



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; COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR

Hello Everyone,
This week we are delighted to have received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, that **praises the expectational quality of the education** we provide and recognises that **our work is amongst the best nationally** in ensuring that **all pupils achieve well**, whatever their background or starting point.

KEY DATES

JANUARY
26th to 29th Y5 Bikeability
30th Y4 Bikeability
30th Class 3 Parent assembly 2pm

FEBRUARY
3rd Class 4 Reading Stay and Play (pm)
4th Class 6 Parent Assembly 2pm
5th Class 2 Reading Stay and Play (pm)
6th Class 1 Reading Stay and Play (pm)
9th Class 3 Reading Stay and Play (pm)
9th Class 5 Reading Stay and Play (am)
9th – 15th Children’s mental health week
10th Energy futures workshops
11th School Photographs
12th Class 6 Reading Stay and Play (am)
12th Year 1 Multiskills @ edc
13th Special menu – valentines
13th Class 7 Parent assembly 2pm
17th Special menu pancake day
18th Classes 8 and 9 Reading Stay and Play (am)
19th Class 7 Reading Stay and Play (am)

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 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

Come to our Reading Cafes @WPS!

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Westlea Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school’s performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school’s achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region’s RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and **congratulations** to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

*Your sincerely,
Bridget*

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education

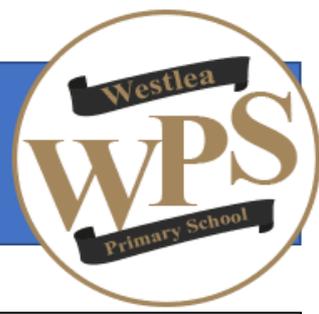
This week’s subject spotlight is Mathematics in Year 1. Find out about Year 5’s bikeability and the pupil’s views on this experience. In addition, Year 6 and Year 5’s thought evoking peer pressure workshop and what enriching experiences our pupils have after school in KS2 Multi-skills club.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES:

We begin our series of Class assemblies for 2026 and who better to start with but the amazing pupils from Class 3. Class assemblies give the pupils an opportunity to practice and develop speaking for a different audience. They begin to communicate in a performing and informative way. Class 3’s assembly was all about New Year, New Starts. They shared their learning superbly. Read on to see how well they did!

Mrs Scothern

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 30/01/26
Class 1	92.5%
Class 2	95.7%
Class 3	98.4%
Class 4	95.4%
Class 5	88.9%
Class 6	96.4%
Class 7	94.7%
Class 8/9	98.4%

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 3 classes reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 30/01/26 is 95.1%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.4%

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at 95.5 %



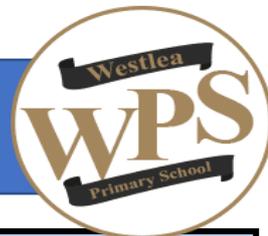
SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

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 3 – Just Dance
- Class 6 – Bingo/quiz
- Year 6 – Board games

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Award

The pupils who received Head Teacher's awards this week are all taking positive ACTION, that results in a positive impact for themselves and others.

Congratulations to Year 4 pupils, **Poppy, Charlotte and Daisy** for passing on their love of knitting and thinking of others. These pupils are setting up (with the help of adults in their class) a knitting club for members of their class to enjoy. They displayed team work, debating skills and self-confidence when they pitched this idea to me earlier in the week. They then had to explain and negotiate timings and equipment etc with their class adults.

Well done to **Jayden C (Year 2)** impressing all of the adults in his class and around school with his superb attitude towards everything in school, his learning and how treats people.

Shout out for **William (Year 5)** for displaying kindness and positivity towards a friend this week.



INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WE 30/01/26
Class 1	Skye
Class 2	Flynn
Class 3	Koen
Class 4	Jayden
Class 5	Esmae
Class 6	Magnus
Class 7	Tyler M
Class 8 and 9	Jacob and Oakley

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 30/01/26
Class 1	Eleanor
Class 2	Indy
Class 3	Laynee
Class 4	Hallie
Class 5	Blake
Class 6	Joah
Class 7	Ella E
Class 8 and 9	Harper and Lilly C

**Next week's Right of the week-
Article 24 – We have the right to good food and water**

Character values: CARE

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



Pupil discussions: Focus: What we like about our learning in school.

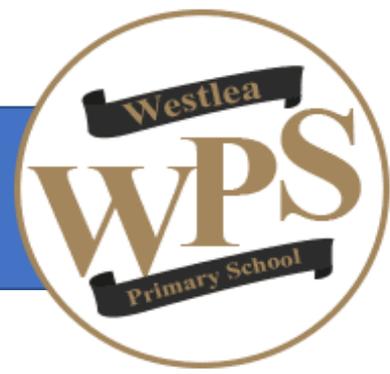
The pupils were able to explain that they enjoy all of the fun activities in lessons and across the week. That lessons are interesting and different across a day and gave examples of their favourite subjects and why. It was lovely to hear the broad selection of subjects that the children experience and enjoy. Lots of the children enjoy school because of the friends they have here and they enjoy and value playing and playtime activities. I asked them if they thought our school rules were fair and if they thought that adults dealt with any problems they may have. They said yes and gave examples of how adults have sorted things for friends or themselves.

43-54
HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

In other news...

Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week



Reader of the week:

- Class 1 – Annie
- Class2 - Nevaeh
- Class3 - Senirosi
- Class4 - Ruby
- Class5 - Mia
- Class6 – Oscar R
- Class7 - Veronica
- Year6 – Maggie and Dylan

Well done to these students. They will all be entered into the end of term draw.

Keep up your great learning attitude.

Writer of the week:

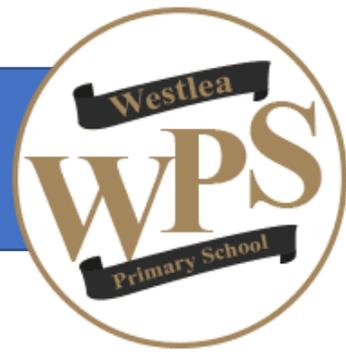
- Class 1 - Malachi
- Class2 – Niyah
- Class3 - Blake
- Class4 - Ben
- Class5 - Morgan
- Class6 - Archie
- Class7 - Ivery
- Year6 – Abbi and Emily

Mathematician of the week:

- Class 1 - Amelia
- Class2 - Tyson
- Class3 - Brock
- Class4 - Frankie
- Class5 - Archie
- Class6 -Erica
- Class7 - Paisley
- Year6 – Nirvana and Bronson

Quality of Education

Class 3's Curriculum Assembly

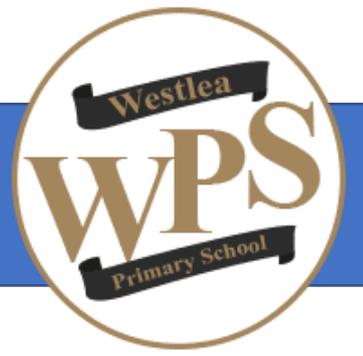


Mrs Davey said, "All of the children shared their new years' resolutions and thought about what would help them improve. They impressed everyone with their knowledge of the months of the year, using British Sign Language and sang a range of fabulous songs."



Quality of education and Personal Development

Year 5 Bikeability



It helped me to be a safer rider.
William

Well done to the Year 5 cyclists.
Your excellent behaviour and
bravery in giving things a go was
lovely to witness and hear about.



It taught me how to keep safe.
Sophiya



I thought it was so fun and
made me feel so confident.
Carter



It educated me about how to look after
my bike.
Ava



It was awesome!
Hugo

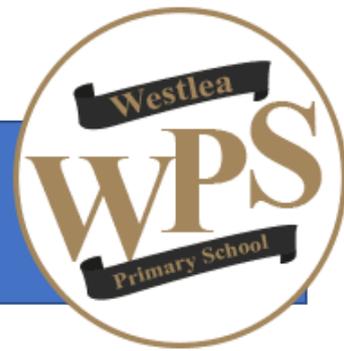


Quality of education and Personal Development

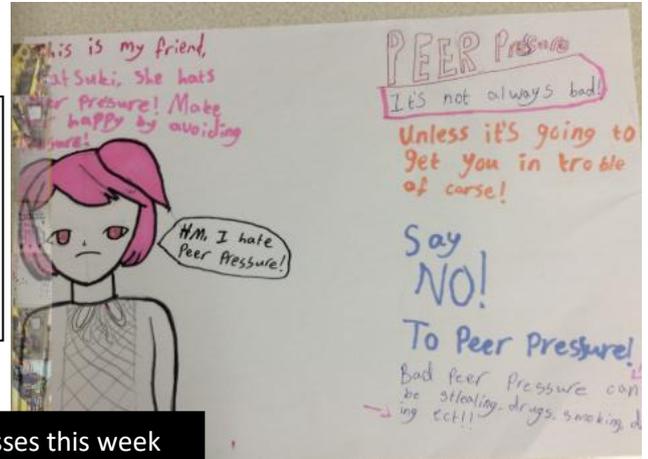
PSHE

Year 5 and Year 6

Peer Pressure Workshop



At WPS we believe it is vital for pupils to hear safety messages from many different agencies and charities. These learning moments create stronger experiences that hopefully stay with them for the future.

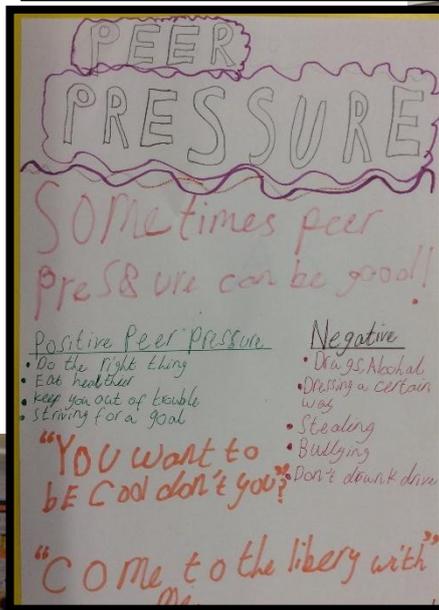


Year 5 and Year 6 classes this week had an important workshop all about PEER PRESSURE. They produced some great posters and gave insights into their learning.

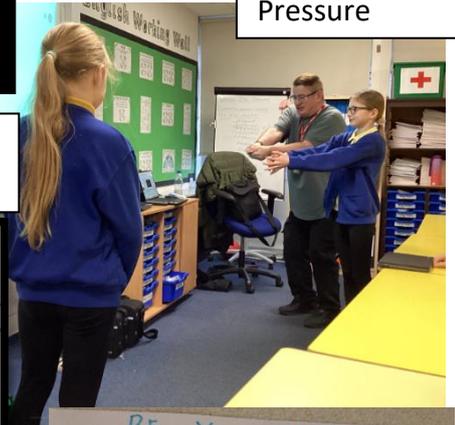
It taught me to stick to what I know is right - Ella L

In the Peer pressure workshop, we discussed exactly what is classed as peer pressure. We talked about different situations which the children found themselves in where they felt they were being forced to do something. We discussed how to say 'no' politely but firmly. We also discussed that we can have positive and negative peer pressure. Positive peer pressure involved friends, encouraging us to be able to do something for us to be able to achieve. (Mrs Reed)

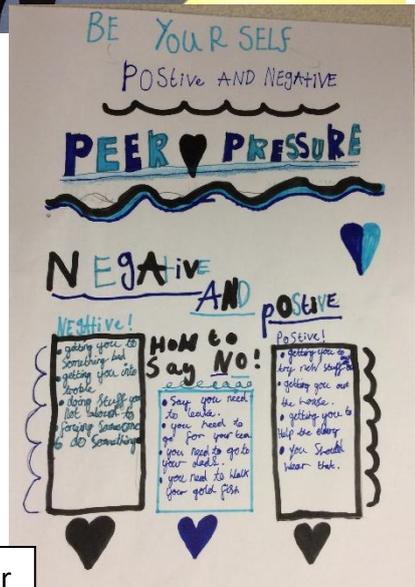
I now know about good and bad peer pressure - Grace



Positive Peer Pressure



Peer pressure is NOT always a negative thing - Luka



Negative Peer Pressure

Don't listen to people who force you to do things, they are not your true friends - Jacob

In other news...

Attendopoly prizes



Class 2 cookery



Class 6 fruit platter



Creating our own sandwiches. We had choices of ham, cheese, cucumber and tomato. There was a lot of empty plates at the end of the session. Some of us thought the sandwiches were the best!



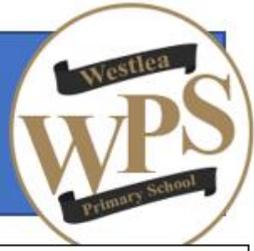
Class 4 Extra PE session



Year 6 cookery

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



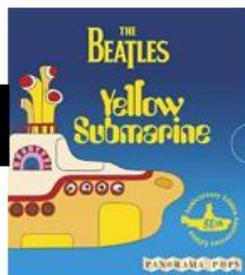
Wassily Kandinsky

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

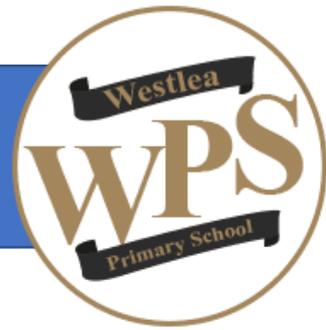
astronaut team in 1987. She was chosen for the **STS-47 mission**, where she orbited Earth for almost eight days, from September 12 to 20, 1992.



In other news...

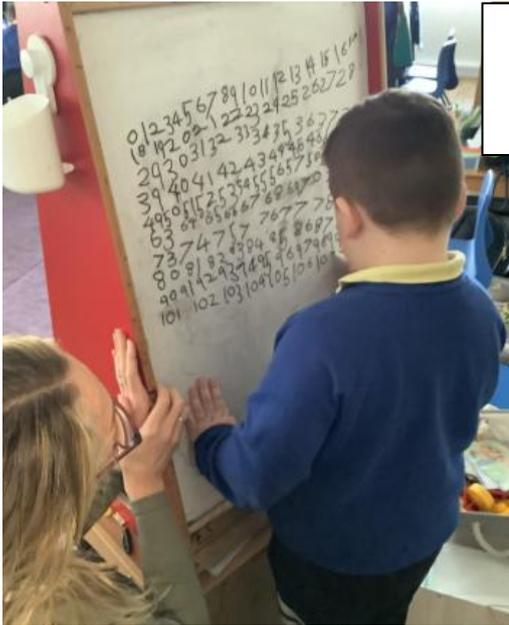
Quality of Education:

Early Mathematics Class 2



Early Mathematics: Skills Children Build in Primary School

In primary school, mathematics is about much more than learning numbers. Children develop a strong foundation of skills that support their learning across all subjects and in everyday life.



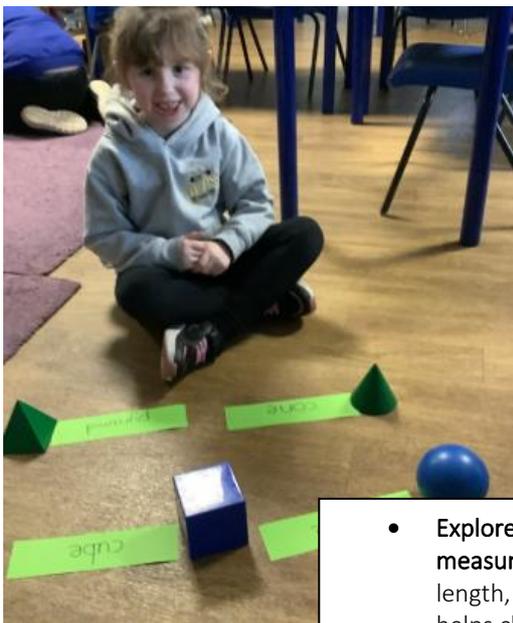
- **Recognise patterns and relationships** – identifying patterns supports later learning in arithmetic, algebra, and reasoning.



- **Understand numbers and quantities** – counting, comparing amounts, recognising number patterns, and developing number sense.

- **Build confidence and independence** – positive early experiences with maths encourage curiosity and a “can-do” attitude.

- **Develop problem-solving skills** – exploring different ways to solve simple problems builds confidence, resilience, and logical thinking.



- **Use mathematical language** – talking about size, shape, position, and order helps children explain their thinking clearly.

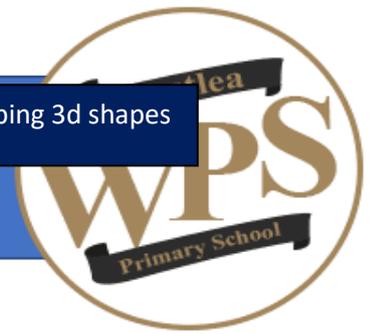
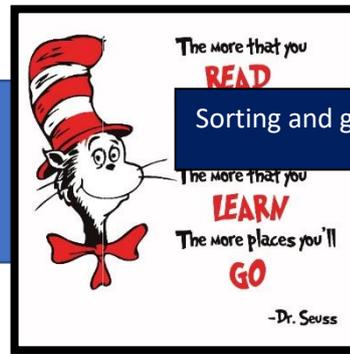
- **Explore shapes, space, and measurement** – understanding length, weight, time, and shape helps children make sense of the world around them.



By developing these early mathematical skills, children gain the foundations they need for future learning, while also strengthening their ability to think, reason, and solve problems in everyday situations.

In other news...

Reading focus: English Cafes

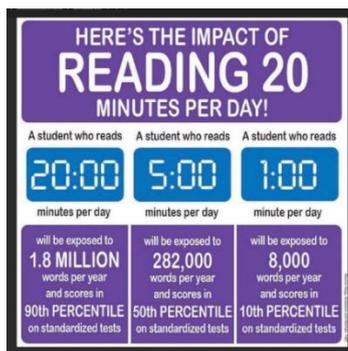


[Our book recommendations | BookTrust](#)

In February we are hoping to welcome all parents/carers in to school to work with your children to explore reading. The school is running a **Stay and Play reading workshop for every class** - quite similar to the maths cafés last year but without the outside agency running it and unfortunately no vouchers. The aim is to show you how to see reading opportunities in games, online reading platforms and fun five-minute activities that you can play with your child to support their learning. Focusing on reading and spelling in particular.

Reading with your child is crucial for the development of language skills, emotional intelligence, and a strong parent-child bond. It lays a foundation for academic success and lifelong learning by boosting vocabulary, imagination, empathy, focus, and providing comforting, distraction-free connection time.

We hope to see you there.



SAVE THE DATE		
Class	Date of cafe	Time
Class 1	6 th Feb	1:30-3PM
Class 2	5 th Feb	1:30-3PM
Class 3	9 th Feb	1:30-3PM
Class 4	3 rd Feb	1:30-3PM
Class 5	9 th Feb	9-10:30AM
Class 6	12 th Feb	9-10:30AM
Class 7	19 th Feb	9-10:30AM
Class 8 & 9	18 th Feb	9-10:30AM

How do I help my son, daughter, grandchild read?

What can I do to help them learn their spellings?

How can I instil a love of reading?

Come to the Westlea English Cafes for your child's class and find out some top tips and games/activities you can try at home.

Dear Parents & carers,

We are delighted to invite you to a Class 1 *Reading Stay & Play!*



Join us as we celebrate the National Year of Reading together.

This will be a lovely opportunity for you to come into school and spend time with your child enjoying a range of fun, hands-on, reading activities together.

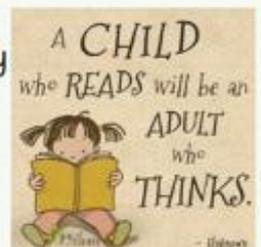
There will be stories to share, games to play and many chances to see how we support early reading in Reception.



Date: **Friday 6th February**

Time: **1.30pm**

Location: **Sports Hall**



We hope you can join us to celebrate the children's love of books and reading. Your involvement makes a huge difference, and the children are always so excited to share their learning with you!

We look forward to seeing you then.

The children and staff of Class 1

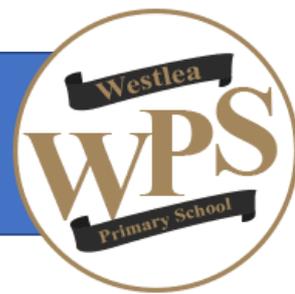


"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
- Richard Steele



In other news...

After-school club focus: KS2 Multi-skills Club



Multi-skills club is a fun filled inclusive club where Key Stage 2 pupils come together and develop many sporting skills as well as understanding the rules and health and safety, of games and sports. Over a half term of attending, pupils will have experienced and developed skills that are transferrable to many different types of sports and games. The pupils play dodgeball, soft archery, table tennis, boccia and when the weather and lighter nights arrive, they will be outside on the school field playing games. The pupils are active, make friends from other classes and year groups and build resilience and self-confidence to trying new activities.



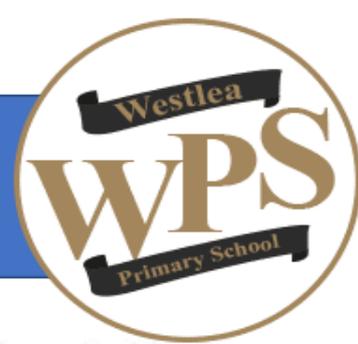


Why should my child come to an afterschool club?

Pupils...make friends, have fun, feel good about themselves. Build resilience and self confidence to give new activities a try. All of these activities build resilience for the future.



In other news...
Community News



BLF FOOTBALL CAMP



BradleyLoweryFoundation®



in association with Jermain Defoe

Is your child aged between 5 & 14?
Do they love football?

Our football camps are designed specifically around the FA's 4 corner model, aimed to develop your child's physical, technical/tactical, psychological and social skills.

Delivered by UEFA licensed coaches and current Sport Lecturers.

FOCUSING ON:

- ✓ Skills & ball techniques
- ✓ Footwork Experiences
- ✓ Strategy & team building activities
- ✓ Fun games and tournaments



Dates:

24th, 25th & 26th February 2026

Times:

9:30AM to 3:30PM

East Durham College

Willerby Grove, Peterlee, SR8 2RN

Prices

£20 per day

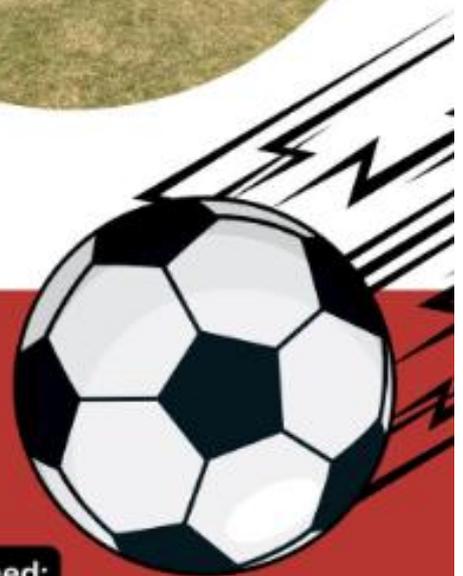
£50 for 3 days

Participants need:

Indoor & Outdoor Footwear,
Packed Lunch and a Drink.

Register at

www.bradleyloweryfoundation.com



HOLLYWOOD BOWL *Washington*

dadlg08@googlemail.com

26 FEBRUARY - 11 AM

£6 Per Child

£7 Per Adult

Include Food and a drink

Request placed by Friday 6th February

Payments due 13th February

The Galleries Retail Park, Washington,
NE38 7RZ



DATES
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEB
WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL
WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE

COSTS:
£ 5 PER ADULT
£3 PER CHILD

TIME TO BE CONFIRMED

INCLUDES GAMES & COLOURING IN

Payments Due ON CONFIRMATION EMAIL

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHICH DATE ASAP

**DALTON PARK,
MURTON, SEAHAM, SR7 9HU**



Email: dadlg08@googlemail.com

FUNSHACK

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

Monday 23rd February
6:00pm–8:00pm
£8 per young person

INCLUDES FOOD

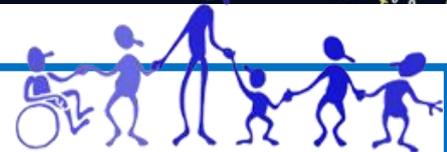
REQUEST PLACES BY FRIDAY 6TH
FEBRUARY

PAYMENT DUE, FRIDAY 13TH
FEBRUARY

1, HALL DENE WAY, SEAHAM, SR7 OPU



dadlg



Community News

Durham Area Disability Leisure Group or **DADLG** for short.

Have some brilliant sporting events and activities for families to access.

See their website for extra information

[Durham Area Disability Leisure Group – Providing sports, leisure & social opportunities for children and young people with disabilities living in Durham and the surrounding areas](#)

They are a registered charity that provides year-round opportunities for disabled children and their families to get together, meet new people, try new things and above all, have fun!

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

Top Tips for Adopting SAFE & HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children: from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep them safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here ...

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?



Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about "putting up with things" either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times; it's how we respond and adapt to those situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES



- ✓ Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- ✓ Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- ✓ On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- ✓ Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND

- ✓ Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- ✓ Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- ✓ Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- ✓ If you have a problem online, don't be afraid reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- ✓ Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- ✓ You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

PUT SAFETY FIRST



- ✓ If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- ✓ You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- ✓ Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app you were using.

GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD



- ✓ Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- ✓ Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- ✓ What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- ✓ If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person's being unkind online.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a registered counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, working in private practice to offer counselling to children, teenagers and young adults. She is the founder of Ingage support, a mobile app focusing on mental health awareness with the goal of providing resources and solutions to schools worldwide.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday