

Summer 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; **Cooperation, Achievement, Resilience and Empowerment**

KEY DATES

APRIL

Week of 27th Mock SATs Y6

27th – Fast Feet football academy

29th – Jet and Ben – People who help us Class1

30th – Year 4 trip – Life centre

MAY

4TH – Bank holiday: School closed

8th Year 4/5 Tennis competition and Y3 Tennis festival

Week of the 11th - Year 6 SATs

15th – Class 6 – Netball festival

Week of the 18th – Walk to school week

20th – Year 4 meet a scientist

21st – Girls cricket @ Dawdon

22nd – Mixed cricket @ Blackhall

22nd - Break up for half term holiday return 1st June

JUNE

3rd – Year 2 Outdoor and Adventurous

3rd – Nursery new starter meeting

9th – Reception new starter meeting

10th – EYFS sports day

10th – Year 5/6 athletics

11th – Class 2 parent sing a long

12th – SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET

Week of 15th – Sports week

Summer Term in Full Swing at Westlea Primary School!

It has been another fabulous week at Westlea, and it's been a pleasure to see the weather finally improving—the summer term is certainly starting to feel like summer! Alongside our rich and engaging curriculum, pupils have enjoyed a range of fantastic experiences this week. Year 1 had the pleasure of meeting Ben, Durham Constabulary police dog and find out about the role that animals play in the police force. Pupils also found out about stranger danger and how to keep themselves safe.

Year 4 visited the Life Centre at Newcastle, [Life Science Centre](#), a place where SCIENCE lives and grow. The visit immersed our Year 4 pupils into all things STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). A fantastic opportunity!

We were also delighted to welcome Fast Feet Football coaching to school, The coaching is aimed at Y1-Y4 girls. Helping them build their footballing skills and create equality in all sports.

Our Year 6 pupils have completed a Mock SATs week. They showed maturity and resilience throughout the week. The assessment week for SATs will commence week beginning Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May.

Big congratulations to our talented Basketball team, who played against the winners of Easington District basketball events and won all of their games. Meaning they will now represent Easington, Peterlee and Easington district at the County Finals.

It has been wonderful to see such high levels of engagement and enthusiasm from our pupils across all of these opportunities. A big thank you to our staff and wider community for continuing to support and enrich the experiences we are able to offer.

As always, please keep an eye on your class See-Saw account for any news relating to events and activities soon to come.

Mrs Scothern



HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads 20:00 minutes per day	A student who reads 5:00 minutes per day	A student who reads 1:00 minute per day
will be exposed to 1.8 MILLION words per year and scores in 90th PERCENTILE on standardized tests	will be exposed to 282,000 words per year and scores in 50th PERCENTILE on standardized tests	will be exposed to 8,000 words per year and scores in 10th PERCENTILE on standardized tests

National Year of Reading 2026



New month and new Artist, Musician and Scientist for May...
I wonder who they can be?

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 24/04/26
Class 1	95.9%
Class 2	94.3%
Class 3	92%
Class 4	95.4%
Class 5	90.4%
Class 6	93.6%
Class 7	97.8%
Class 8/9	99.5%

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 2 classes reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 24/04/26 is 95.4%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.5%

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



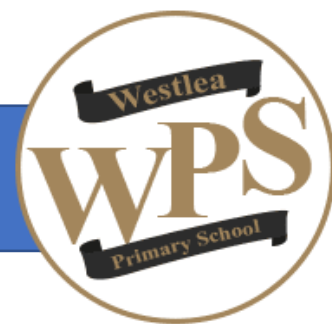
SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

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;
Class 7 - Board games
Year 6 - Fruit platter

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS	
WE 01/05/26	
Class 1	Ollie F
Class 2	Albie
Class 3	Deana
Class 4	James
Class 5	Dakota
Class 6	Arthur
Class 7	Zak
Class 8 and 9	Penelope and Dylan

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS	
WE 01/05/26	
Class 1	Matthew S
Class 2	Niyah
Class 3	Addison
Class 4	Violet
Class 5	Alliah
Class 6	Troy
Class 7	Cleo
Class 8 and 9	Jacob and Blake

**Next Week's Right of the week-
Article 27 – You have the right to a good standard of living.**

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



Pupil discussions:

Nursery visit and discussion with our youngest pupils about what they like to do when at Nursery. Westlea wood, playing with our new tea set, reading books, drawing, playing with my friends



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



Reader of the week:

- Class 1 – Reuben
- Class2 - Denny
- Class3 - Lara
- Class4 - Hallie
- Class5 - George
- Class6 - Autumn
- Class7 - Chris
- Year6 – Nirvana and Taylor

Writer of the week:

- Class 1 - Skye
- Class2 – Nevaeh
- Class3 - Brock
- Class4 - Sidney
- Class5 - Esmae
- Class6 - Archie
- Class7 – Carson
- Year6 – Chloe and Kenzi

Mathematician of the week:

- Class 1 - Willow
- Class2 - Ava
- Class3 - Oscar
- Class4 - Cayde
- Class5 - Dakota
- Class6 - Olivia
- Class7 - Ava
- Year6 – Zuzanna and Theo

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

Keep up your great learning
attitude.

A CAREER AS A CRIMINOLOGIST



QUALIFICATIONS

- GCSEs (or equivalent)
- University Degree

ROLES

- Studying crime patterns
- Finding ways to prevent crime
- Advising police officers
- Conducting research

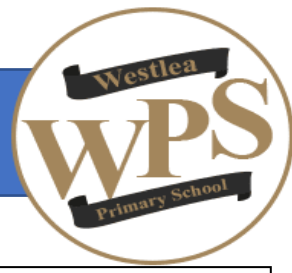
PATHWAYS

- University degree
- Apprenticeship
- Voluntary work with police

WAGE

- Starter: £23,000
- Experienced: £50,000

Summer Term CARE values



Character values: CARE		
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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 Summer term **CARE values** typically mean and how we help shape behaviour, character and the culture of our school community.

Cooperation

What it means: Working together and helping each other. It's about combining effort, sharing responsibilities and helping one another out.

At Westlea it looks like;

- Teamwork: Joining in with others to get something done.
- Mutual support: It means listening, sharing ideas, taking turns, and being kind even when you don't agree.
- Cooperating; Everyone feels included and the job gets done faster and better.

Achievement

What it means: Doing your best and being proud of what you accomplish.

At Westlea it looks like;

Achievement isn't just about getting everything right.

- Trying hard.
- Learning new things.
- Noticing how much you've improved.
- Every time you learn a new skill, finish a task, or reach a goal, that's an achievement.

Resilience

What it means: Keeping going, even when something is hard. Resilience is your inner strength.

At Westlea it looks like;

- It's what helps you bounce back when things don't go your way.
- Being resilient means you don't give up straight away—you try again.
- Ask for help, and believe you can get better with practice.

Empowerment

What it means: Feeling confident, capable, and ready to make good choices.

At Westlea it looks like;

- You believe in yourself.
- Know that your voice matters.
- Having the courage to share your ideas, make decisions, and take responsibility for your actions.
- When you feel empowered, you know you can make a positive difference.

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...

Fast Feet football academy Y1-Y4



The training session allowed our pupils to experience a fun, safe, and fast-paced, developmentally appropriate coaching session that supported each player — helping them develop both individually and as part of a team.

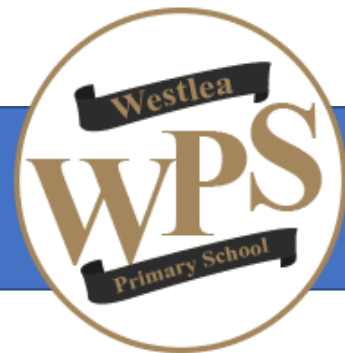


Frankie – It was fun. We even had to dribble, stop and pass and the ball.

Sienna – It was so good. We got to play 2 v coach game and we won. I can't wait to go back.

In other news...

Y6 Basketball Finals



Scores

Westlea vs St Mary Magdalen's - 26-6

Westlea vs Easington Colliery - 8-4

STILL UNDEFEATED!

These talented basketballers played the winners of other tournaments to become all out-district winner!

We look forward to the School Games final in July to face other district winners across County Durham.

The team spirit, resilience and support of each other was evident in every pupil. We are extremely proud of them all!



In other news...

Attendopoly prizes



Congratulations to classes 1, 3, 6, 7. They collectively achieved our target attendance figure of 96% or above for a week's attendance. They then rolled the dice and landed on some exciting enrichment activities.



Class 6 - Extra Free cookie club



Class 3 - Fruit platter

Class 7 - Mindfulness session



Class 1 - Mindfulness session

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.



Pop Art

David Hockney is one of the most important painters of the 20th century. Born in Bradford in 1937, Hockney was one of the big artists involved in the pop art movement in the 1960s. Pop art was a style of art that was bright, full of colour. It was made by lots of young artists who felt that the art they saw in galleries was a little bit boring.

David Hockney
(1937- to present)



May

[Who is David Hockney? | Tate Kids](#)

Artist of the Month

LOUIS PASTEUR



Scientist of the Month

Louis Pasteur was a French scientist. He made important discoveries about the role of microbes (**germs**) in **disease** and in food spoiling. These discoveries have saved many lives. They have also made food safer to eat and protected the health of farm animals. Pasteur was a courageous scientist who constantly asked questions, searched for answers, and challenged incorrect ideas.



Famous for his work on GERMS

May

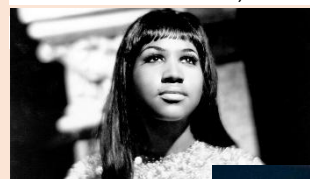
May

Musician of the Month

Aretha Franklin

American gospel, soul, and R&B singer,

Aretha Louise Franklin was an **American gospel, soul, and R&B singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist** celebrated as the "Queen of Soul." Rising from gospel roots in her father's Detroit church, she achieved stardom with Atlantic hits like *Respect*, *(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman*, and *Think*, earning 18 Grammys, the first female Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction, and a Pulitzer citation for her cultural



Born: 25th March, Memphis, Tennessee, USA
Died: 16th August 2018



In other news...

Ben the police dog— Careers: People that help us



Police officer Claire visited Class 1 and talked to us about how everyone is special and importance and they deserve to always feel safe.

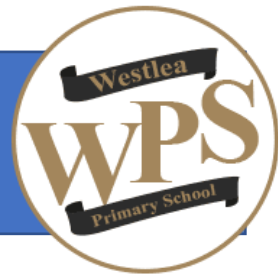
She reminded us about the special number we can ring if we need help, 999, and we found out who could help us - coastguard, police officers, firefighter or paramedics and ambulance.

Then she told us about her job, a police dog handler, and her special uniform and equipment. We even got to meet police dog Ben....he loved being in Class 1 and even sat in Mrs Robson's chair!



In other news...

Y4 Lighting up the future – visit to Life centre



Class 6 visited the Life Centre. While we were there we visited all the different areas looking at space, how lights work and the Brainzone. We learnt how fossils are made in the fossil show, it was very entertaining.

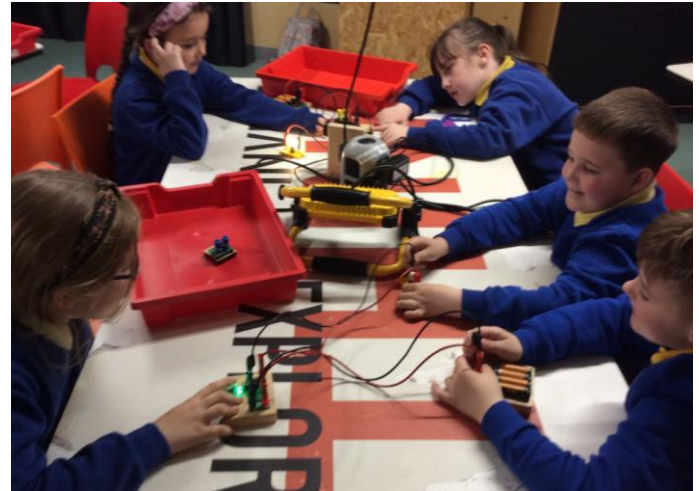
All children took part in an energy workshop using batteries to power a light, adding a switch into the mix and looking at solar and wind energy. The best part of the day was definitely the Dino Den.

Life™

Science Centre



Charlotte – My favourite part was the fossil show.



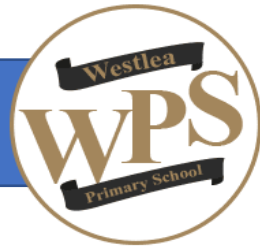
Magnus – I liked the Brainzone best!



Emily – The best part was when we went to the Dino Den.

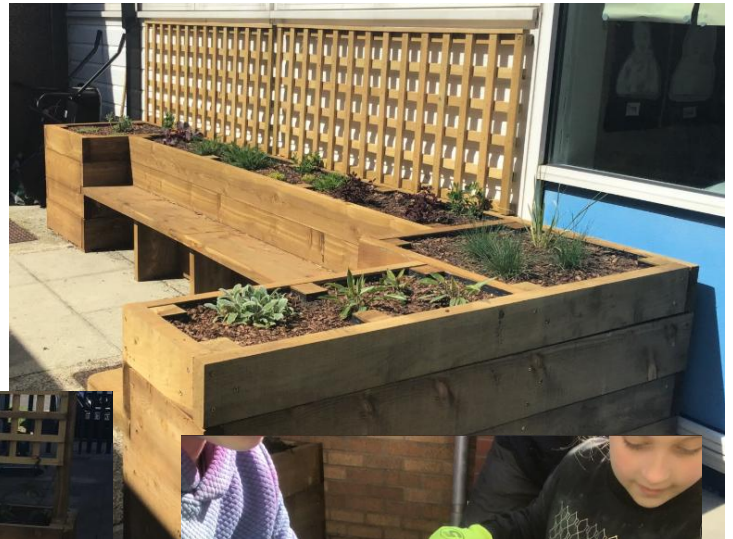


In other news... Well-being Garden update

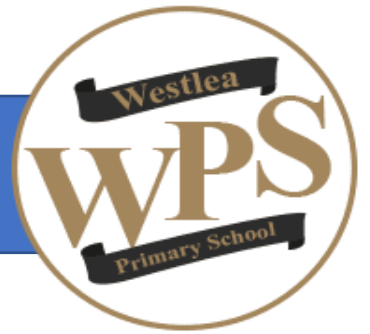


Well-being Garden Update

The Summer Term brings brighter days and our growing calendar is now in full swing! Our gardening club have done a fantastic job transforming our gray space into a green engaging area where children can explore the environment and take part in growing projects as well as monitor the biodiversity of the well-being garden.



In other news...
Tips for reading at home
with your child



Follow our helpful tips to make reading at home a really important part of your child's routine.

Build
Build reading together into your daily routine.



Find
Find a quiet comfortable place to read together away from distractions



Recap
Recap the story and discuss with your child what has happened already.



Explore
Explore any unfamiliar words or phrases and discuss their meaning.



Discuss
Discuss your child's book by looking at the cover, title, pictures and blurb.



Allow
If your child struggles or mispronounces a word, do not interrupt. **Allow** them time to self correct.



Predict
Ask your child to **predict** what they think may happen next.



Check
Check your child's understanding of a book. Ask questions using - How...?, Why...? Who...?, When...? Where...?, What...?



Connect
Try to **connect** your child's own experiences to the story by comparing key events.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, children are almost certain to encounter exam stress, which can cast a shadow over their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimate that a staggering 87% of pupils suffer from exam stress – highlighting the urgent need to minimise its impact on children's health and happiness.

1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM

The build up to exam season is such a busy and pressurised time in a child's education that it can be difficult for youngsters to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Encourage them to consider whether their current workload is realistic and allows them sufficient time to relax and recharge. Work with them in crafting a revision timetable that's manageable and includes breaks and occasional days off.

2 ADVISE CLEARING THE CLUTTER

A disorganised work environment is proven to negatively affect our ability to focus, as well as our emotional state. Encourage children to keep their desk, notes and revision materials tidy – creating a dedicated, well-kept study space to promote maximum focus. Foster their creativity by suggesting they incorporate vibrant colours, mind maps and even quirky drawings into their revision notes.

3 MASTER THE MATERIALS TOGETHER

Revision seems far harder when a child is uncertain where to begin or what sources to consult. Support them in confirming revision materials with their various teachers – emphasising the importance of gathering a range of resources to get a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. Feeling more prepared should nurture the child's confidence and help to dispel some of their anxiety.

4 RECOMMEND CREATIVE NOTE-TAKING

Writing out notes in full – rather than simply bullet pointing – can be a strong start to a child's revision. Reinforce this idea, encouraging the use of flashcards (featuring shorter versions of previously taken notes) for effective repetition and memorisation. Discuss the power of regularly reviewing notes to help them stay in the child's memory.

5 USE VISUAL AIDS AND MNEMONICS

Encourage the use of visual aids like videos and sticky notes to enhance learning. Some children find these resources far more useful than simply reading their notes as written. Explore creating mnemonics for a fun and effective study approach – and it's also worth noting that the strategic use of colours is a proven means of triggering recall during exams.

6 GATHER A 'TECH TOOLKIT'

Technology can be a huge advantage in exam prep. Educational YouTube channels and revision websites like BBC Bitesize can be immensely powerful resources for helping children to expand and retain their knowledge. You could also recommend the use of flashcard apps and educational podcasts for revision and reminders when young people are on the go.

7 KEEP IT FUN

Revision tends to go far more smoothly if children are having fun in the process. Injecting some humour into their notes, for instance, can make details more memorable – as can relating information to their real-life experiences. Try to encourage a variety of study methods, such as incorporating physical activity (even simply taking a walk) into their revision routine.

8 SUGGEST ACTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

Make sure children are aware of different study techniques. You could emphasise the effectiveness of spaced repetition by reviewing material regularly over time to reinforce learning and improve retention. Discuss the benefits of active recall methods – such as self-testing or explaining a concept aloud – in identifying where their strengths and weaknesses lie.

9 ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE MINDSET

It can be easy for children's thoughts to fall into a downward spiral when they're stressed about exams. Try to foster a growth mindset by emphasising the importance of giving it their all rather than aiming for complete perfection. Positive self-talk and the use of affirmations can build confidence and reduce anxiety, while visualising success and setting realistic goals can help them stay motivated and focused.

10 HELP THEM TO SEIZE THE DAY

There are lots of things children can do on the day of their exam to reduce stress and increase their focus. Talk them through some helpful exam-day strategies – such as arriving early, reading the instructions and the questions carefully, and pacing themselves during the test. Suggest some relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or visualisation, to help them manage any nerves before and during the exam.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK: 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School.



The National College