



Autumn CARE values are; **Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment**

KEY DATES

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
11th November – SEN Coffee morning
19th November – England Rocks Day!
20th November – Children In Need Day
Week of 24th November – Book fair and
open nights

2nd December – Festive Run AM
3rd December – Xmas Fair
8th December – KS1 Xmas show (pm)
9th December – EYFS Xmas show (pm)
10th December Y3/4 Xmas show (pm)
11th December Y5/6 Xmas show (pm)

15th December – Xmas Jumper/dinner day
16th December – Xmas Party
16th December – Y5/6 Xmas party
17th December – Y3/4 Xmas party
17th December – KS1 Xmas Party
18th December – Xmas PJ Day

Westlea Primary School News: Keeping Safe, Staying Active and Well!

It has been another busy and exciting time at Westlea Primary School, with a strong focus on **keeping our children safe**, supporting their **wellbeing** and preparing for a fantastic week ahead!

Speak Out. Stay Safe.

Our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children took part in **NSPCC assemblies** as part of the **Speak Out. Stay Safe.** programme. These important sessions helped children understand their right to feel safe, recognise when something does not feel right and know who they can turn to for help. At Westlea, we are committed to ensuring every child feels listened to, supported and safe.

Ice Cats Training: Preparing for Every Eventuality

On Thursday and Friday, staff took part in Ice Cats training in school. Each class received training tailored to the age and needs of the children, helping us to strengthen our knowledge, build confidence and ensure our school community is prepared to respond to a range of eventualities. **Keeping everyone safe remains at the heart of everything we do at Westlea.**

Next Week: Health and Wellbeing Week!

We are looking forward to an exciting whole-school celebration of **health and wellbeing next week!** Our children will have opportunities to explore a wide range of activities designed to support **both mind and body**, encouraging everyone to discover new interests, challenge themselves and enjoy being active together.

The week will include a whole-school cross-country competition, Forest School adventures, soft archery and a sports ability day. Alongside these activities, children will take part in a variety of sessions focused on physical health, emotional wellbeing, resilience, teamwork and looking after themselves and others. Let's not forget reading, writing, speaking and listening and maths all woven into each activity!

We will bring our celebrations to a joyful finale with our much-anticipated **Glow in the Dark Discos!** These promises to be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to enjoy the magic of dance, movement and song, celebrating togetherness, confidence and the happiness that comes from being part of our Westlea community.

Sporting News from Westlea Primary School!

It has been another action-packed week of sporting excitement at Westlea Primary School, with our pupils demonstrating teamwork, determination and fantastic sporting spirit!

Dodgeball Success!

Our dodgeball teams have been busy competing this week, showing great enthusiasm, quick reactions and plenty of teamwork. We are incredibly proud of all our players for representing Westlea and giving their best. Find out how our teams fared in their competitions and celebrate their sporting achievements with us!

Girls' Football Festival

A huge well done to our fabulous girls' football squad, who attended a girls' football festival at Peterlee College this week! It was a fantastic opportunity for our players to develop their skills, enjoy playing alongside other schools and celebrate the growing opportunities for girls in football. We are so proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and team spirit!

Building Strong Foundations for Learning

Our youngest learners have also been developing their physical skills through a half-term programme of coaching focused on both gross and fine motor skills.

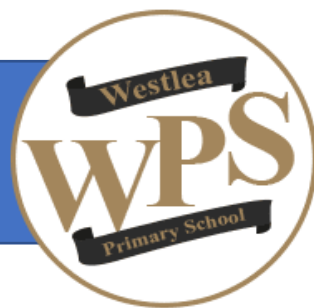
These fundamental skills are essential building blocks for children's development. From improving balance, coordination and control to strengthening the smaller muscles needed for precise movements, the sessions help our pupils become more physically confident and physically literate.

And did you know that these skills can even support handwriting? Developing hand strength, finger control and coordination helps children build the foundations they need to form letters and write with greater confidence.

At Westlea, we know that being active is about so much more than sport. By developing physical skills from the earliest years, we are helping our children become confident, capable learners who are ready to thrive in the classroom and beyond.



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 16/10/26
Reception	98.4
Year 1	93.6
Year 2	97.2
Year 3	93.9
Year 4	92.5
Year 5	97.2
Year 6	94.6

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 16/10/26 is **95%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.7%**

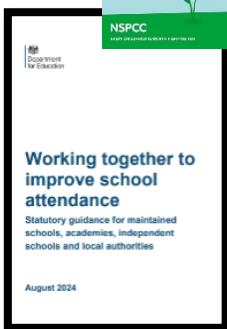
Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at **95.7%**



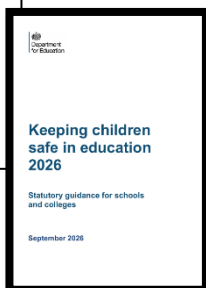
Ever wondered where school gets guidance for supporting families with attendance?

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 – Extra cookie club

Year 2 – Extra art session

Year 4 – 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

Ella E Y6 – Taking part in Netball club practices and the match at the end, building her self-confidence. Well Done!

Charlotte Y2 – Asking thoughtful questions and having a lovely discussion about careers in breakfast club.

Charlie and Anthony Y3 – Making playtimes enjoyable for everyone by making new friends.

Ruby Y3- Knowing a friend needed encouragement and support with their learning.

Morgan Y4- being thoughtful and kind towards classmates at playtime.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS	
	WB 16.10.26
Reception	Emily
Year 1	Ollie F
Year 2	Niyah
Year 3	Charlie
Year 4	Dakota
Year 5	Joah
Year 6	Eva

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS	
	WB 16.10.26
Reception	Seth
Year 1	Elsie
Year 2	Imogen
Year 3	Sidney
Year 4	Eshaal
Year 5	Layla C
Year 6	Ella E

Right of the week- Article 27 – Your 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: CURRICULUM

Curriculum talks- This week pupil discussion centred around what pupils have learnt about this half term. They proudly came along to the discussions with their subject books and shared with me their learning. A key focus of this has been our development within the curriculum of our Star words- key words that children either substantive or disciplinary in its nature.



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 - Lincoln
Year 1 – Matthew T
Year 2 - Laynee
Year 3 – Ella
Year 4- Grace
Year 5 – India
Year 6 - Luka

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

Keep up your great learning
attitude.

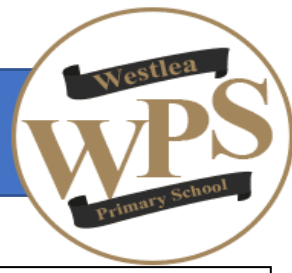
Writer of the week:

Reception - Isaac
Year 1 - Joshua
Year 2 - Lara
Year 3 – Ezra
Year 4- Ollie
Year 5 - Grace
Year 6 - Jacob

Mathematician of the week:

Reception - Huey
Year 1 - Arthur
Year 2 - Albie
Year 3 –Harrison
Year 4- Bowie
Year 5 - Magnus
Year 6 - William

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.

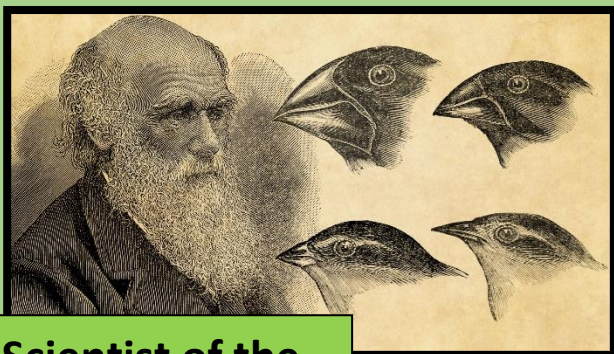
In other news...

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 on to 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:

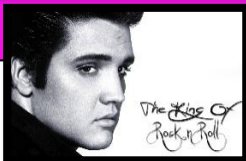
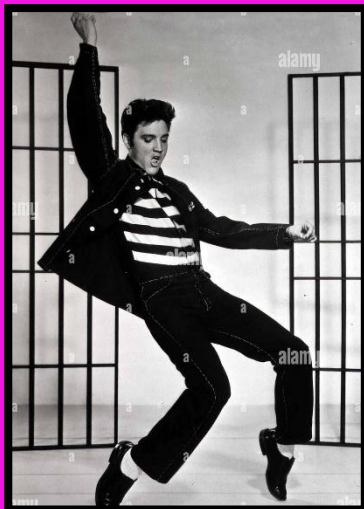
Suspicious Minds

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...

Attendopoly



Year 4 – Ice Lollies



Year 2 – Extra cookie club

Year 1 - £10 spend



Year 5 – Extra cookie club

In other news...

Enrichment



Community - visiting a place of worship....
make and taste food from another culture



"Learn the rules of forest school though safe
risk taking."

In other news...

Safe Guarding: NSPCC Assemblies



NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe.

This week, our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the NSPCC's **Speak Out. Stay Safe.** programme through age-appropriate assemblies designed to help children understand how to keep themselves safe.

The programme teaches children that they have the right to feel safe, that they should speak out if something worries them, and that they can always talk to a trusted adult if they need help. Through engaging, child-friendly activities and messages, pupils are encouraged to recognise when something doesn't feel right and understand that they will be listened to and supported.

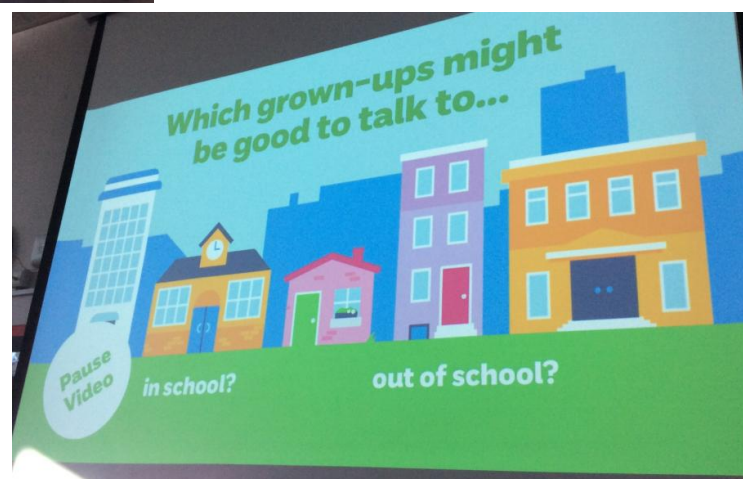
At Westlea Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our priority. We are proud to support the NSPCC in empowering our pupils with the knowledge, confidence and language they need to help keep themselves safe, both in and out of school.



[Buddy Zone | Childline](#)

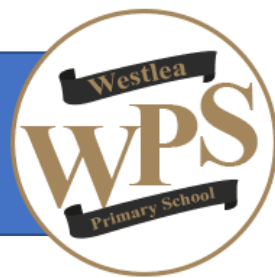


[Talk PANTS: Conversation to help keep children safe | NSPCC](#)



In other news...

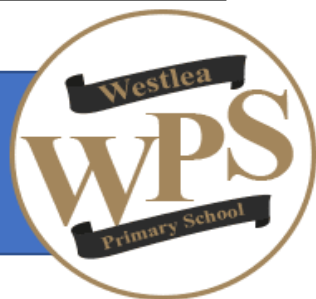
Dodgeball competition @ Westlea



We entered our first ever dodgeball competition this year. The children had an amazing time and it was lovely to see all their happy faces during the competition.

In other news...

Y5/6 Girls Football competition



A new girls team this year had their first matches. They performed amazingly finishing 3rd in one group then winning 2nd group.

I will hopefully organise some friendly games after February half term

Results

Westlea 0 – 0 Howlatch

Westlea 0 – 2 Ribbon

Westlea 0 – 1 Shotton

3rd place

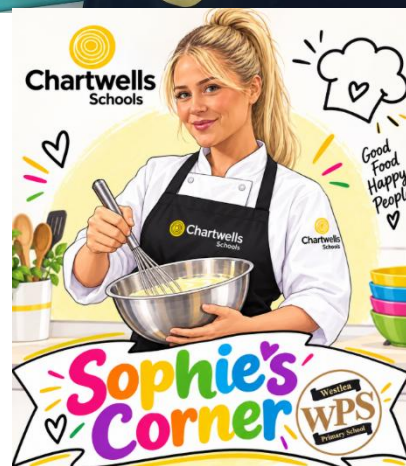


Westlea 1 – 0 Dene House

Westlea 0 – 0 Wingate

2 – 0 (penalties)

In other news... Chartwells taster sessions



Autumn menu
week 1 – first
week back after
half term

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges / Pasta	Sausage Burger with Corn on the Cob	Roast Chicken, Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing, New Potatoes and Gravy	Mince and Onion Pie with Mashed Potato	Fish Fingers with Chips
OPTION 2	Messy Spaghetti	Veggie Burger with Corn on the Cob	Quorn Roast, Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing, New Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Veggie Wrap with Wholegrain Rice	Quorn Dippers with Chips
OPTION 3	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans
ALL DISHES ARE SERVED WITH CRUNCHY VEGETABLES AND / OR FRESH SALAD					
VEG	Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Coleslaw Big Bowl Salad	Broccoli Carrots	Carrots Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Baked Beans
DESSERT	Ice Cream	Ginger Biscuit with Fruit	Jam Slice with Custard	Flapjack	Fruit
Vegetarian Wholegrain Nutritionist's Choice Oily Fish (Salmon) Fruity Vegan					
WEEK 1 WEEK 2 WEEK 3					

21/11/2026, 23/11/2026, 14/12/2026, 18/01/2027, 08/02/2027, 08/03/2027

In other news...

Ready, Sett, Go

Developing Physical Literacy

We are excited to be taking part in **County Durham's Ready, Sett, Go** programme with our Nursery and Reception children.

Ready, Sett, Go is a fun, active programme designed to develop children's **physical literacy** through playful activities and fundamental movement skills. Children have opportunities to practise skills such as **running, jumping, balancing, throwing, catching, changing direction and coordinating their movements**. These early physical skills provide an important foundation for children's confidence, independence and participation in physical activity as they grow.

The programme is about much more than sport. Through fun games and challenges, children develop their **strength, balance, coordination, agility, listening skills and ability to follow instructions**, while building confidence and learning to enjoy being active.

At Westlea, we want every child to develop a positive relationship with movement and understand that **being active can be fun!** We are also encouraging families to join in with simple physical activities at home, helping children practise and enjoy these skills together.





LITTLE TREASURES

AUTISM CHARITY
1178397



Peterlee Social Session

1st Saturday of Each Month – 1pm to 3pm
£5 per family

The Guide House, Oneil Drive, Peterlee, SR8 5UD



Autism-friendly social group for autistic young people aged 2-16 years.
Safe, relaxed, non-judgemental play space
Parents/guardians stay for peer support. Siblings welcome.



Book at: www.littletreasures.org.uk On via Space by ZDUWX7

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING A LOVE OF EARLY WRITING

Mastering writing skills at an early age can result in better literacy and communication capabilities, giving children improved prospects in their later education and career. To write meaningfully requires motivation, inspiration and fine motor skills. Children gradually come to understand that writing has meaning and that the words they write can be read back again.

1 MODEL WRITING HABITS

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of the adults they observe around them, so modelling writing habits to children is vital – as is helping them to grasp that writing has meaning. As many adults now write with digital tools instead of pen and paper, we'd recommend using obvious 'writing' actions so that children are less likely to misinterpret what you're doing as browsing the internet or checking your social media.

2 WRITE FOR A REAL PURPOSE

Adults can promote writing by involving children in its real-life purposes, such as shopping lists or letters and cards to friends and relatives. This is especially helpful before children enter the final year of the Foundation Stage, when writing becomes more structured and less spontaneous. Children increasingly use digital technology for their early writing, so it's important to recognise and value all the forms that writing might take for children at home.

3 CREATE THE 'WRITE' ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, providing accessible opportunities to write is beneficial for children who want to engage independently. It can help children to be fully immersed in the experience, aiding their concentration and letting them build up the amount of time they're able to focus. You could keep paper, clipboards and a range of writing tools near where children play, for example. They could also take these outside. Different materials will pique interest.

4 UTILISE THEIR INTERESTS

To inspire children to write and keep them motivated, following opportunities linked to their interests and play is important. They could write invitations for a tea party or a sign for a make-believe shop, for instance, or make a 'lost and found' poster for a character in a story. These opportunities can be created organically by giving children access to a variety of writing tools in the environment.

5 CONSIDER THE PROCESS

In terms of development, children generally learn to speak first, then build their vocabulary and develop the fine motor coordination they need to manipulate a writing instrument. All these stages are important and should be encouraged. As they grow older, the alphabet can be introduced, and you can support them to make links between the spoken language and written words.

6 FOCUS ON FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Before learning to form letters, children will make marks as they learn how to hold instruments like pencils or crayons. In doing this, they'll develop the dexterity and movement in their fingers that's needed for writing. You can support this by engaging in play which boosts these skills – such as threading beads, finger painting and using playdough. Giving them broader implements to hold (chunky crayons, for example) will also help.

7 PHASE IN PHONICS

Using phonics builds the knowledge of sounds and the skill of using letters. For young children to be able to apply what they've learned in their writing, it's important that they get lots of opportunities to playfully explore the sounds that make up words. Moving to more formal correspondences and letter identification too early can be counterproductive: nurseries should be able to advise parents on the right time to introduce this.

8 BUILD A POSITIVE MINDSET

In developing early writing skills, children engage in mark making, which might not accurately represent known letters and can include symbols and pictures. Praising a child's effort here promotes a positive mindset around writing: they're demonstrating that they understand it has a purpose and meaning. Ask them to share what they've written (they'll normally translate it for you!) and try to avoid correcting them too much in that specific moment.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

While writing and early mark making can be hugely enjoyable, children can also sometimes struggle to sit for lengthy periods of time or engage with writing fully. Regular intervals are encouraged: even making some marks or writing a few words (such as their name) is better than none. You could also factor in some movement breaks. Not forcing children to write in a particular way is key to ensuring they don't become disengaged.

10 LINK WRITING TO READING

As children get older, you can (while reading a story, for example) highlight particular sounds in words – perhaps starting with familiar ones like the letters in their names. You can also show the direction you're reading in (left to right in English; right to left in Arabic and so on), which will help raise their awareness. Highlighting who the author is may also encourage children to begin writing their own stories.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Kiernan has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYF's practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College