

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 use these values throughout the term.

Our new CARE values are; **COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY** and **ENDEAVOUR**

KEY DATES

JANUARY

- 14th Y3 (Class 5) Pedestrian training
- 15th Special menu – pizza party
- 21st Y3 Pedestrian training
- 26th to 29th Y5 (Class 7) Bikeability
- 30th Y4 (Class 6) Bikeability
- 30th Class 3 Parent assembly 2pm

FEBRUARY

- 4th Year 4 (Class 6) Parent Assembly 2pm
- 9th – 15th Children’s mental health week
- 10th Energy futures workshops
- 11th School Photographs
- 12th Year 1 Multiskills @ edc
- 13th Special menu – valentines
- 13th Year 5 (Class 7) Parent assembly 2pm
- 17th Special menu pancake day

Half term holiday break up 20th return 2nd

March

MARCH – CAREERS MONTH

- 3rd Wellbeing festival
- 5th World book day
- 10th Basketball competition and festival tbc
- 11th Class 4 parent assembly 2pm
- 18th Nursery ladies day
- Week of 23rd March – Open Nights and egg competition

- 26th Year 3 (Class 5) parent assembly 2pm
- 27th When I grow up day

APRIL

- 2ND April – Colour run AM
- Easter holiday – break up Thursday 2nd return 20th

Week of 27th Mock SATs Y6

Welcome back everyone, and **Happy New Year!**

We hope you all had a lovely holiday break filled with rest, fun, and time with family and friends.

The children have returned with big smiles and lots of energy, and we are excited to begin a **new term of learning, creativity, and friendship** together. This term will be full of engaging lessons, new topics, special events, and plenty of opportunities for the children to grow and shine.

Our Spring Term CARE values are; **COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY** and **ENDEAVOUR**. Throughout this term, our curriculum and experiences at school will provide opportunities in which to live out these values in school.

A gentle reminder to help children settle back into routines:

- Arrive at school on time each day (Doors open at 8:30am and school begins at 8:45am).
- Remember follow uniform guidelines
- Remember reading books, homework, and PE kits (You child’s class See-saw page will be useful for reminders)
- Encourage plenty of sleep and healthy breakfasts

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a **fantastic term ahead** and can’t wait to share all the wonderful learning with you.

Let’s make 2026 a great year at school!
Mrs Scothern

Guess the number of baubles on the Christmas Tree

Class	Estimate
1	555
2	367
3	301
4	382
5	259
6	256
7	224
8	180
9	363



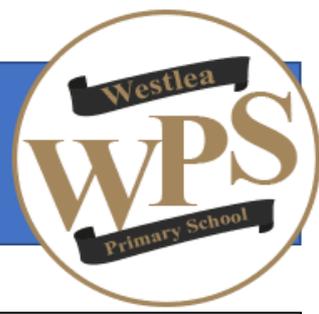
A Wonderful Christmas Present!

Congratulations to Mrs Roberts and her family on the birth of Holly, born 24th December. We send you all of our love and best



The official number of Christmas baubles on our tree was...
283! Well done to Class 3 with the nearest estimate!

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 09/01/26
Class 1	96.4
Class 2	99.2
Class 3	98.1
Class 4	98.5
Class 5	95.2
Class 6	89.6
Class 7	95.8
Class 8/9	93.9

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 4 classes reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 09/01/26 is 95.7%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.3%

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



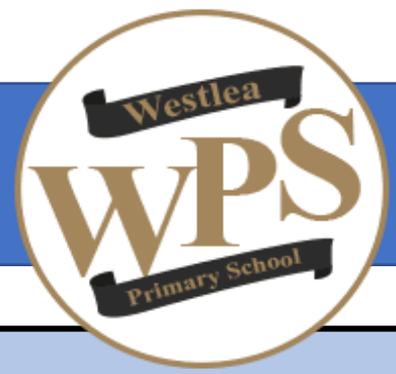
SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

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;
- Class1 – Extra art time
- Class2 – Board games
- Class3 – Bingo/quiz
- Class4 – Cookery session

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Award

Veronica (Y5): For displaying kindness and compassion to younger pupils in Breakfast Club.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

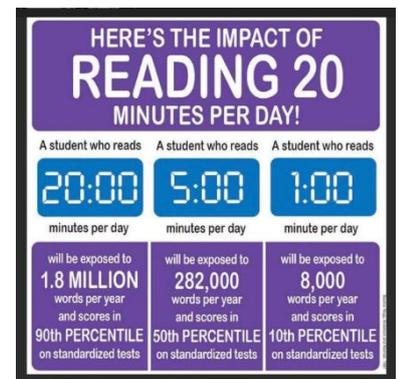
	WE 09/01/26
Class 1	Paisley
Class 2	Kayden
Class 3	Layton
Class 4	Ella
Class 5	Blake
Class 6	Arthur
Class 7	Mace
Class 8 and 9	Carson, Harper and Lilly C

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 09/01/26
Class 1	Misty
Class 2	Ava
Class 3	Lucas
Class 4	Clara
Class 5	Amelia B
Class 6	Magnus
Class 7	Evan
Class 8 and 9	Nirvana and Addison

Next week's Right of the week- Article 12 – we have the right to be listened to

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



Pupil discussions:

2026 is the Year of Reading

Pupil discussions this week have been with a selection of Year 4 and Year 3 pupils. We talked about reading, our favourite books and authors, and opportunities to read in school and at home.

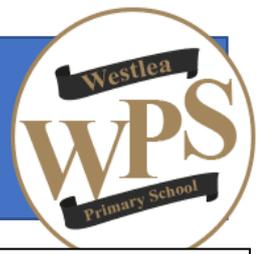
Take a look at the impact of a child reading or being read to for 20mins every day.

Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are... COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR

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...

Quality of Education



Every month we will be sharing information about recognised artists, musicians, and scientists through our newsletter and also during lessons and assemblies. This is one of many strategies used to enrich the curriculum and broaden student horizons, building cultural capital and representation.

Artist of the
Month

January



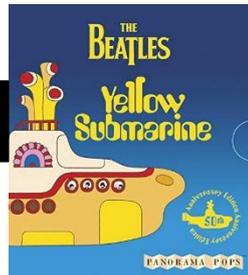
Wassily Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky (born December 16, 1866 – died December 13, 1944) was a famous Russian painter and art thinker. Many people see him as one of the first artists to create **abstract art**. Abstract art does not show things that look real. Instead, it uses shapes, colours, and lines to express feelings or ideas.

Musician of the
Month

January

The Beatles



The Beatles were a famous English **rock** band. They started in **Liverpool, England** in 1960. The main members were **John Lennon**, **Paul McCartney**, **George Harrison**, and **Ringo Starr**. Many people believe they are the most successful and important band in **popular music** history. They helped shape the **1960s counterculture**.

The band began by playing skiffle and beat music. They were inspired by American **rock and roll** from the 1950s. Later, they added sounds from **classical music** and **Indian music** to their songs. John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote most of their hit songs together.

Top hits included:
Twist and Shout
Help!
Live and Let Die
All you need is Love



Scientist of the
Month

January

Mae Jemison



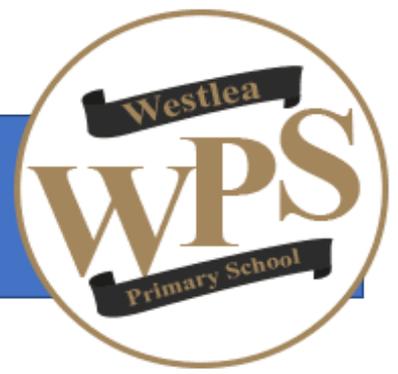
Mae Carol Jemison (born October 17, 1956) is an amazing American **engineer**, **doctor**, and former **NASA astronaut**. She made history by becoming the first **Black** woman to travel into space! She flew as a mission specialist aboard the **Space Shuttle Endeavour**. Mae Jemison joined NASA's astronaut team in 1987. She was chosen for the **STS-47** mission, where she orbited Earth for almost eight days, from September 12 to 20, 1992.



In other news...

Quality of Education

NEW! Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week



The power of learning is centre stage at Westlea. This year we are introducing certificates to recognise and promote the power of learning, particularly in key learning areas of reading, writing and mathematics. Every week, class teachers will now award a Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week. These awards will be selected by teachers and teaching assistants. The students will be given a certificate and a ticket which will be placed in a 3 separate boxes. One whole school winner from each box will be selected at the end of each term for a special prize.

*The **Writer of the Week Award** will be given to a student who has tried their best, shown improvement and progress, and had a positive attitude towards writing.*



*The **Reader of the Week Award** may be given to a student who reads consistently at home and school. Is showing progress in their reading, phonics learning, reading fluency, reading with expression. Reading comprehension and understanding of text.*

*The **Mathematician of the Week Award** will be given to a student who has tried their best, shown improvement and progress. Perhaps is using Numbots or TTRS at home and school and is applying their learning into their Maths lessons. They show a positive attitude towards maths lessons and their learning.*



CARE VALUES SPRING TERM: COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR

Spring Term CARE values



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

Every term we focus on four of our school CARE values. These values have been carefully selected to reflect, nurture, inspire and equip our pupils towards having a strong personal character. They are linked to personal characteristics and British values and will provide them with solid foundations to move onto the next steps of their learning and life's challenges.

The Spring term CARE values typically mean and how we help shape behaviour, character and the culture of our school community.

Compassion

Compassion means **showing kindness, understanding and care for others**.

At Westlea, it's about:

- Being **empathetic** — listening to others, understanding how they feel, and offering support.
- Showing **kindness and generosity**, especially to those who are struggling or need help.
- Treating everyone with **respect and dignity**, regardless of background or ability.

This value teaches pupils to be thoughtful and caring in their relationships and to contribute positively to the school community.

Actions

Actions refers to **putting values into practice** — doing the right thing, not just saying it.

In practice, this means:

- **Actively helping** others and participating positively in school life.
- Turning good intentions into **real behaviour** — for example, standing up for a peer being treated unfairly, helping to tidy up, or contributing to a team project.
- Understanding that **behaviour counts** and that positive actions help build a supportive school culture.

This value encourages students to be proactive and engaged, not passive bystanders.

Responsibility

Responsibility means **being accountable for your actions and choices**.

In school life, it involves:

- Taking **ownership of your learning** — doing homework, being organised, and striving to improve.
- Being **reliable** — keeping promises, following school rules, and recognising the impact your actions have on others.
- Looking after the **school environment** and contributing to a safe, respectful community.

This value helps pupils develop maturity, integrity and independence

Endeavour

Endeavour is about **effort, persistence and striving to do your best**.

It means:

- **Working hard** even when something is difficult.
- Developing a **growth mindset** — believing that effort leads to improvement.
- Showing **determination and resilience** in schoolwork, activities, and personal goals.

Endeavour teaches students that success comes through consistent effort, not just talent or luck.

Why These Values Matter at Westlea Primary School

Together, these CARE values help build a **positive school culture** where children learn not just academically but also socially and morally. Westlea Primary use such values to:

- Support **behaviour expectations** and shape how pupils treat one another.
- Promote **character development**, preparing students for life beyond school.
- Create a sense of **community and shared purpose** among pupils

In other news...

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB AFTER EASTER



Funded by
UK Government



FREE
BREAKFAST
CLUBS

Our school has been successful in our recent application to join the free breakfast club programme. Schools across the country are being funded by the Government to provide access to a free, universal breakfast club for all primary-age pupils, from Reception to Year 6.

From the **first day of Summer term 2026 (after Easter)**, we will be delivering a **free universal breakfast club**.

To access the free breakfast club children **MUST arrive at 8am** at the scooter park doors - we cannot accept late arrivals or anyone entering via any other doors.

Children MUST eat breakfast on site and have prebooked their space via ParentPay a week in advance. The free provision is for breakfast not childcare so children must have breakfast in school and we cannot accommodate any pupils who are not booked in via parentpay.

Breakfast will be served at 8am and then educational activities provided (there will be no internet access during the breakfast session)

Any previous paid breakfast sessions must have been paid for in full before the free sessions can be accessed.

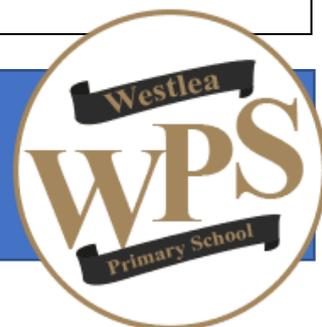
Please could you complete the survey below so we have an idea of interest. [YOU CAN BOOK THESE FREE SESSIONS VIA PARENTPAY FOR AFTER EASTER.](#)

[Free breakfasts club - Register your interest \(Copy\) – Fill out form](#)

Our paid breakfast club will continue until Easter.

In other news...

Welcome to Nursery!



Where the adventure begins...

[Home - Westlea Primary School](#)

Welcome to our new friends in the Nursery.

Geovy, Jacques, Grace and Albie started in Nursery/EYFS this week. We are so happy to have you at our school and can't wait to see how you develop.

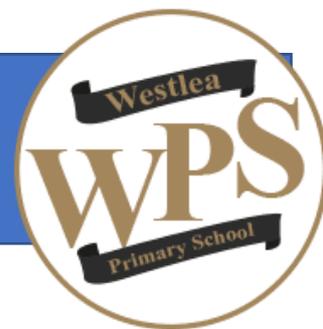


We still have limited places available in our Nursery... if you are interested in visiting the school or Nursery, please contact the office 5813658.

In other news...

Quality of Education

KS1 Art Club

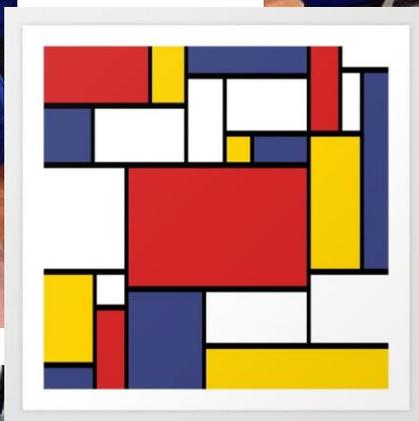
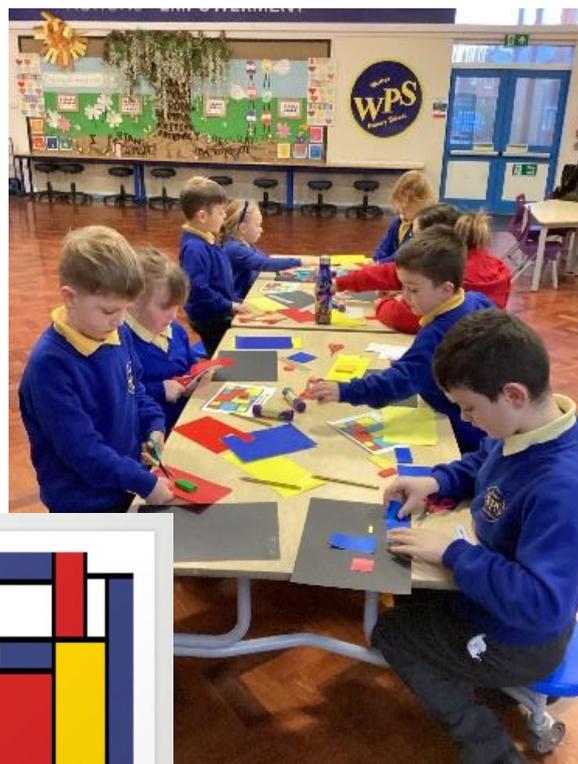


Our after-school clubs and activities began again this week. It has been lovely to hear the enjoyment and excitement of the pupils as they take part.

We have some new clubs this term, with Ks1 and KS2 being offered Art Clubs. Look at what the KS1 Art Club got up to this week!

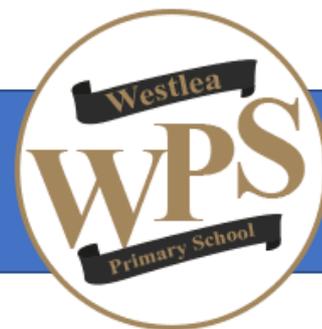
Lots of fun and excited voices could be heard at KS1 Art Club. Our budding artists were shown abstract art from Piet Mondrian, a Dutch artist.

The pupils then went on to create Mondrian inspired art work. The focus on this was geometric shapes, primary colours and a grid like composition. His work emphasizes simplicity and balance, making it an excellent introduction to abstract art for children.



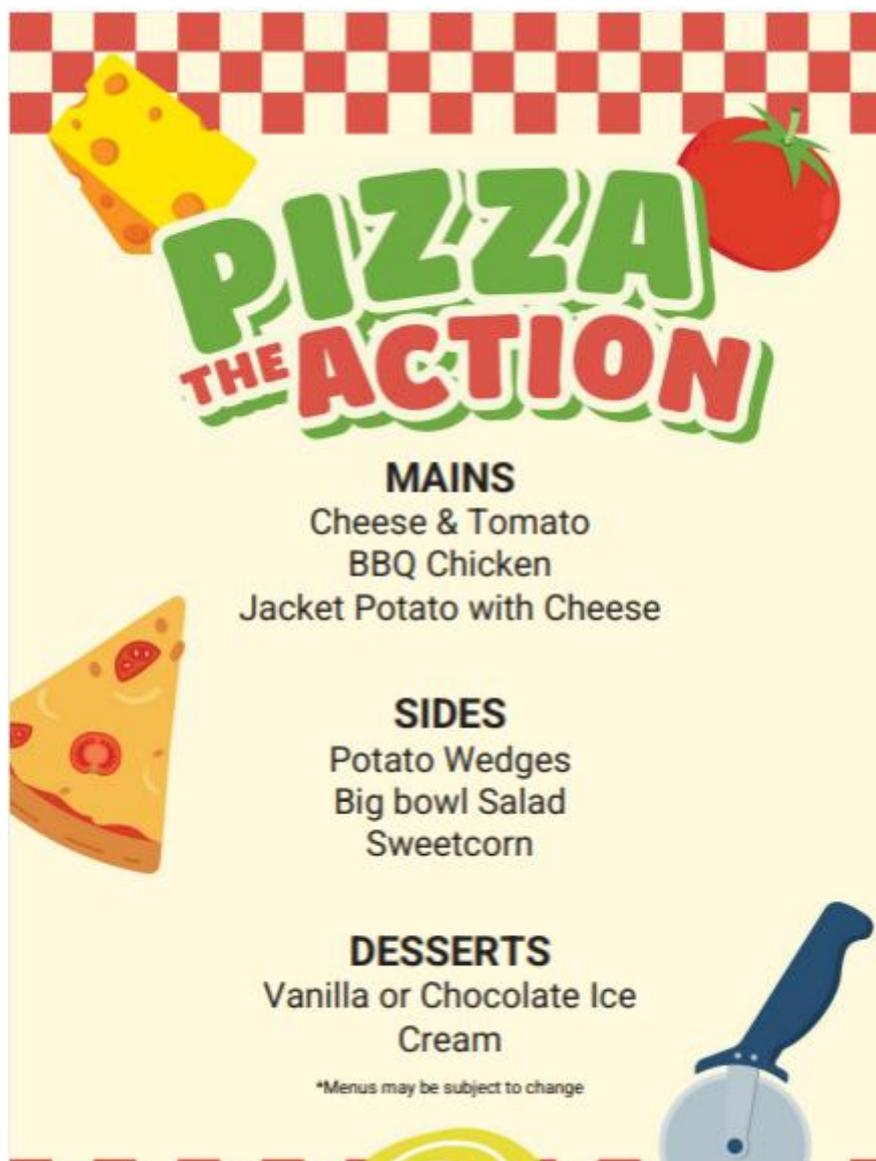
In other news...

Special Menu Pizza Party



Thursday 15th of January will be a Chartwells special menu day – we are having a pizza party!

All pupils are welcome to stay for lunch on this day, even if they are usually packed lunch.

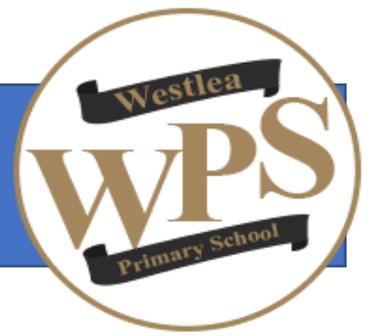


FREE SCHOOL MEALS... HOW DO WE CHECK TO SEE IF MY FAMILY CAN ACCESS THIS?

All reception, year1 and year 2 pupils are entitled to a free meal each day. Nursery and Key Stage Two can pay via parentpay if not in receipt of benefit based free meals. If you would like to apply for free meals please contact the office – they will need the surname, date of birth and national insurance number of the parent/carer in receipt of benefits.

In other news...

Community News




FOOTBALL

LITTLE DRIBBLERS

3-5 YEARS

DAYTIME SESSIONS

- **MONDAY** | Beacon of Light, SR5 1SN 10.15 – 11am
- **TUESDAY** | Bede Tower, SR2 7EA 10.15 – 11am
- **WEDNESDAY** | Glebe Centre, SR7 9DX 10.15 – 11am
- **THURSDAY** | Eastlea Community Centre, SR7 8DX 10.15 – 11am
- **FRIDAY** | Beacon of Light, SR5 1SN 1.45 – 2.30pm

SCAN QR TO BOOK

A PLACE WHERE SMALL STEPS MAKE BIG MEMORIES



FOOTBALL

MINI DRIBBLERS

18 MONTHS-3 YEARS

DAYTIME SESSIONS

- **MONDAY** | Beacon of Light, SR5 1SN 9.30 – 10.15am
- **TUESDAY** | Bede Tower, SR2 7EA 9.30 – 10.15am
- **WEDNESDAY** | Glebe Centre, SR7 9DX 9.30 – 10.15am
- **THURSDAY** | Eastlea Community Centre, SR7 8DX 9.30 – 10.15am
- **FRIDAY** | Beacon of Light, SR5 1SN 1 – 1.45pm

SCAN QR TO BOOK

A PLACE WHERE SMALL STEPS MAKE BIG MEMORIES

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1089333

In 2026 Greenscape will be looking for **volunteers** to help with the running of its **community project.**

We now have our **community garden, wildlife walk and our new Bowling Green project.**

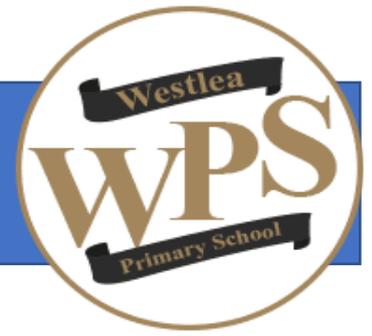
If you are interested in **gardening or wildlife, get in touch.**

Des Consitt
 Email greenscape16@btinternet.com
 Or via **Facebook or Messenger**

In other news...

Quality of Education

Decider Skills Year 5



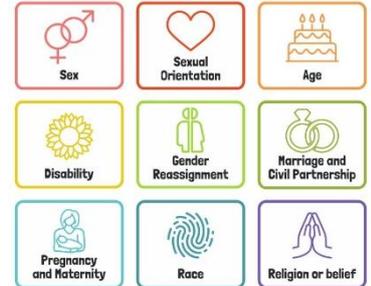
Westlea are delighted to be involved in supporting our pupils through the Decider Skills Program. This program is carried out by the Emotional Resilience Nursing Team and is delivered to Year 5 pupils.

Over a 6 week period, Year 5 pupils receive weekly sessions that will help them recognise and understand emotions with through learning a new 'decider skill' every week.

This Cognitive Behaviour Therapy helps to teach children, young people and adults the skills to recognise their own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, enabling them to monitor and manage their own emotions and mental health.

We look forward to welcoming the team into school this half term.

Protected Characteristics



REMINDERS FOR YEAR 4 AND YEAR 5 PARENTS/CARERS:
Bikeability please sign up asap as there is a cut-off date

Link for year 5 <https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/worry-sis-grass>

Link for year 4 <https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/will-wall-hay>

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- ### 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling' – trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.
- ### 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.
- ### 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.
- ### 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.
- ### 5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.
- ### 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.
- ### 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- ### 8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.
- ### 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.
- ### 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Inasley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.

[Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media)

[@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds) [/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.facebook.com/www.thenationalcollege) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wake.up.weds)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.12.2024

From the Children's' commissioner for England

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)