



Hello Everyone,

What a busy and productive week it has been! Our pupils are rising to new expectations, working hard and making great progress towards their personal learning targets. We are incredibly proud of their continued effort and enthusiasm.

Speaking and Listening – WelCom

This week, all school staff took part in training to further develop our knowledge and expertise in **Speaking and Listening** through a programme called **WelCom**.

The training highlighted just how important high-quality conversations and interactions are in supporting children's communication and developing their **Oracy skills**. Every interaction with our pupils provides an opportunity to listen, talk, model language and encourage children to express themselves.

We are already putting this learning into practice in our **Early Years** area, where it is helping to support the early development of speech, language and understanding.

What's been happening in school?

There have been lots of exciting activities taking place in our classrooms this week. In **Year 2, a tiger came to tea!** Find out what happened and, most importantly, whether the tiger ate all of the food! Senior leaders have conducted a book look of all the learning taking place in classes across school. All pupils are showing progress towards personal targets. As a school we are all trying to improve our handwriting and presentation and its lovely to see how hard the pupils are working towards this target.

We also hosted our first **Stay and Read** sessions of the year in Nursery and Reception. Photos next week to follow. Our Harvest festival practises have begun and assemblies for KS1 and KS2 can be found in the Key Dates section. Please note that these assemblies begin at 2pm. Doors will open at 1:45pm.

Sports News

We have had some fantastic sporting performances this week, with pupils taking part in **football, soft-archery and cross-country** events.

Keep an eye out for **Mr Unsworth's sports reports** for all the details!

A huge well done to all of our pupils who have taken part in trials, represented school teams and given their very best. We are so proud of the positive attitude, teamwork and sportsmanship they demonstrate.

A big **thank you to all our parents and carers** for your continued support and encouragement. Your positivity makes such a difference and is very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Mrs Scothern

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**



KEY DATES

6th and 7th October - Harvest Festival KS2
9th October – Harvest Festival KS1

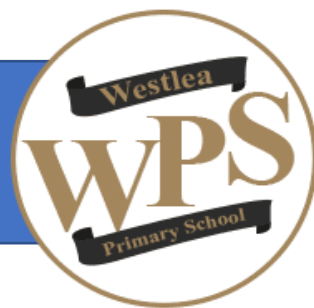
Week of 19th October – Healthy week
23rd of October – Glow in the dark disco

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

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 02/10/26
Reception	97.3
Year 1	94.3
Year 2	92.1
Year 3	94.2
Year 4	92.5
Year 5	95.6
Year 6	94.3

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 02/10/26 is 94.4%

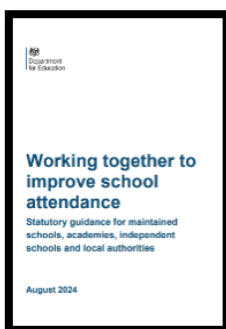
Our attendance for the year to date is 95.5%

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

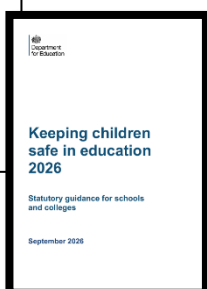
Ever wondered where school gets guidance for supporting families with attendance?

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 – Mindfulness 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 Award

Alexandra (Mira's Mam) Baking delicious sweet Romania bread for Mira's class to enjoy,

Kray (Y6) Displaying the value of Community and Enjoyment and Winter (Y5) for showing the values of Respect and Community by their actions in school.

Sophiya (Y6) and Archie (Y4): Displaying a love of learning by producing additional information about their chosen European countries of Greece and France

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WB 02.10.26
Reception	Ronni
Year 1	Skye
Year 2	Kayden
Year 3	Eliza
Year 4	Archie
Year 5	Ijaz
Year 6	Mace

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WB 02.10.26
Reception	Tymon
Year 1	DJ
Year 2	Lucas
Year 3	Cayde
Year 4	Maleko
Year 5	Olivia
Year 6	Luna

Right of the week- Article 5 – Learn how to use your rights as you grow up.

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



Pupil discussions:

Enjoyment What do we enjoy about our learning? How can we see enjoyment on the yard or in the classroom? We enjoyed ice-lollies and a trip to Westlea Woods during our discussion.



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 - Oscar

Year 1 - Alfie

Year 2 - Reuben

Year 3 – Lydia

Year 4- Alana

Year 5 -Charlotte

Year 6 - Zak

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 – Arlo T

Year 1 - Misty

Year 2 - Ava

Year 3 – Violet

Year 4- Mia

Year 5 – Layla B

Year 6 - Tilly

Mathematician of the week:

Reception - Alex

Year 1 – Ollie C

Year 2 – Elliot

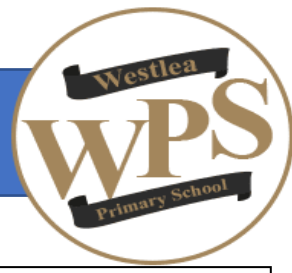
Year 3 –Anthony

Year 4- Alex

Year 5 – Harvey-Jack

Year 6 – Tyler M

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.

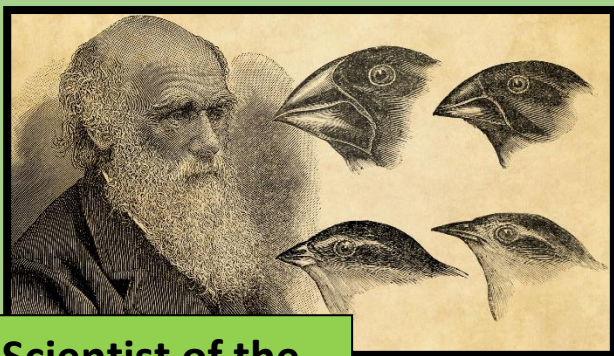
In other news...

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.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



Scientist of the Month

October

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin was an important scientist who studied nature.

Early Life

Charles was born in England in 1809. He had five brothers and sisters. Charles's mother died when he was eight years old. His father was a doctor.

Becoming a Scientist

Charles went to University at Edinburgh and Cambridge. He became very interested in natural history.

Charles went on a journey on a ship called HMS Beagle in 1831. The voyage was to study creatures all around the world. He visited the Galapagos islands. Charles noticed the birds on the islands had differences to help them survive in their different habitats.



Theory of Evolution

Charles published a book called 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859. He described an idea called natural selection. This meant that creatures change over a long period of time to survive. Charles noticed that creatures with the best features to survive in their environment would pass these onto their young. Charles's ideas were known as the theory of evolution.

Later Life

Charles and his wife had 10 children. He died in 1882.

Fun Fact

A type of frog from Chile is called Darwin's frog after he discovered it.



Musician of the Month

Elvis Presley

October

Elvis Presley's top hits:

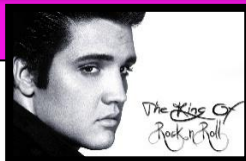
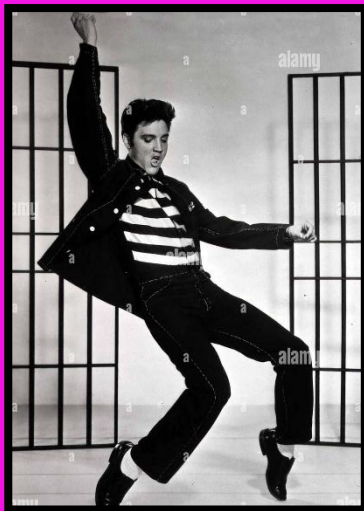
Suspicious Minds

Jailhouse Rock

Hound Dog

Can't Help Falling in Love

Heartbreak Hotel



Fun Facts about Elvis

- **Name:** Elvis Presley
- **Profession:** Actor, Singer and Musician
- **Born:** January 8th, 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi, United States
- **Died:** August 16th, 1977 in Memphis, Tennessee, United States
- **Resting Place:** Graceland Mansion Estates
- **Legacy:** Famous for being known as the king of rock and roll

October

Artist of the Month



**POP
ART**

Andy Warhol

Who is Andy Warhol?

Andy Warhol is one of the most famous artists, ever. From his soup to his hair, he is an art legend

Andy Warhol was an American pop artist.

He was born in 1928 and died in 1987.

One of Andy Warhol's most famous pieces of work is a print of the well-known actress Marilyn Monroe.

Pop artists also made art about popular things. For example, Warhol is famous for his print of a can of soup.

Andy Warhol often repeated his prints many times.

He used a method called *screen printing* to make many of his artworks.

In other news...

Fire work and bonfire safety message

This week in Key Stage two assembly we welcome the fire service in to school to share important safety messages about fireworks and bonfires.

The fire people explained about the importance of attending organised events and the danger of fireworks.



The children asked interesting questions and were also asked to help explain particular safety messages. Like STOP DROP and ROLL!



In other news...

Attendopoly



Year 1 – Fruit platter



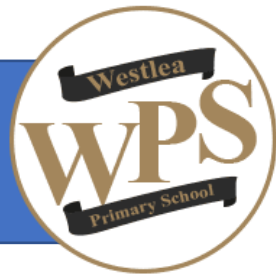
Year 5 - Cookery



Year 6 – Ice lollies

In other news...

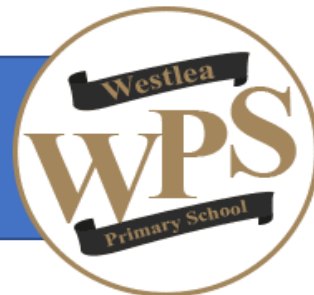
Soft Archery Club and competition



Our Archers have enjoyed a morning of competition. These pupils entered an intra school's competition where their score will be compared with other schools. Results to follow. The children really enjoyed the experience. They showed resilience and a determination to improve, cheered their friends on and worked as a brilliant team. Some of our children have also been attending an afterschool club for soft archery and have really impressed their coach Jess with how talented they are and how much enjoyment they have had. Well done for representing Westlea Primary School!



In other news... Cross Country and Football



Our pupils displayed our Westlea care values of community, ambition, respect and enjoyment at the district cross-country competition.

These pupils have attended weekly cross-country practise and shown a superb attitude to a sport that is very much down to how far you can push yourself!

The teams from Westlea performed excellently and results were...

Gold: Y1/2 Girls for small schools and 3rd overall

Gold: Y1/2 Boys for small schools and 3rd overall

Gold: Y3/4 Girls for small schools

Silver: Y3/4 Boys for small schools

Gold: 5/6: Girls for small schools

Gold: 5/6 Boys for small schools and 3rd overall

Well done to all of our runners, special mention for Tyler M 5th and Lucas E 7th



Football Update:

5-0 win. 1 draw and 1 win in the league so far. A great start to the season!

In other news...

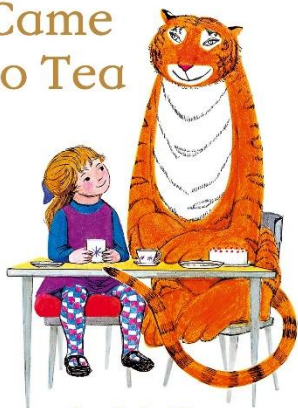
Year 2: The Tiger that came to tea @WPS



Year 2 have had a very special visitor. A tiger came to join us in our 'Tiger who came to tea' celebration. He ate all the buns and drank all of the drink! He loved joining us. We all had an amazing time!



The Tiger Who Came to Tea



Judith Kerr



SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman, Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP
Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>
<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>