



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;

Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment

Coming soon...

European Day of language.

Find out which European country your year group will be exploring. Wear the colours of the national flag!



KEY DATES

25th September European day of Languages

6th and 7th October - Harvest Festival KS2

9th October – Harvest Festival KS1

Week of 19th October – healthy week

23rd of October – Glow in the dark disco

HALF TERM – break up 24th October return

3rd November

2nd November – INSET school closed

Week of 24th November – Book fair and open nights

2nd December – Festive Run AM

Parliament Week at Westlea Primary School

It has been another busy and exciting week at Westlea Primary School as we have celebrated **Election Week** and explored what it means to be an active and responsible member of our school community.

This week, our **CARE values** have focused on **Community and Ambition**. In our assemblies, we have been thinking about leadership and how positive change can begin with each and every one of us. We have talked about the small things we can do every day to make Westlea an even better place — from picking up a coat from the floor and holding a door open for someone, to being proactive, positive and kind in the way we interact with others.

We have also been celebrating **pupil voice and democracy** through our School Council elections. Pupils who chose to stand for election prepared and delivered speeches to their classmates, sharing their ideas about how they could make a positive contribution to our school. On Thursday, the whole school took part in an exciting election.

A huge **well done to every pupil who had the confidence and ambition to put themselves forward**, and congratulations to our newly elected **School Council representatives**. We look forward to hearing their ideas and seeing them make a positive difference across our school.

Our School Council is just one of the many ways our pupils have opportunities to have their voices heard. We are incredibly proud of the range of pupil leadership groups across Westlea:

- **Rights Respecting Group** – Link Teacher: Mrs Morrow
- **Eco-Warriors** – Link Teacher: Mrs James
- **Digital Leaders** – Link Teacher: Mrs Robson
- **Playground Leaders** – Link Teacher: Miss Appleton
- **School Council** – Link Teacher: Mrs Davey
- **Year 6 volunteering roles:** Mrs Davey

These groups provide wonderful opportunities for our children to develop confidence, leadership skills and a sense of responsibility, while helping to shape our school community.

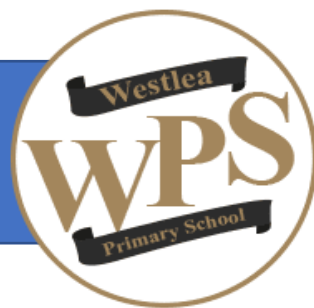
At Westlea, we believe that **every child has a voice, every child can make a difference, and every child should have the ambition to make our community a better place.**

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Scothern



THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



Attendance is one of the key indicators of success for children. Being at school every day - on time- ready to learn- really does make that much of a difference. Let's work together to make this happen. Please contact school if you have any attendance queries or concerns. Regards, Mrs Scothern, Mrs Davey and Mrs Simmons

	WE 18/09/26
Reception	97.3
Year 1	89.3
Year 2	99.3
Year 3	97.3
Year 4	91.4
Year 5	94.4
Year 6	90.5

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!

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 18/09/26 is 94.3%

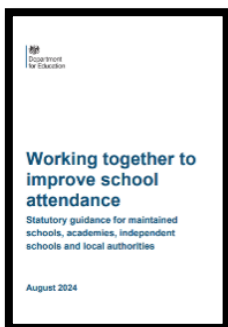
Our attendance for the year to date is 95.9%

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

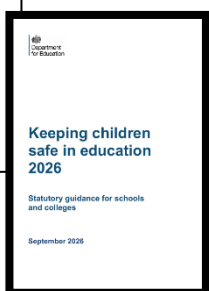
Ever wondered where school gets guidance for supporting families with attendance?

We use statutory guidance.

As a school we are also supported by the Local Authority and this week we met with a member of the Attendance Improvement Team to discuss the schools' attendance.



All Staff received updated training regarding updates to Keeping Children Safe In Education, that became statutory 1st September.



Attendopoly winners:

Reception – £10 spend

Year 2 – Extra track/ninja trail

Year 3 – Forest school session

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 WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Comment

Lunchtimes; Spending time speaking to our children during lunchtime is always a pleasure. Lunchtimes have become another opportunity for pupils and adults to speak to each other. Find out about their day or something that important for them to share. The children develop manners and speak and listen to each other. Staff support all pupils to use cutlery and extend these skills.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WB 18.09.26
Reception	Mira
Year 1	Amelia
Year 2	Charlotte
Year 3	Holly E
Year 4	Bowie
Year 5	Layla B
Year 6	Carson

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WB 18.09.26
Reception	Henry
Year 1	Ebony
Year 2	Addison
Year 3	Eliza
Year 4	Elliot
Year 5	Joah
Year 6	Kevin

Right of the week- Article

You should be protected by things that can harm you.

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



Pupil discussions: What are your **ambitions** for this year or beyond? We spoke about things we would like to become better at, what we want to learn and what kind of careers we wish to have.



Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are...Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment

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:

Reception - Skadi

Year 1 - Poppy

Year 2 - Albie

Year 3 – Ezra

Year 4- Esmae

Year 5 -Poppy

Year 6 - Carter

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:

Reception - Georgia

Year 1 - Otis

Year 2 - Niyah

Year 3 – Lydia

Year 4- Lydia

Year 5 - Maleko

Year 6 - Ivery

Mathematician of the week:

Reception - Gage

Year 1 - Skye

Year 2 - Reuben

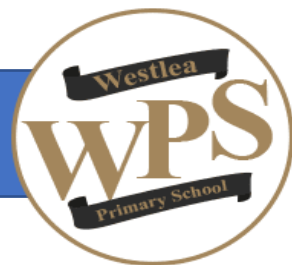
Year 3 –Charlie

Year 4- Sienna

Year 5 - Autumn

Year 6 - Millie

Autumn Term CARE values



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

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

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

Community

What it means: We believe that everyone is an important part of our school community. Pupils learn the importance of working together, supporting others, and celebrating each other's successes. Through developing a strong sense of belonging, children learn empathy, teamwork, and how to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

How this helps our pupils:

- Builds positive relationships.
- Encourages kindness and inclusion.
- Develops teamwork and cooperation.
- Creates a sense of belonging and responsibility.

Ambition

What it means: We encourage all pupils to aim high and believe in their potential. Ambition means being willing to challenge yourself, work hard, and never give up when things become difficult. We want our children to have confidence in their abilities and aspirations for the future.

How this helps our pupils:

- Develops resilience and determination.
- Encourages a growth mindset.
- Increases confidence and self-belief.
- Inspires children to achieve their personal best.

Respect

What it means: Respect is fundamental to a happy and successful school. We teach our pupils to value themselves, others, and the environment. Children learn to listen carefully, accept differences, and treat everyone with kindness and consideration.

How this helps our pupils:

- Promotes positive behaviour.
- Develops understanding and tolerance.
- Encourages responsibility for actions.
- Builds strong and respectful relationships.

Enjoyment

What it means: Learning should be engaging, inspiring, and enjoyable. We want our pupils to be curious, enthusiastic, and excited about discovering new things. When children enjoy learning, they are more confident, motivated, and willing to take on new challenges.

How this helps our pupils:

- Develops a love of learning.
- Increases motivation and engagement.
- Encourages creativity and curiosity.
- Supports positive wellbeing and happiness.

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.



Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

Vincent van Gogh was a famous artist from the Netherlands. He loved using **bright colours and bold brushstrokes** to create his paintings. Van Gogh painted lots of things he saw around him, including **flowers, landscapes, buildings and the night sky**. Some of his most famous paintings are *The Starry Night*, *Sunflowers* and *The Bedroom*.

Vincent didn't become famous during his lifetime, but today he is one of the **most well-known artists in the world**. His paintings are loved for their swirling patterns, exciting colours and expressive style.

✍ **Fun fact:** Van Gogh painted many self-portraits and experimented with different ways of using paint to show how he felt and what he saw.

Impressionism

Artist of the Month

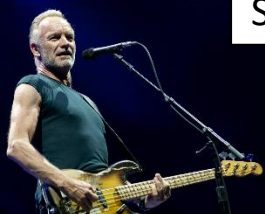
September



Musician of the Month

September

Sting



FUN FACT!!!

Sting's real name is **Gordon Sumner**. He got the nickname "**Sting**" because he often wore a black-and-yellow striped jumper that made him look like a **bumblebee**!

Full name: Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner
Stage name: Sting
Born: 2 October 1951
Birthplace: Wallsend, Northumberland, England
Occupation: Singer, songwriter and musician
Instruments: Bass guitar, guitar and vocals

★ Who is Sting?

Sting is a famous English musician best known as the lead singer, songwriter and bass player of **The Police**. The band became hugely successful with songs such as "**Roxanne**," "**Message in a Bottle**" and "**Every Breath You Take**." Sting later had a successful solo career, producing hits including "**Fields of Gold**," "**Englishman in New York**" and "**Shape of My Heart**."

September

Scientist of the Month

The First Person on the Moon!



Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong was an American astronaut, engineer and pilot. He became famous on **20 July 1969**, when he became the **first person to walk on the Moon** as part of the Apollo 11 mission.

Armstrong and his crewmates, **Buzz Aldrin** and **Michael Collins**, travelled to the Moon aboard the Apollo 11 spacecraft. When Armstrong stepped onto the Moon, he made history!

After returning to Earth, Armstrong continued working in science and engineering and inspired millions of people around the world to explore space and learn about science.

Fun fact: Neil Armstrong brought a small piece of wood from the Wright brothers' first aeroplane to the Moon to remember the beginnings of human flight. ✈

In other news...

Playground leaders for KS1 and KS2



At Westlea we are proud to have a dedicated group of students who are committed to helping children enjoy play times and lunch times by leading a series of games

Their main responsibilities include:

Collecting and distributing playground equipment.

Providing games for children to play together.

Taking part in meetings with staff and providing ideas on how to improve playtimes.

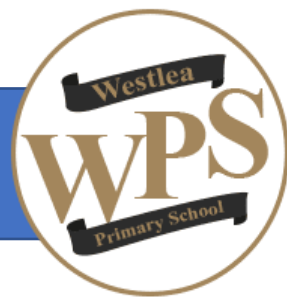
Taking part in training to improve skills.



Our playground leaders received some external training to help them feel more confident leading sessions on the playground with their peers. The first session focused on using their voices effectively and the second session focused on learning how to lead a game so that all children understand how to play.

In other news...

Westlea Football Team this week



Football season has started again this week with some changes. Unfortunately, due to rule changes year 4 children are not allowed to play with year 5 children. Due to this we have just made one team with children from both year 5 and year 6.

We had our first league match this week where we came back with 3-3 draw against Ropery Walk in a very competitive game.

We have also played our first cup games this week. We didn't come away with a win but the team played well and I look forward to the season ahead.

Mr Unsworth

In other news...

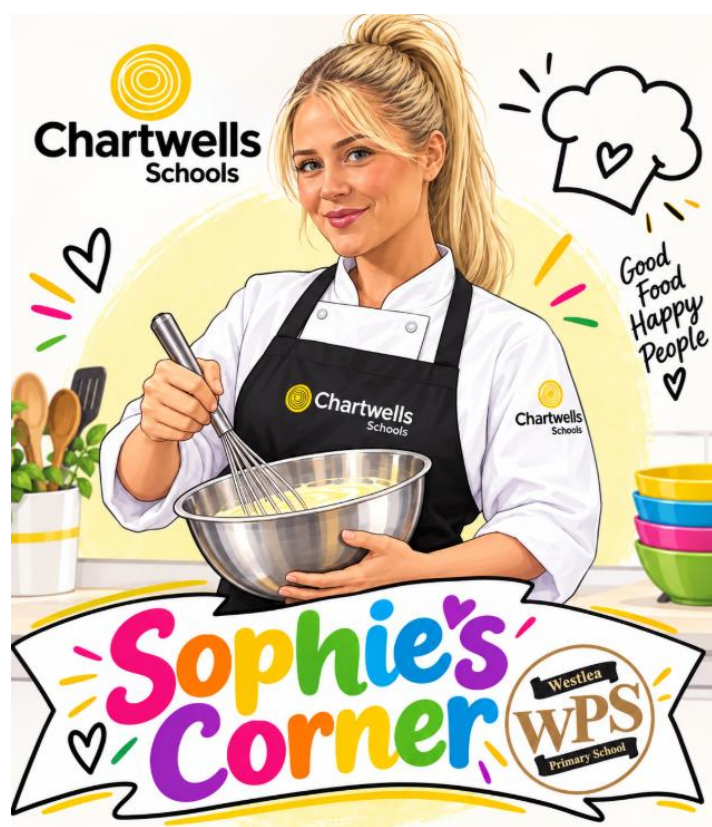
Netball skills



Four Year 6 girls travelled to Peterlee to take part in a Netball skills festival. The girls had a great time taking part in a lot of different Netball skills.



In other news...



We welcome our new school cook to Westlea.

Look out for special menus in the next few weeks.

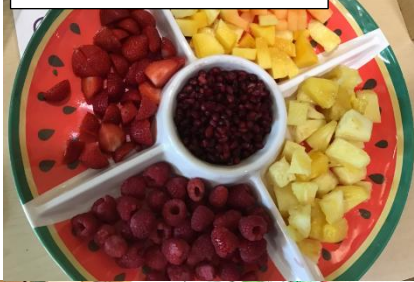
In other news...

Attendopoly



Reception – Extra cookie club

Year 1 – Fruit platter



Year 2 – Ice lollies



Year 6 – Fruit platter



Year 3 - Cookery



Year 4 – Board games



In other news...

Extra-curricular clubs



Explorer's club

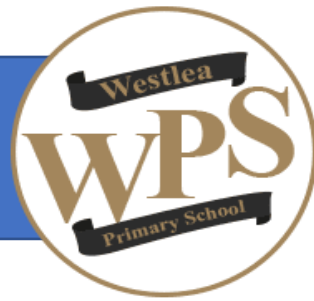


Music + Movement



In other news...

European Day of Language



On Friday 25th of September we will be celebrating European day of languages in school. It encourages people of all ages to discover and learn new languages, highlighting how multilingualism fosters cultural understanding, stronger relationships, and broader communication and cooperation. Each class has chosen a country to focus on – pupils are welcome to come to school dressed in the colours of their flag. Please do not buy anything new especially for the day – anything at home you have with some of the colours of the flag would be perfect.

[This years' theme is Language Unite – How Languages Shape Inclusion](#)

EYFS – Romania, Hungary and Poland



Year 1 - Germany



Year 2 - Netherlands



Year 3 - Italy



Year 4 - France



Year 5 - Spain



Year 6 - Greece



In other news...

School Council and pupil voice groups



School council: Staff lead: Mrs Davey Our Purpose 'Having a Positive impact'

- We are the voice of all students
- We aim to get things done to make our school better.
- To find ways to improve our school.
- To give every pupil a voice and to make all decision-making fair.

Membership and Elections

Any pupil of Westlea Primary School can put themselves forward to be elected democratically. Every student, is encouraged to stand for election stating their reasons before the class. Each candidate thinks of a speech to present to their class which explains why they think they would be the best person to represent the views of their class. Then the classes voted for the person who they feel would get the job done the best by writing down the name of the person they decide on.



School Council 2026/27

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school; whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently; so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College