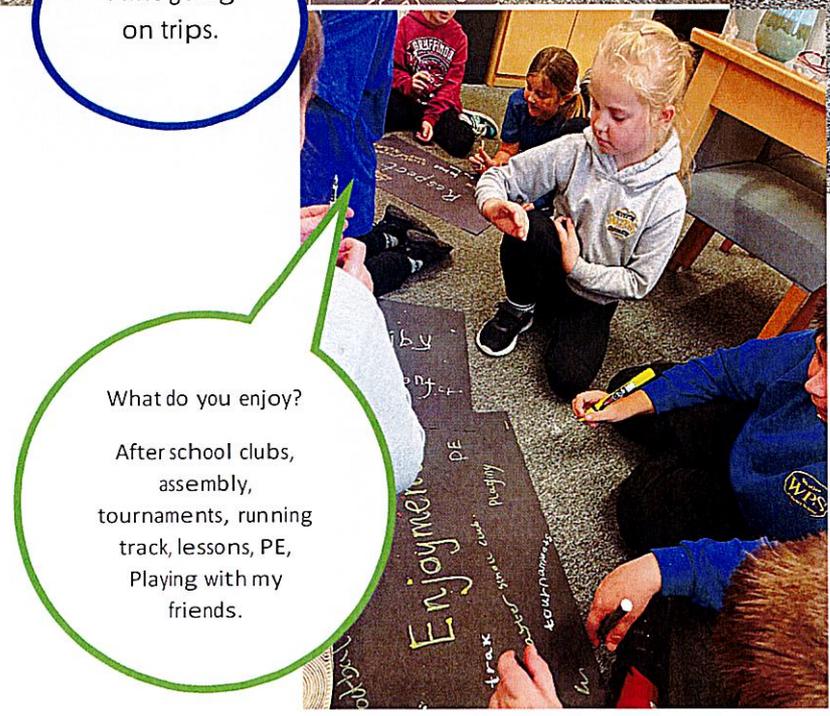
Head Teachers chat involved hot chocolate, a sweet treat and lots of collaboration. The pupils discussed this term's care values and talked about examples they have seen or do to show these values across school.



What was so lovely to see was all of the pupils no matter what age, supporting each other, talking to each other about the task and displaying respect for all.



I like going on trips.

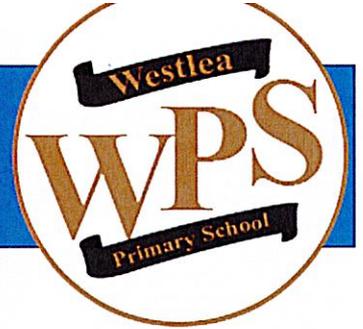


What do you enjoy?
After school clubs, assembly, tournaments, running track, lessons, PE, Playing with my friends.



In other news...Personal development, behaviour and attendance:

Community engagement



Greenscape – Two of our pupils have been working hard in the community where they attend Greenscape community garden project. Olli and Brock have been planting Holly trees around a wildlife area in Seaham. They helped look after our wildlife by refilling bird feeder stations and planted bulbs in a local park.



Staff vaccines – practitioner loved being back in our school – she commented that staff are so friendly and appreciable and everything is so well organised. She is a huge Harry Potter fan so loved spending time in our Harry Potter Room. Many thanks to our local pharmacy.

Mrs James went to London at the weekend to take part in a climate demonstration. Lots of climate groups gathered together to ask the Government to keep its promises on climate change and global warming.

A screenshot of a Facebook post from 'The Youth Hub' dated '1d'. The post is titled 'CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2025' and contains a heartfelt thank you message to children who donated toys. Below the text is a photo of children holding up toys and a sign that says 'Thank you' with a heart icon. Another sign in the photo says 'Christmas Toy Appeal 2025'.

The Youth Hub
1d · 🌐

🎄 CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2025 🎄

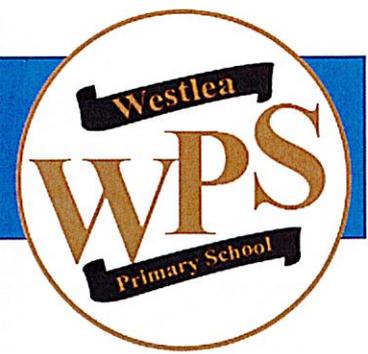
A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful Boulton children who selflessly saved their pocket money up and went shopping for toys to donate to Santa for our Christmas Toy Appeal. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will help make Christmas extra special for children who need it most, and we are truly grateful for your generosity 🙏🏻💖

Thank you 🤍

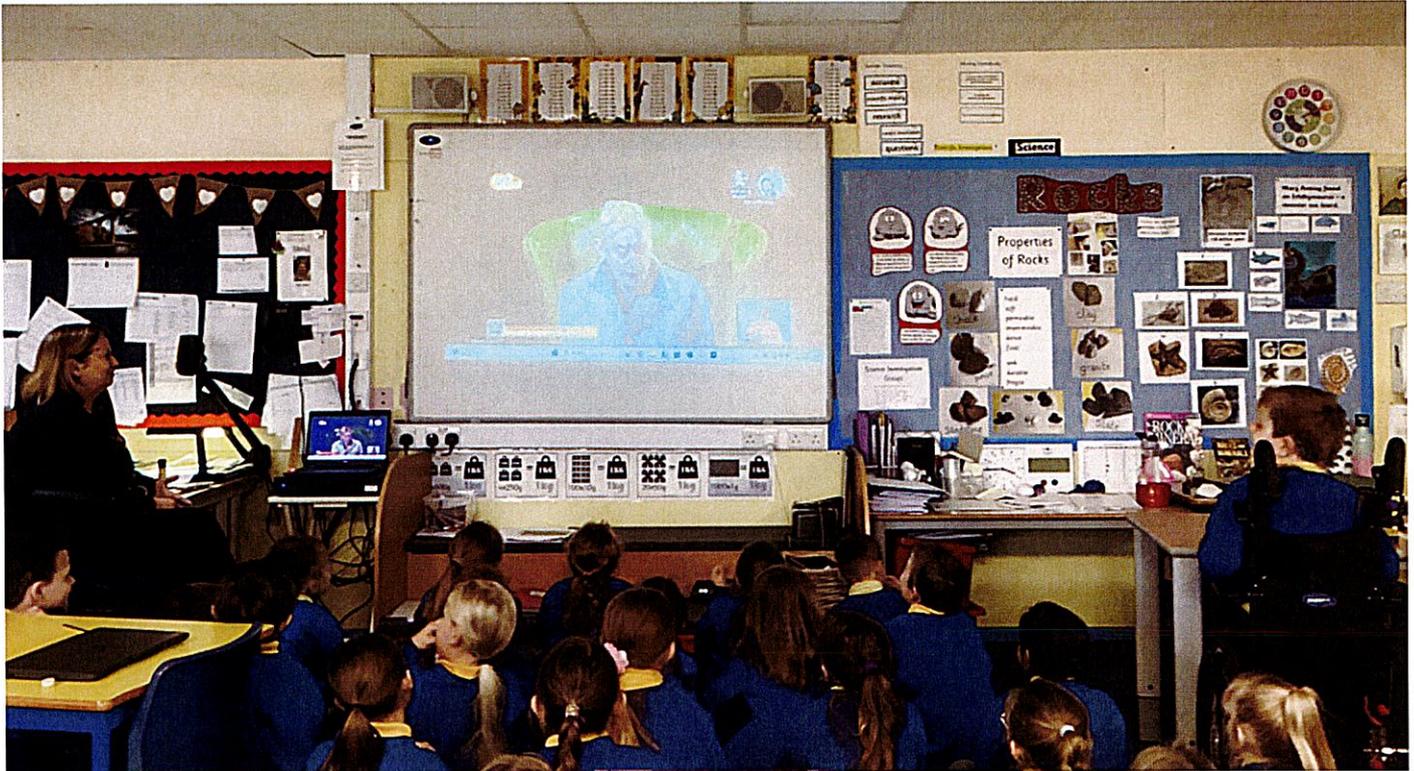
Christmas Toy Appeal 2025

In other news... Teaching and learning

C5 Live webinar event: Michael Rosen Day

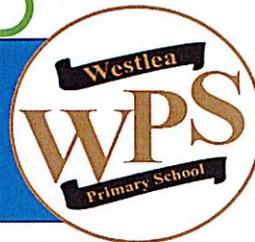


Year three took part in a webinar with Michael Rosen, a poet who writes funny poems about food. The children enjoyed listening to him recite some of his poems and even joined in with some of the words. They were all inspired to create short rhymes about food.



In other news... Teaching and learning, inclusion, achievement

Open nights and book fair



OPEN NIGHTS

Monday 24th

Tuesday 25th

Wednesday 26th

Which night and what time?

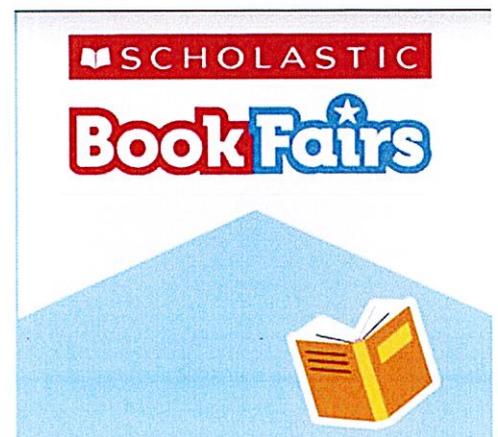
Each child has been given a letter with their appointment on. Please check and if unsure ask the class teacher.

Information for Book Fair arriving this week.

Book fair will be open to all pupils, parents and carers Monday-Thursday evenings after school. The payment process is cashless and requires to use of a qr code to access website and then enter payment details. Staff will be able to assist you with the process.

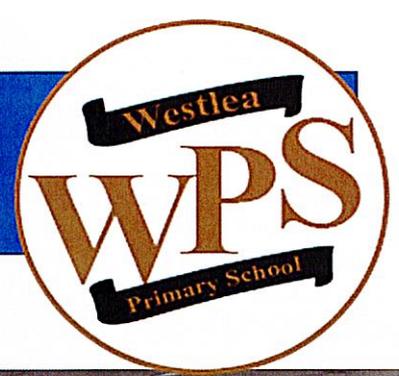
There is a range of books for all ages and stages of reading on show from Monday to Thursday.

They do sell out very quickly.



In other news...

Coastal workshops



Y6 workshop

Year 6 worked with Dorinda to learn about the work of **Durham Wildlife Trust** and all about our special **coastline**. Through this experience, they have deepened their understanding of the importance of **conservation**, protecting our **community** and **heritage** for future generations.

They completed a workshop called **Pollinator Detectives** where they found out about 6 insects and 5 plants indigenous to our area.



Nursery workshop

Our visitor from Durham called Dee explained about **looking after our wildlife during winter**. It's too cold for birds to hunt on the hard ground so we made **bird feeders**. We covered pine cones in soy butter and seeds.



focus

Exploration and language development

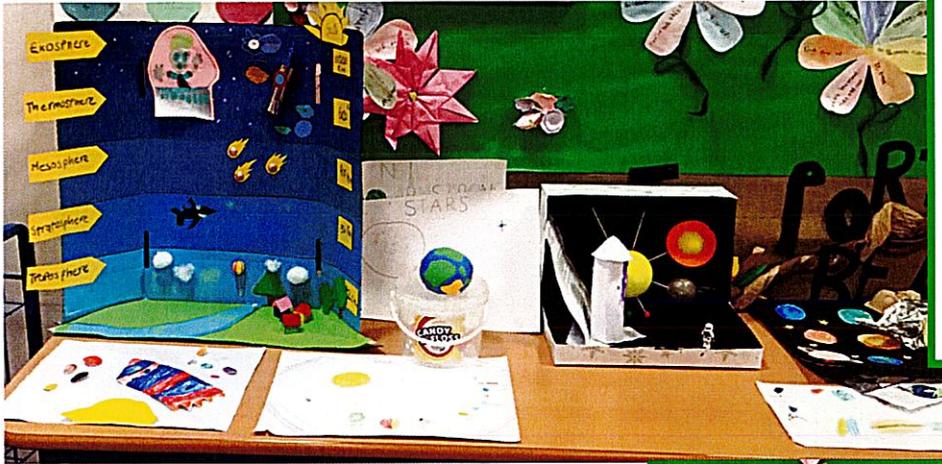
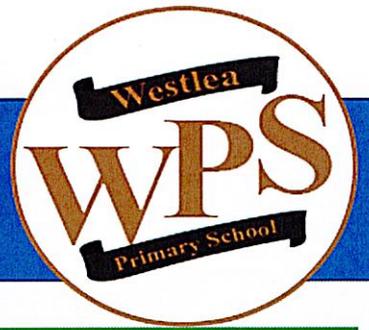


Then we had time to make seed bombs out of clay and soil. We loved these activities and got to hang them in our outdoor area.

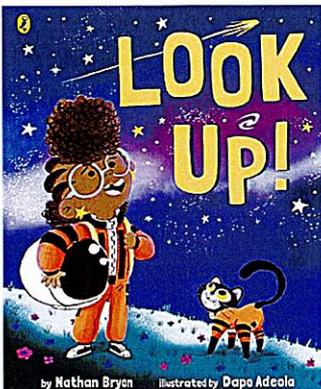


enjoyment

In other news... Teaching and learning Class 4 projects

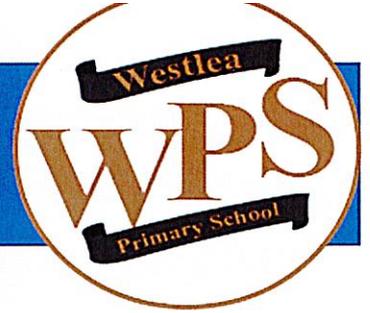


Class 4 began their topic of Exciting Explorers. They produced some beautiful art work and creative models. Pupils work about space, learning facts about space travel and the solar system. These are currently on display in the main hall for everyone in school to view and enjoy. Thanks to everyone at home for their support.



Class 4 enjoyed spending time with their families to produce these amazing projects.

In other news...



**'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' Day at
Westlea Primary School 2025
Friday 28th November**

When do you put your Christmas tree up? Do you wait for December? Have you already begun your festive cheer? At Westlea, we are putting **our big tree up** and the **lights will be turned on for Friday 28th November**. We will do this together in assembly- a very special moment to share together.

This will also be the day that each **class puts their tree up** and we will also start to create **Winter/Christmas craft**.

Our **Winter post box** will also be open from this day. If your child would like to send Christmas cards to their friends and teachers they write them at home and then can come to school and post them in our school post box. (Please remember to put the class number and full name on the envelope.)

On this day we would love for pupils to come to school in uniform but bring with them some **Christmas cheer**. Either come to school with **chocolate** of some kind or a **bottle**. These will help us for our Christmas Fair (chocolate and bottle tombola). Christmas donations for raffle prizes would also be greatly received.

Christmas Fair stalls will include: cakes, tombola's, raffle, refreshments and guess the name.



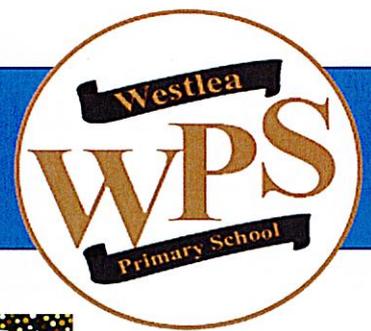
**Christmas fair 8th
December**

If anyone would like to hold a free community stall at the fair please contact the school office – we would welcome crafts/gifts etc but are unable to accommodate food stalls. Thank you

In other news...

Working with our community

Christ church



In other news...

Working with our community

Public Health message

Hello

Do you live in East Durham and have a child aged 0–5 or 12–15 years?

We are looking to understand all views on routine childhood vaccinations, including from parents and carers who may feel unsure, or hesitant to vaccinate their children.

We want to hear your thoughts, concerns, and experiences so we can better support families and improve local services. The survey should take 5-10 minute to complete.

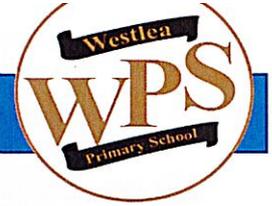
<https://ourorganisation.welcomesyourfeedback.net/g9d40/>

Many Thanks

Suzanne Richardson
Public Health Advanced Practitioner

Safe Guarding

E-Safety guidance



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right in front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications on our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

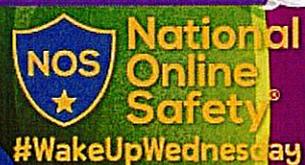
Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



Source: <https://www.gov.uk/topics/online-safety/online-safety-for-parents-and-carers>, <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com>, <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-and-carers>, <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-and-carers/parents-and-carers>



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