



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

JULY

17th – Break up for Summer

SEPTEMBER

**Children back to school
WEDNESDAY 2nd September**

Happy Retirement Mr Bainbridge!

One of the most significant moments of the week was saying goodbye to someone who has been at the heart of Westlea for more than three decades. After 28 years of dedicated service, Mr Bainbridge begins his well-earned retirement.

As a school community, we wanted to make sure his final few days were ones to remember. Children and staff proudly donned ties in his honour, enjoyed football activities together, and came together for a very special assembly to celebrate his remarkable career.

Mr Bainbridge has dedicated so much of his life to Westlea, inspiring generations of children with his kindness, humour, wisdom and unwavering commitment. His influence stretches far beyond the classroom, and his legacy will remain part of our school for many years to come. We are incredibly grateful for everything he has given to our children, our families and our staff.

Mr Bainbridge, thank you for 28 years dedication and service. You have made an immeasurable difference to so many lives. Whilst we will miss you enormously, we wish you every happiness, good health and adventure in this exciting next chapter. Retirement is richly deserved, and we hope it brings you many years of joy.

Look inside for the ‘Year 6 Bonny Baby’ Photo Edition

Hello Everyone,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly memorable final week at Westlea.

It has been a week filled with celebration, pride, laughter and, inevitably, some emotional goodbyes. It has reminded me once again what a very special community we are fortunate to be part of.

Our Year 6 pupils have reached the end of their primary school journey and have certainly finished in style. Their leavers' assembly was a wonderful celebration of everything they have achieved during their time at Westlea. They shared memories, laughter, music and reflections with confidence, maturity and no shortage of talent. I know I speak on behalf of everyone when I say how incredibly proud we are of each and every one of them.

The celebrations continued with their well-deserved leavers' treat of bowling and a silent disco. Watching the children enjoy spending time together, creating memories that will stay with them for years to come, was a joy. Although it is always difficult to say goodbye, we know they leave us with the confidence, resilience and values that will help them flourish as they move on to the next stage of their education. Good luck, Year 6—you will always be part of the Westlea family.

This week also gave us the opportunity to enjoy a fantastic brass concert from our talented musicians across Key Stage 2. Their performances were a credit to the hard work, perseverance and enthusiasm they have shown throughout the year. Music continues to be such an important part of life at Westlea, and it was wonderful to see our young musicians performing with such confidence and pride.

As always, our final day ended in one of my favourite Westlea traditions—our whole-school sing-along. There is something incredibly special about every child and every member of staff coming together to sing. These moments capture everything that Westlea stands for: togetherness, joy, belonging and community. It is a fitting way to end another successful year and reminds us that whilst school is about learning, it is also about creating memories, friendships and a sense of belonging that lasts a lifetime.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued encouragement, kindness and support throughout the year. The partnership between home and school is invaluable, and together we have helped our children grow, achieve and thrive.

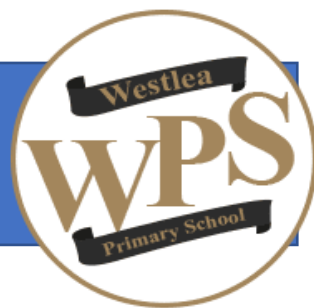
On behalf of everyone at Westlea, I wish you and your families a happy, safe and restful summer holiday. I hope you enjoy spending precious time together, making wonderful memories and taking the opportunity to recharge.

We look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces back to Westlea on **2nd of September** for another exciting year of learning, laughter and success.

Have a wonderful summer.

Mrs Scothern and all of the staff

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 17/07/26
Class 1	95%
Class 2	94.3%
Class 3	93.3%
Class 4	98.5%
Class 5	95.6%
Class 6	91.5%
Class 7	91.1%
Class 8/9	97.9%

Huge Well Done to 18 pupils who have achieved 100% attendance across the whole year. These pupils have received a certificate and a bar of chocolate!



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!

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 17/07/26 is 94.9%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.4%

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at 95.3%



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.



THIS YEAR'S AWARDS



Adam Lucas Award

Year 6 – Oscar Potts and Penelope Blenkinsop

Year 2 – Ruby Shaw

INDIVIDUAL YEAR 6 AWARDS

Shining Star	Averlyn Guyaco Lewis Cole
Sports Star	Maggie Thompson Archie Bleasdale
Most Improved	Kobe Johnson Zainab Azimi
Mrs Hughes Bee Yourself	Nirvana Collings Dylan Bresnen
Art Award	Oakley McGhin Bronson Holness
Music Award	Seth McSween Jacob Coombs

COUNTY SPORT AWARDS

Athletics	Lilly Robson
Cricket	Abbi Hudon Seth McSween Lilly Robson Maggie Thompson
Netball	Ava English Isla Cole Gracie Elliott Penelope Blenkinsop Jacob Coombs Archie Bleasdale Maggie Thompson
Football	Nirvana Collings Lilly Robson Isla Cole Isla Dean Averlyn Guyaco Zuzanna Kloskowska Amelia Lucas Abbi Hudson Maggie Thompson
Basketball	Penelope Blenkinsop Taylor Rooney Maggie Thompson Averlyn Guyaco Seth McSween Archie Bleasdale Jacob coombs Isla Cole



Character values: CARE



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

Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are... Cooperation, Achievement, Resilience and Empowerment

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...

Class Star Winners

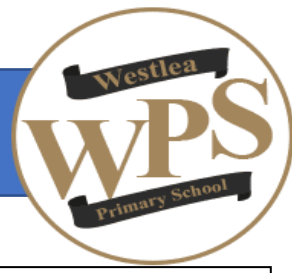


Class stars are collected throughout the whole of the year. They are gained by excellent behaviour, team work and effort from the whole class during school, on trips or perhaps when a visitor has been in school. Teachers can also nominate stars.

Well done to Class 3, Class 5 and Class 7 for having the most stars in their jars.



Summer Term CARE values



Character values: CARE		
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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...

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.



Look

What colours stand out to you?

What shape do you see repeated in

this painting? Can you count the

number of times it appears?

Does it look like anything to you?

Imagine you could step inside the

painting. What would it feel like?

Alma Thomas loved to explore colour—which she did as an artist and art teacher, teaching in Washington, DC, USA public schools for over thirty-five years. Many of her paintings include only one colour or a few colours. Her paintings show her love of nature and music.

Alma Thomas
(1891 –1978)



Abstract Art

June and
July

Artist of the Month

Elizabeth Blackwell
(1821-1910)

Blackwell was a **remarkable doctor**. She was the **first woman to earn a medical degree** in the United States. She also became the **first woman listed on the Medical Register for the United Kingdom**.

Elizabeth Blackwell was a **pioneer** who helped **open doors for women** in medicine. She was also a social reformer in both the United States and the United Kingdom.

Her work is still honoured today with the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal, given each year to a woman who has greatly helped women in medicine

WHAT IS A PIONERR?
A pioneer is a person who is among the first to research and develop a new area of knowledge or activity.



Scientist of the
Month

July



July

Gustav Holst

Musician of
the Month

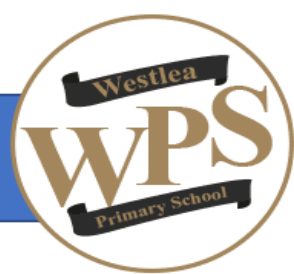
Gustav Holst was a famous **English composer** best known for his orchestral suite, **The Planets**.

Early Life

Gustav Theodore Holst was born on September 21, 1874, in Cheltenham, England. He came from a family of musicians, and it was clear from a young age that he would also become a musician. His father, Adolph von Holst, was an organist and music teacher, and his mother, Clara Cox, was a talented singer and pianist. Gustav had a younger brother, Emil, who became a successful actor. As a child, Holst had health problems, including asthma and a nerve condition in his right arm, which stopped him from becoming a pianist, so he focused on composing instead.

Classical

Summer Term CARE values



Congratulations to the classes below . 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 1 ice lollies



Year 6 fruit



Class 7 Art

Class 5 Art

Class 6 lego



Class 4 quiz

Well done to EVERY CLASS for achieving 96% attendance.



Class 2 fruit

Class 3 ice lollies

In other news...

A Letter for Year 6



To Year 6,

As you leave Westlea Primary School, you take with you so much more than memories. You leave with the knowledge, skills, friendships and values that will help you take your next steps with confidence.

Throughout your time at Westlea, you have shown our CARE values every day—demonstrating **Compassion, Aspiration, Respect** and **Excellence** in the way you have learned, supported one another and grown as individuals. These values will continue to guide you wherever your journey takes you.

Starting secondary school is an exciting new chapter. It will bring new experiences, new friendships, new challenges and countless opportunities to discover talents and interests you may not yet know you have. Embrace every opportunity, be curious, ask questions, and never be afraid to try something new. The greatest achievements often begin with the courage to take that first step.

As you move on from Westlea, remember that success is not simply about what you achieve but also about the person you choose to be. Be kind, work hard, believe in yourselves, and continue to show the CARE values that have made you such a special year group.

We are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished and excited to see what your futures hold. Although you are leaving Westlea, you will always be part of our school family, and we will always be cheering you on.

On behalf of everyone at Westlea Primary School, thank you for the laughter, determination and joy you have brought to our school. We wish you every happiness and success as you begin this exciting new adventure.

Go forward with confidence, embrace every opportunity, explore new possibilities, and enjoy every moment of the journey ahead.

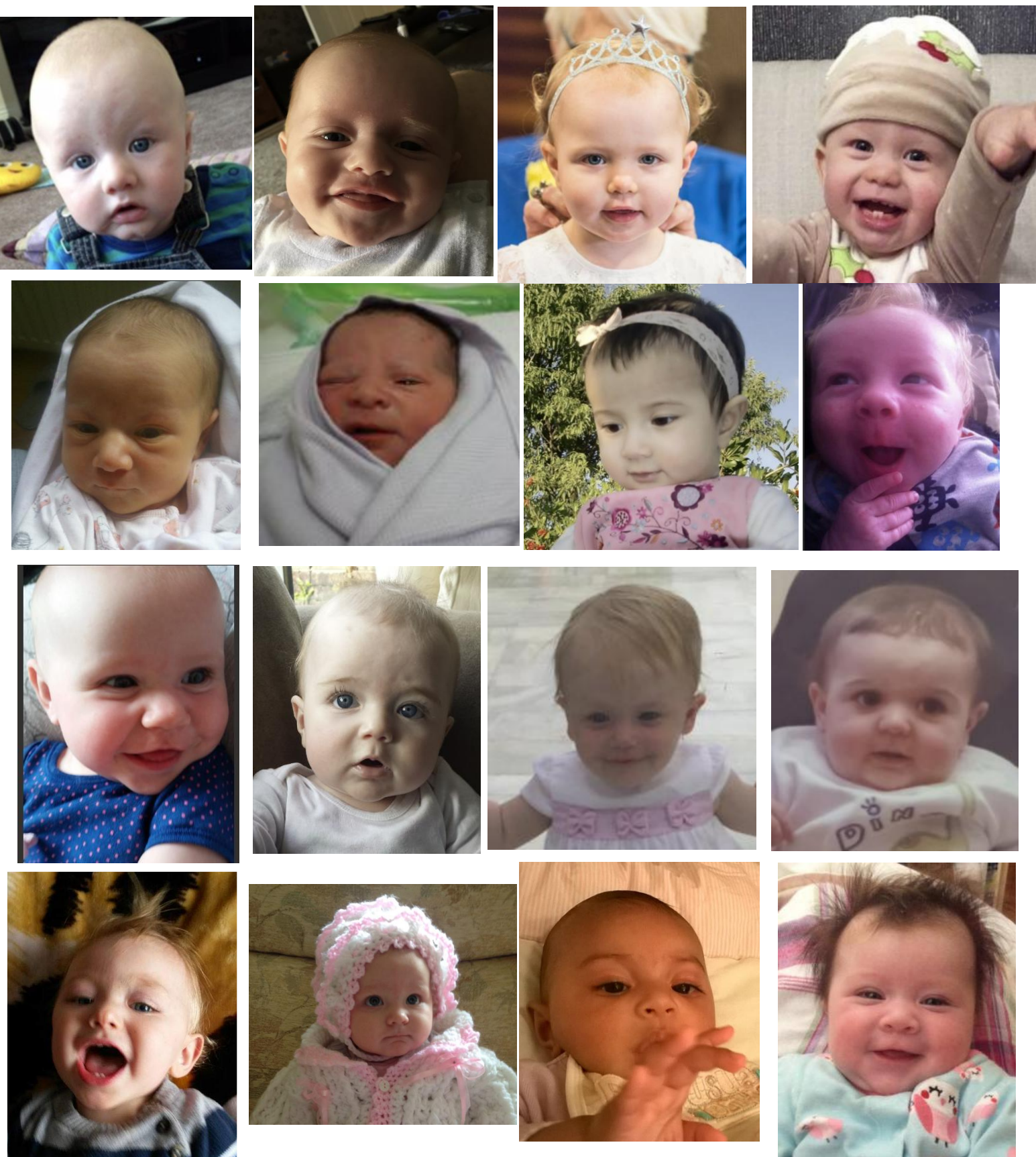
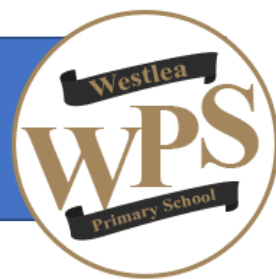
Good luck, Year 6. You are ready, and your future is full of promise.

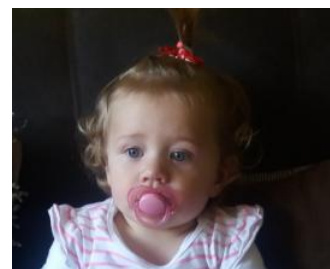
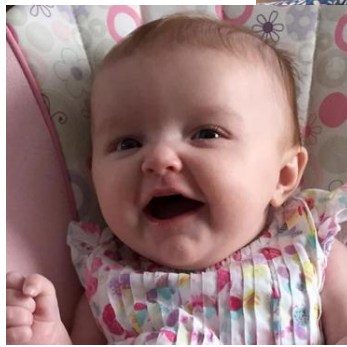
Your Westlea Family

XXX

In other news...

Year 6 Bonny Baby Photo Edition



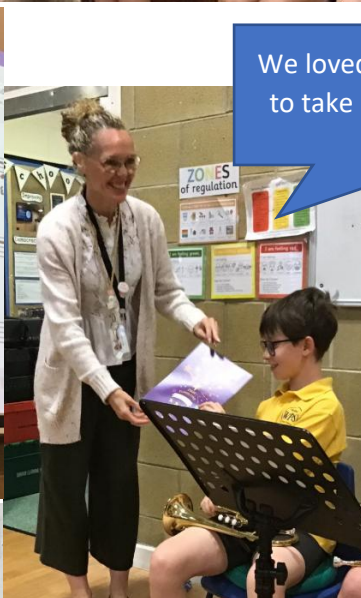
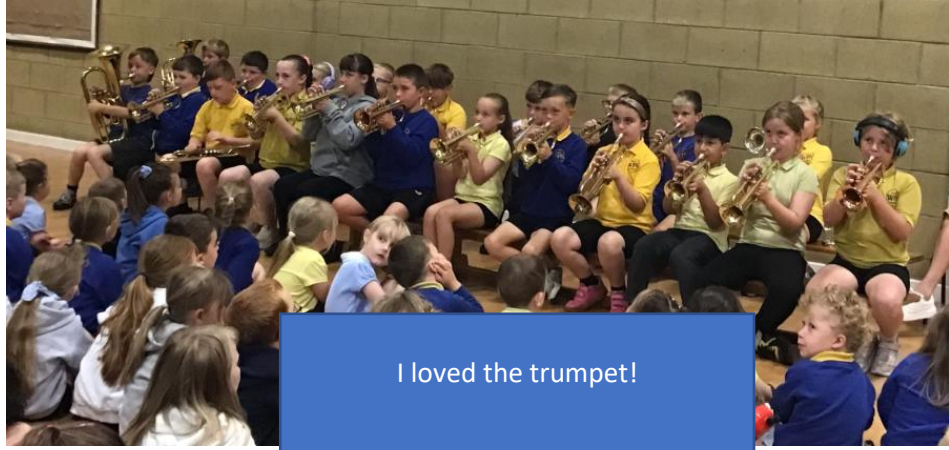


In other news...

Brass concert



The whole school came together to enjoy our school Brass concert. The pupils in Year4 have weekly brass lesson, through Durham Music Services. Mr Hind, our music teacher, prepared a musical show that was fun, entertaining and also showcased the musician's talents. Our older pupils, who have continued with their love of music also performed more technical pieces. Well done to all the musicians.

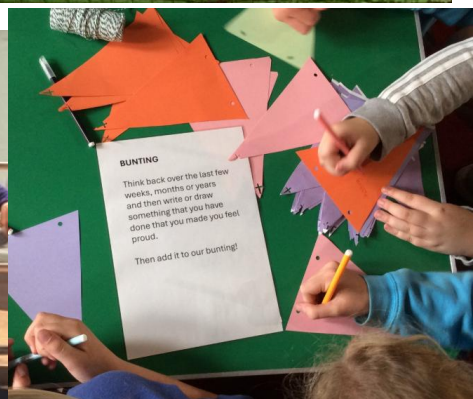


In other news...

Year 6 Bowling/church visit

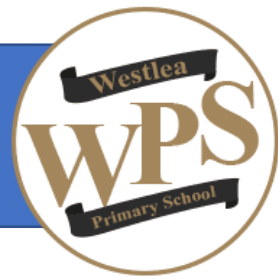


Year 6 have enjoyed their last week of term in so many ways. They had their treat trips to bowling and soft play alongside a silent disco. Year 6 also visited Christ Church and took part in a service reflecting on the next stage of the education. The journey they will take. The hopes for the future and the worries they may have. Christ Church congregation will prayer for our wonderful pupils and their families, as they move on to the next stage of education.



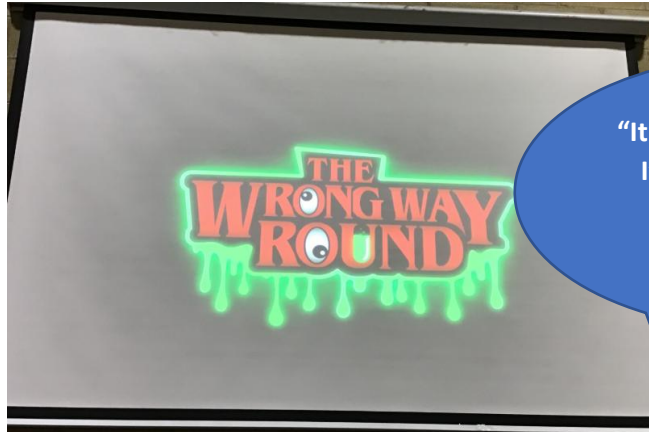
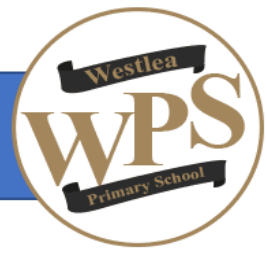
In other news...

Mr Bainbridge Day!



In other news...

Leavers assembly



"It was that funny, I think
I've cracked two ribs"

Charlie C4



"Every single person shone
and showed off their talents"

Mrs Simmons



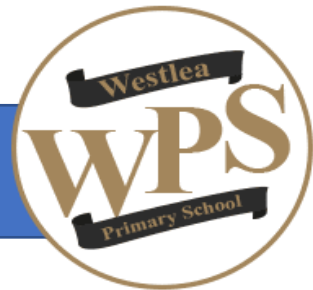
"Well done to all of Year 6, it
was amazing to see everyone be
so confident on the stage."

Miss Scott

In other news...

Final Class Photo of the Year

– Classes of 2026



Class 1



Class 2



Class 3



Class 4



Class 5



Year 6



Nursery



Class 7



Class 6

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE IN HOT WEATHER

As temperatures rise, it's essential to take proactive steps to ensure children and young people stay safe and healthy. Hot weather can pose serious risks such as dehydration, heatstroke and sunburn. This guide provides practical tips for parents and teachers to protect children during sunnier spells, helping them enjoy the summer safely.

1 STAY HYDRATED

Ensure children drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if they don't feel thirsty. Encourage them to carry water bottles and take regular sips. It's better to drink small amounts to counteract the effects of sweating. Even if children replenish lost fluids with equal amounts of water, they may still be dehydrated due to salt lost from the body. Avoid sugary drinks and caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration.

2 APPLY SUNSCREEN

Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30 on all exposed skin and reapply every two hours or after swimming. Don't forget often-missed spots like the ears, back of the neck and tops of feet. Sunscreen needs around 20 to 30 minutes to be absorbed by the skin, so make sure you leave plenty of time to apply it.

3 WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Dress children in light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing made from breathable fabrics like cotton. Ideally clothing should cover as much skin as possible. Shoulders should always be covered as they can easily burn. Wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses with UV protection are also essential to shield them from the sun. Be sure to check your school's dress policy, as uniform rules may be relaxed during amber or red Heat Health Alerts (HHAs).

4 SEEK SHADE

Covering up and seeking shade are the most important sun protection measures. Encourage children to play in shaded areas, especially during peak sun intensity between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Use umbrellas or canopies if natural shade is unavailable.

5 AVOID STRENUOUS ACTIVITIES

Children shouldn't take part in vigorous physical activities in very hot weather. Limit these during the warmest parts of the day. Schedule any outdoor games or sports for early morning or late afternoon when it's slightly cooler.

6 KEEP COOL Indoors

If it's safe and appropriate, open windows early in the morning to allow stored heat to escape from the building. Use fans or air conditioning to maintain a cool indoor environment. Close curtains or blinds to block direct sunlight. Switch off electrical equipment like computers, monitors and printers when not in use; don't leave them in 'standby mode' as this still generates heat.

7 TAKE COOL BATHS OR SHOWERS

Encourage children to take cool baths or showers to lower their body temperature. Alternatively, use damp cloths on their skin to provide relief from the heat. When heading out of the house, consider filling up a spray bottle to cool everyone down on the go.

8 MONITOR FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS

If sensible precautions are taken, children are unlikely to be seriously affected by hot conditions – but teachers, assistants, school nurses and all child carers should watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion, such as heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea or fainting. If any signs are present, move the child to a cool place, make sure they drink some water, and seek medical advice if needed.

9 MAINTAIN A COOL SLEEPING ENVIRONMENT

Ensure children's bedrooms stay cool by using fans or air conditioning. Use lightweight bedding and consider letting them sleep in the coolest part of the house. Older children can have more choice over what they wear to bed. Some children may prefer to sleep without pyjamas, while some may prefer to opt for a light cotton t-shirt and shorts.

10 EDUCATE CHILDREN ON SUN SAFETY

Teach children the importance of sun safety and encourage them to take responsibility for their health. Explain the risks of sunburn and heatstroke and the value of following these safety tips.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings (and other industries) to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College