Ofsted Good Provider

ISSUE 37

13th February 2026

#SUSTAINABLEEXCELLENCE

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

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

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

It's been a busy and exciting time in Westlea Primary school, with lots of activities that support learning, wellbeing, and future aspirations. Here's a little snapshot of what our pupils have been learning and what exciting opportunities are coming soon.

This week we welcomed into school personal from Northern Gas with their Energy Futures workshops. The education team gave pupils a fascinating insight into the world of energy, sustainability, and future careers. Through hands-on activities and discussions, students explored how energy is produced, how it's changing, and the role they could play in shaping a greener future. The sessions were engaging, thought-provoking, and sparked some brilliant responses.

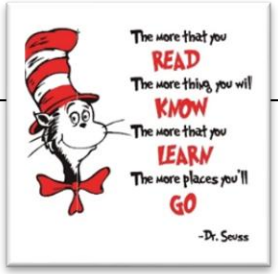
Our Parent/Carer **Reading Cafés** have been a huge hit! These relaxed, welcoming sessions give children and their adults the chance to enjoy books and literacy related activities in a calm, social environment. Thank you for all of the support for classes 1, 3 and 5 for attending and sharing stories, chatting about favourite characters, and discovering new books together has helped to build confidence, enthusiasm, and a genuine love of reading. The feedback has been very positive.

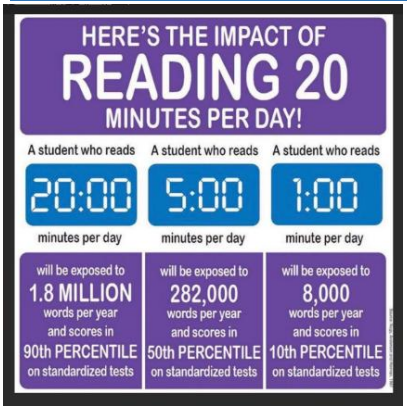
Say Cheese! It was smiles all round on **school photograph day**. Pupils looked incredibly smart and did a fantastic job lining up and listening carefully. We can't wait for families to see the results. These photos capture another special moment in the school year.

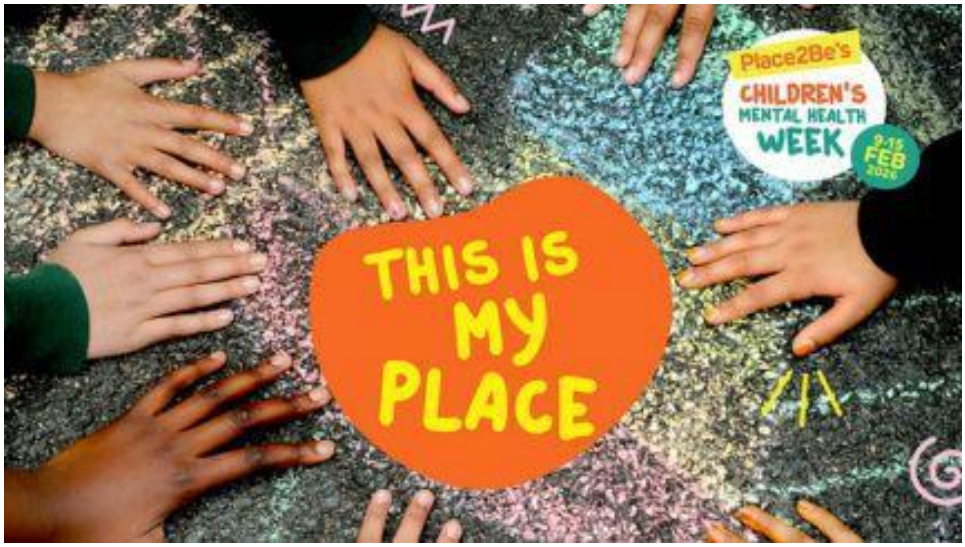
We were proud to take part in **Children's Mental Health Week**, focusing on the importance of wellbeing, kindness, and talking about our feelings. Through assemblies, classroom activities, and open conversations, pupils learned practical ways to look after their mental health and support one another. We discussed the themes of protected characteristics and British Values and the knowledge that 'This is my place.'

Looking ahead, we're excited about our **upcoming careers trips**, which will give pupils the opportunity to see different workplaces in action and learn more about the wide range of career paths available to them. These experiences are a brilliant way to connect classroom learning with the real world and inspire future ambitions.

Mrs Scothern







THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

	WE 13/02/26
Class 1	95.6
Class 2	95.7
Class 3	99.2
Class 4	96.2
Class 5	90.7
Class 6	96
Class 7	95.8
Class 8/9	97.4

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 4 classes reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 13/02/26 is 95.9%

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.4%**

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at 95.9%

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.

ATENDOPOLY OUTCOMES THIS WEEK

Classes who rolled the dice this week won;
Class3 – Just dance
Class4 – Forest
Class6 – Just dance
Year 6 – Hot Chocolate treat

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS	
	WE 13/02/26
Class 1	Malachi
Class 2	Niyah
Class 3	Lara
Class 4	Frankie
Class 5	Alice
Class 6	Layla
Class 7	Veronica
Class 8 and 9	Archie and Addison

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS	
	WE 13/02/26
Class 1	Alfie
Class 2	Nevaeh
Class 3	Annie
Class 4	Ezra
Class 5	Alana
Class 6	Autumn
Class 7	Millie
Class 8 and 9	Amelia and Layton

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

Next week's Right of the week-
Article 7 – you have the right to a name and a nationality

Pupil discussions:
We talked about safe places in assembly relating to children's mental health week. Children suggested home, school or calm rooms, the Harry Potter room, visiting family members and the park.

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… Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week

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

Reader of the week:

Class 1 – Evalyn

Class2 - Tyson

Class3 - Ayla

Class4 - Ella

Class5 - Kianna

Class6 - Ijaz

Class7 - Chris

Year6 – Eden

Writer of the week:

Class 1 - Elsie

Class2 – Albie

Class3 - Addison

Class4 - Holly

Class5 - Myla

Class6 - Troy

Class7 - Archie

Year6 – Archie and Lilly

Mathematician of the week:

Class 1 - Reuben

Class2 - Ava

Class3 - Jackson

Class4 - Sidney

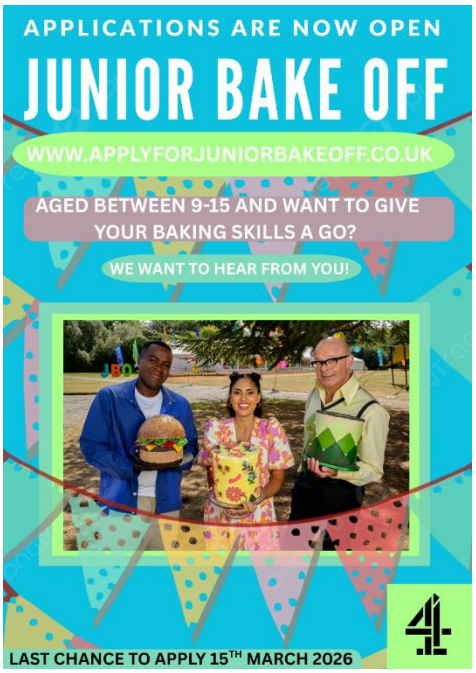
Class5 - Ollie

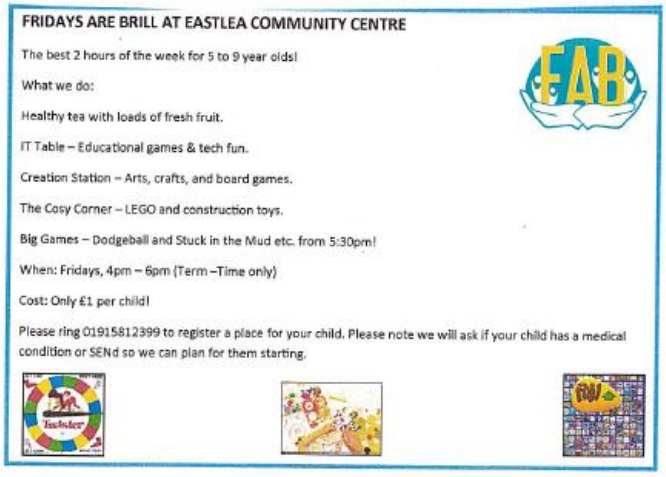
Class6 - Winter

Class7 - Grace

Year6 – Averlyn and Emily

In other news… Community news and beyond!





FRIDAYS ARE BRILL AT EASTLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE

The best 2 hours of the week for 5 to 9 year olds!

What we do:

Healthy tea with loads of fresh fruit.

IT Table – Educational games & tech fun.

Creation Station – Arts, crafts, and board games.

The Cosy Corner – LEGO and construction toys.

Big Games – Dodgeball and Stuck in the Mud etc. from 5:30pm!

When: Fridays, 4pm – 6pm (Term –Time only)

Cost: Only £1 per child!

Please ring 01915812399 to register a place for your child. Please note we will ask if your child has a medical condition or SENd so we can plan for them starting.

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

In other news…

Energy futures workshops

This week's workshop visit was focused on our youngest learners. Workshops for Nursery, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. Here are Classes 1 and 2 to explain what happened…

The workshop was an introduction, including an experiment for what global warming is and the problems associated with it.

Education and Training

We are committed to developing young people's skills, to improve their employment prospects and to help make our region more prosperous. Working with a range of trusted partners, we aim to support and inspire up to 10,000 young and vulnerable people each year, from primary school children to young job seekers. Our focus is on under-represented STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects, as we are passionate about nurturing the engineers of the future. For younger age groups, we also work with partner organisations to promote key safety messages, such as the dangers of playing near work sites.

The education team from Northern Gas are recognised STEM Learning Ambassadors, with Advanced Safeguarding training and Enhanced DBS Certificates.

Just look at this smile! The engagement and respect of our pupils to our visitors was excellent.

Classes 1 and 2 were very keen to find out about how they can help our planet. They made some interesting observations during the hot/cold investigation to see which conditions made the ice melt

I asked the children what they could tell me about the workshop.
Below are their responses.

- When you waste water and electricity, the world will get warmer until it doesn't have ice.
- The polar bears will die if there is no ice.
- The ice is melting
- We were touching the ice.
- Polar bears were sitting on the ice.

In other news…

Personal Development and Quality of Education: Harry Potter Room

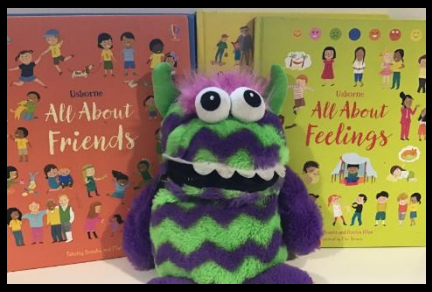
At Westlea we prioritise personal development of ALL pupils. We work together to achieve success for all. One of the many ways that we provide support for personal development is the use of our 'Harry Potter Room' named by the pupils.

Staff have time to listen and work through pupils' feelings and behaviours.

Our nurture space, The Harry Potter Room, is staffed by experienced teaching assistants that organise activities and listen to pupils helping to; reduce stress, promote greater self-esteem, develop friendship and communication skills, improve attendance and make the environment happier and more enjoyable.

Harry Potter Room: Students and staff can refer into the space, as individuals or small groups of pupils, the activities and discussions support and develop;

- Emotional wellbeing
- Anxiety
- Confidence
- Friendships
- Communication skills
- Self-esteem
- Reading



Harry Potter Room provides a calm and quiet environment where children can learn more about their own emotions and build resilience.

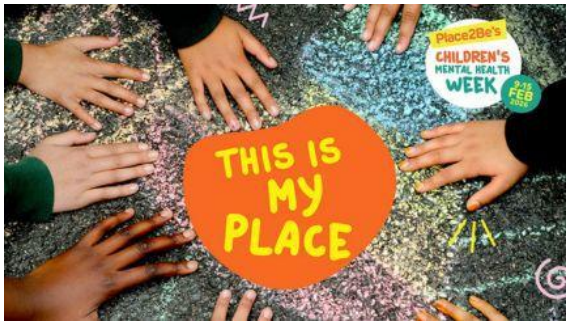
Need a reset or a recharge? The HP room can do both.

Pupil's self-refer to the Harry Potter room to play with friends. Complete craft activities of play card and board games.

In other news…

Personal Development and Quality of Education: Children's Mental Health Week 2026

For more information go to…
About Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week



This week is Children's mental health week. Here is a lovely activity that can be carried out that asks you to draw a map exploring a sense of belonging. 'This is my place`. What are the special places you like to spend time? The park, a cosy spot at home, the beach or perhaps your nana and grandad's house or the Harry Potter Room?

What would be on your map?

INTRODUCTION

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week 2026, Place2Be is happy to share an activity to explore this year's theme **THIS IS MY PLACE**.

Belonging is the feeling of being a valued part of the groups and places that are important to us. It means feeling cared for and comfortable to be ourselves.

This resource encourages children to explore their sense of belonging by creating a personal map, which can include places, groups, or activities or something not physical, where they feel they belong.

ACTIVITY AIMS

- **Increase personal sense of belonging and connection**
- **Foster understanding of belonging and its importance to wellbeing**

MATERIALS

- paper or card
- paint, crayons/ pastels, coloured pens, or pencils

OPTIONAL

- recycled paper (ex/ from magazines and newspapers)
- scissors
- string, glue, or tape

ACTIVITY WARM-UP:

Before starting the main art activity, have a look through the categories below. It may help to jot down thoughts and ideas about where you experience a sense of belonging.

What does belonging mean?
Do you know belonging isn't felt from just one thing or one place. There are so many ways we can feel like we belong. See some examples below:

See some examples below:

- **At Home:** with supportive family members/carers who know you well, even your quirks.
- **At School:** in classrooms where ideas are shared, with teachers who believe in you, and among friends.
- **In Activities & Special Interests:** that you enjoy and are passionate about ex: arts, maths, reading…
- **In Communities:** religious or cultural groups, neighbourhood communities, online spaces or volunteer organisations.
- **With Friends:** those special people who truly understand you, make you laugh, and stand by you.
- **Within Yourself:** feeling comfortable to be you and accepting yourself as you are.
- **Within the Environment and Universe:** being outdoors or looking at the stars to feel belonging not only with other people but all that exists on our planet and beyond, good times and difficult ones.

WHAT ARE MAPS?

Fun Fact

Maps are used to outline and describe different parts of the world. Maps have lines, colours, and symbols that help us understand important things about places and where to find them. We might notice things like countries, cities, mountains, rivers, or deserts on a map.

Using available materials, create a map showing all the places, groups, and activities that help you feel like you belong.

Your map could look like one you've seen before with real places, or it could be completely imaginary with unusual features and outlines.

1 Draw the main outline of the land and what it looks like:

- Is it an island surrounded by sea or does the land cover the whole page? Maybe it is shaped like something you like (for example an island in the shape of a bird)
- Perhaps it is completely imaginary and out of this world (such as candy clouds)

What is the environment like:

- Does it have one big city or are there many villages and towns?
- Are there mountains, forests, lakes, volcanoes, beaches, etc?

2 Using your choice of words, colours, symbols and patterns, add everything that gives you a sense of belonging to your map.

Your map can be as simple or detailed as preferred.

Examples:

- *A couple of pillows and books for that cosy corner of the library where you like to read*
- *The stage in the school hall where you feel proud, and confident*
- *Game consoles, sports balls, math symbols or musical notes etc. for activities you like*
- *Friendship bracelets representing you and your friends*
- *Plants and animals or somewhere outside where it's nice to be in nature*
- *Buildings where you meet with others or a place of worship*
- *Vehicles that take you to important places such as that bus or a train to meet with family, a day out or a fun trip you took with family or friends, or somewhere you feel completely relaxed such as a special walk or park.*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Where would you most like to be on your map today?
2. If you met someone who feels left out, where is the first place you'd like to bring them on your map to help them feel like they belong too?

More resources from Children's Mental Health Week:
Visit childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk or scan the QR code

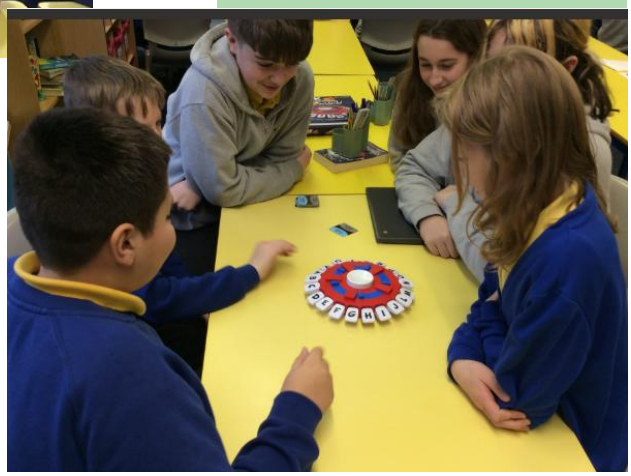
In other news…

Attendopoly prizes

Congratulations to Class 3, Year 4 and Year 6. They collectively achieved our target attendance figure of 96% or above for a week's attendance. They then rolled the dice and landed on a range of enrichment activities. Here is a sample of activities from this week.

Class 3 boogied away for their just dance session for achieving attendance over 96% last week!

Class 7 enjoyed some colouring for a mindfulness session.

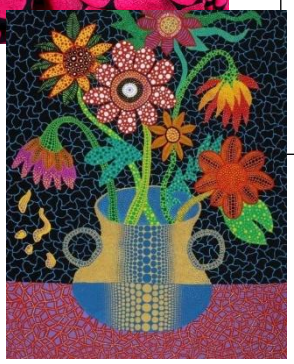


These Y6 pupils love a game of chess. They cheered this week when the teacher announced 'wet playtime' as this meant more 'chess time!'

Year 6 shared some board games with their classmates.

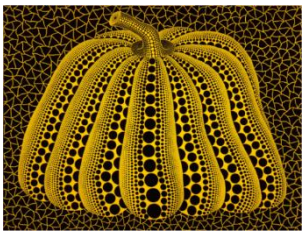
In other news…
Quality of Education

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.



Yayoi Kusama (草間 彌生, *Kusama Yayoi*, born 22 March 1929) is a Japanese modern artist. She mostly creates sculpture and installation art. She also works in painting, performance, video art, fashion, poetry, and writing. Yayoi Kusama is known as one of the most important living artists from Japan. She is also one of the world's most famous and successful living artists. Her unique art style influenced other well-known artists like Andy Warhol

Yayoi Kusama
(1929- to present)



Find out more?
Who is Yayoi Kusama? | Tate Kids

Artist of the Month

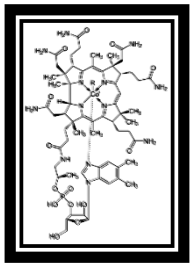
February

Don't adjust your screens or rub your eyes…the dots you are about to experience are art! Welcome to the weird and wonderful world of Yayoi Kusam!

Dorothy Hodgkin was a brilliant British chemist. She won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her amazing work.
She made a special technique called X-ray crystallography much better. This helped her figure out the exact shapes of important molecules in living things. This was very important for understanding how living things work.

She discovered and confirmed;

The structure of penicillin
The structure of vitamin B_{12} (see diagram)
The structure of insulin.



All of these are very important for medicine even today.

Dorothy Hodgkin
(1910-1994)

February

Scientist of the Month

Musician of the Month

Will Smith and Hip Hop

February

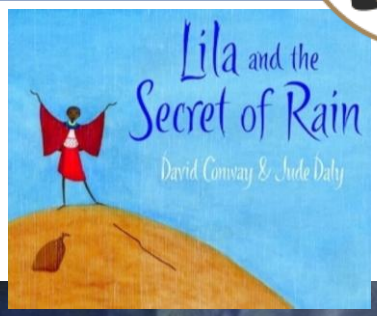
Willard Smith, born 25th September 1968 in USA. He is known for being an actor, rapper and producer.

He started his music career as part of the hip-hop duo DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince. Their hit song; "Parents just don't understand" won a Grammy Award in 1989.

In other news…

Quality of Education: Art in year2

As part of our class text **Lila and the Secret of Rain**, Class 4 have been learning about Africa. They explored African art and used water colour paint blending techniques, using a warm colour palette. They then used the silhouette design to create landscapes of African animals at sunset. Can you tell which African animals they chose?



In other news…
Quality of Education:
Reading focus: English Cafes

Our book recommendations | BookTrust

Across February we are welcoming 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 7	19th Feb	9-10:30AM
Class 8 & 9	18th Feb	9-10:30AM

In other news…
Reading Cafes C3, C5, C6

Had great a time seeing how Archie is reading.

Enjoyed the time with Autumn at school.

Good Coffee

Really good session, should definitely continue in the future.

Lovely morning. It was nice to see Erica working with

It was a very enjoyable session doing a variety of reading activities with Emily. We enjoyed it and it gives you ideas for activities at home.

Layla had lots of fun at the reading café. She said doing it with her mam was exciting and she really enjoyed it.

Very good morning, lots of fun and very educational. It was nice spending time with the kids.

This was good fun reading activities to do with the children. I enjoyed it.

It was a really lovely morning. I enjoyed spending time with Arthur.

It was a lovely time.

Great morning. Lovely to see the children working in

In other news… Reading Cafes C3, C5 and C6

Enjoyed our afternoon playing all the games. Teachers were so welcoming.

We had lots of fun finding rhyming pairs and matching lower- and upper-case letters. We then played word bingo and read stories. We found the activities great fun and engaging. A brilliant day!!!!

Such a lovely afternoon. Nice to see how the children learn and I took away some good ideas to help my child read.

Today's session has been enjoyable. Plenty of options of things to do with a range of different abilities. The freedom of choice and when to move on has been successful as well. Thank you.

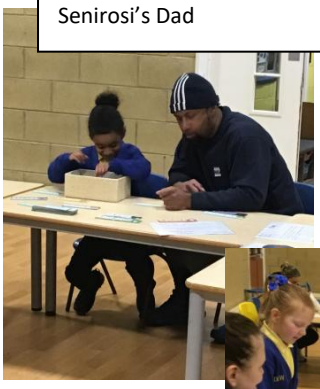
Class 3

It is great. Really enjoyable. It was better this time around. The teachers are fabulous as always. Lara's mam

We had a lovely afternoon in school. The class helped us get a better understanding of the reading and writing being taught in class.

Quite a good idea. Great to get involved with the kids.

Really good session with Class 3. Very interactive, very kinetic, colourful resources to capture attention. Not too simple, not too hard, just right. It was a very good layout. BEST of all is having a brew stand!
Senirosi's Dad



Great way of engaging and having fun reading.

What a wonderful experience sharing time with my grandson whilst learning about the level of language activities going on in class. The selection of activities was brilliant and we had such fun. Can't wait for the next one.

Great way to help parents understand new learning techniques.

I think this has been a lot better than the council ran maths café and not on a set time to complete each one. Alma enjoyed 1:1 with her mam and we enjoyed time together. I think it is a good thing to do for all of the children.

Class 5

I think that this has been a great idea. The kids could interact with different people whilst learning and having fun.

It was good to spend one to one time and see how much fun he had.

Fun spending time with my daughter while learning.

Fantastic morning spending time with Harper seeing everything she learns.

Ollie enjoyed having a parent come into school. The session was engaging for Ollie.

This morning is really, really good as we were studying and playing together with our kids in a very good environment. These types of activities school arrange for us are good. I loved it.

Great time, we enjoyed all of the activities.

Had a lovely time. Thank you

Really fun. We enjoyed all the games especially the computer games. It was really good at engaging with children and also lovely to see how they get on with each other. Had a great time.

This morning has been really good. You got to see how my child learns through games and playful activities. She has really enjoyed showing me all she has learned in class today.

Amelia loved doing all of the different activities. She said it was lots of fun and she enjoyed doing it with her mam.

In other news… Upcoming educational visits

'Early exposure to the world of work supports confidence, broadens pupils' understanding of career possibilities, and encourages positive attitudes towards ambition, teamwork, and inclusion from a young age.'

Year 2 Unipres

Y2 pupils visiting Unipres Sunderland will benefit from experiencing a real-life workplace, helping them understand how learning in school links to future jobs and careers. The visit raises aspirations by showing children that a wide range of skilled roles exist within their local community. Meeting employees from diverse backgrounds helps reduce bias and challenge stereotypes about who can work in engineering and manufacturing roles. Early exposure to the world of work supports confidence, broadens pupils' understanding of career possibilities, and encourages positive attitudes towards ambition, teamwork, and inclusion from a young age.

Year 3 Beacon of Light

A visit to the **Beacon of Light** gives Year 3 pupils an exciting introduction to the **world of work** and helps them begin thinking about their **future aspirations**. Through fun, hands-on activities in a real workplace setting, children learn that people have many different jobs and roles, both in sport and beyond. Pupils develop an understanding of how skills like **teamwork, communication, problem-solving and perseverance** are used in everyday working life. The visit helps raise aspirations by showing pupils that their interests and talents can link to future careers, while also building confidence, curiosity and motivation to learn. Overall, the experience supports early career awareness in a positive, engaging and memorable way.

Year 4 - Centre for Life

A visit to the Centre for Life – *Powering the Future* helps Year 4 pupils see how science and technology shape the world they live in and the world they will grow up in. Pupils learn about renewable energy, electricity and sustainability through hands-on, exciting activities that make learning feel real and relevant.

The experience encourages children to think about **future careers** by showing them that jobs in science, engineering and technology are creative, important and achievable. Meeting real-world ideas and problems helps pupils understand that people just like them can become scientists, engineers, inventors or problem-solvers who help protect the planet.

The visit also raises **aspirations and confidence**, especially for pupils who may not yet see themselves in science-related careers. By linking learning to the future, pupils are inspired to ask questions, think big and imagine the possibilities open to them as they grow up.

Year 5 Vikings

Class 7 are so excited to be going to Newcastle and the Hancock museum. We can't wait to see all of the artefacts and link our history learning currently in class to real artefacts and discoveries. We are looking forward to seeing other exhibitions and civilisations from history that we have learn about in the past like the Egyptians.

Our favourite part of the up-and-coming trip will be seeing the Viking artefacts and learning more about this topic. It will really help us understand more about the life and workings of the Vikings. We will even learn about Viking careers while we are there!

In other news…

Y1 Multi-skills festival

The Year 1s had a fantastic visit to East Durham College to take part in the Multi-Skills Festivals with other schools. They showed excellent teamwork, resilience and turn taking skills. The staff were very proud to tell everyone how excellent the attitudes and behaviours of the children when they got back to school.

What is a multi-skills festival?
Developing fundamental movement skills from a young age supports young people to be happy, healthy, and confident movers with the essential skills they need to develop a life-long love of being physically active.

Multi-skill festivals include a rotation of multi-skill activities (such as jumping, skipping, throwing, catching, and lunging) which challenge children to achieve their personal best. These quality learning experiences allow children to develop their physical competence whilst experiencing wider social benefits and outcomes.

In other news…
Y6 Careers talk: What is it like being a photographer?

As a school we are committed to inspiring our pupils with possibilities. Our careers curriculum and how we combine learning and experiences the pupils have with future employment and development of skills is something that we feel is so important. If you don't see it, you can't believe it!

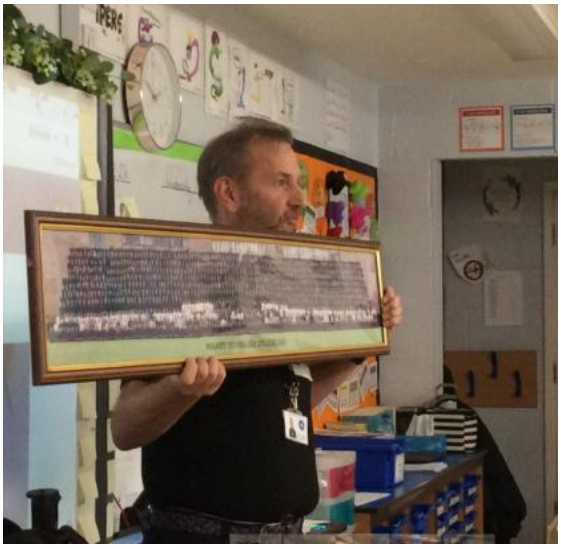
On what is one of THE BUSIEST days of the year, year 6 took the opportunity to find out about photography. Our school photographers phototronics thought it was a brilliant idea when we asked and they didn't disappoint.

The Year 6 pupils found out …

We found about the camera and video technology and what equipment you need to take a great picture.

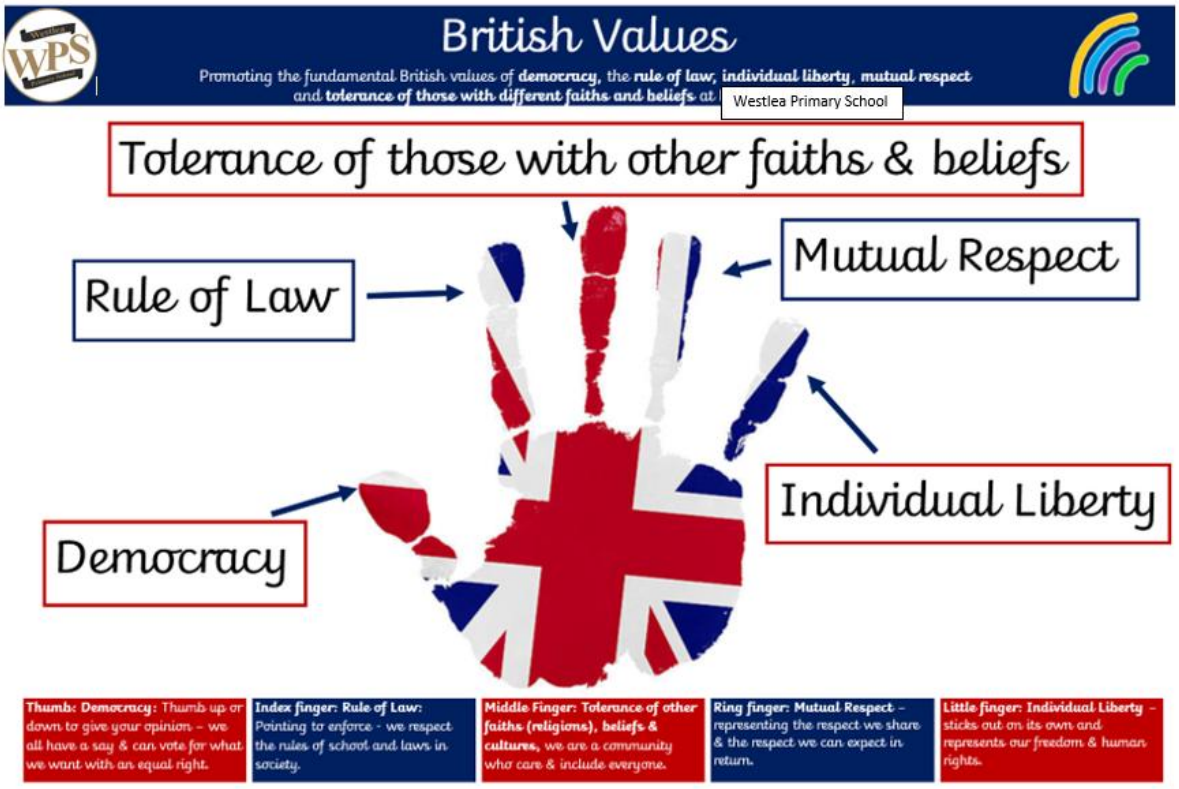
Our visitor explained about the skill of observation and how to frame a shot.

Year 6 showed excellent listening skills and respect for our visitor.



In other news…
Messages around school and in our classrooms

Posters that you will see around school to support understanding and reinforce that everyone is welcome. We are ALL unique and special.



In other news…
After-school club focus: Little learners

LITTLE LEARNERS is an afterschool club for our reception pupils. This year they have enjoyed many activities that help with their full development. The adults and sports coaches who work with our little learners are always so impressed with their learning habits and how resilient they are to trying new things and giving everything a go!

Our Sports Coach, Mr. Appleby, is amazed at our efforts. He challenges us every week and we think he is very kind.

Movement patterns

Hand eye coordination

Our adults from Class 1 also join in and help us get the most out of every session.

Listening and following instructions

Let's keep moving!

focus

Did you know that all of the BIG movements we are enjoying will actually help with my **reading and writing**? Tracking or following a ball helps with following letters on a page and control of the big parts of my body comes before being able to write letters on a page.

Taking turns

Cheering our friends on

In other news…
Anyone for True Padel?

About Padel

Well done to these four Y6 pupils for trying something new. The school were given the opportunity to sample a new sport.

The pupils took time out of their evening to give True Padel a go.

What is Padel Tennis?

Padel Tennis, often referred simply as "padel," is a racket sport that originated in Mexico in the 1960s and has since spread across continents, captivating players of all ages and skill levels. The game is played on a smaller court enclosed by glass walls and wire mesh, lending an exciting twist to the traditional tennis court. With its unique court design and simplified rules, padel is incredibly accessible, making it a perfect choice for newcomers to the world of racket sports.