



Newsletter

Friday 31st Jan, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of January. The past few weeks have been filled with exciting opportunities, laughter, and progress, with children fully immersing themselves in lessons, developing new skills in a range of after-school clubs, and strengthening friendships during break times.

One of the highlights of the term so far was our first Family Read session of 2025. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers, and family members joining us to share stories with children across the school, from Reception to Year 6. The joy on the children's faces as they read with loved ones was truly heartwarming, and the atmosphere in the school was one of warmth and enthusiasm. To add to the occasion, an impromptu singing performance took place in R/1, making the morning even more special. We hope these sessions continue to be a much-loved opportunity for families to enjoy quality reading time together in school.

Beyond Family Read, we have also had valuable opportunities to engage with parents and carers at various events this week, including our SEND Coffee Morning, the Family Read coffee time, and the Meet and Greet with staff from The St Lawrence Academy. These moments of connection are so important to us, as they allow for meaningful discussions about your children's education, as well as school improvements. We are incredibly grateful to those who have taken the time to attend, share concerns, offer ideas, and contribute to shaping the future of our school. Your input is invaluable, and we hope you are beginning to see positive changes as a result. Please know that both myself and the staff greatly appreciate your support, and we are always happy to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

We are pleased to confirm that our SEND Coffee Mornings will continue every Wednesday, providing a relaxed space for parents and carers to chat, ask questions, and receive support. In addition, our monthly Family Read Coffee Sessions will continue to take place on the last school Friday of each month.

Another highlight of the term was seeing our Year 5 pupils demonstrating great enthusiasm and determination as they took part in their cycling proficiency sessions. It has been fantastic to hear that many children have been applying what they have learned when cycling to and from school and around the village.

Meanwhile, our EYFS children have been fully immersed in their learning about Chinese New Year, marking the occasion by dressing in red, the traditional colour of good luck. Throughout the day, they explored the customs and traditions of this important celebration, learning about the significance of the Lunar New Year, dragon dances, and the importance of family gatherings. To round off their learning, they even had the chance to taste traditional Chinese New Year foods.

In other news, we are aware of some concerns regarding school dinners. In response to feedback from both children and parents, we have been working closely with Dolce, our school meal provider, to make improvements to the quality and variety of school dinners. We are aware that some children have not been fully enjoying their meals, and we are committed to addressing this. To gain a clearer understanding of the issues, we have gathered pupil voice feedback, giving children the chance to share their likes and dislikes. In addition, I have spent time in the dining hall during lunchtimes, sampling meals alongside the children and listening to their thoughts. As a result of these discussions, Dolce has now introduced a sandwich option to the menu, in response to requests from both parents and pupils. We hope these changes will enhance the lunchtime experience, but please do continue to share any feedback with us so we can keep working together to ensure all children have access to healthy, enjoyable meals.

Looking ahead, the next two weeks promise to be full of engaging learning experiences for our pupils.

Our Year 1/2 pupils will be taking their learning beyond the classroom as they explore the local geography of Westwoodside on a walk around the village. This will help them develop a deeper understanding of their community, local landmarks.

As a whole school, we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, where pupils will explore strategies for supporting their emotional well-being, building resilience, and helping each other navigate difficult or challenging situations.

On Friday, 7th February, we will once again celebrate “Wear the Colour That Makes You Happy” Day. Pupils can come to school dressed in colours that bring them happiness. It is a simple yet effective way to promote positivity, well-being, and self-expression, and we look forward to seeing a vibrant display of colours throughout the school.

On Tuesday, 11th February, we will be marking Safer Internet Day 2025. The theme for this year is: “Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.”

During the day, children will learn about the importance of critical thinking when navigating the internet, how to identify online scams, and how to protect themselves and others from misleading or deceptive content. With technology playing an ever-increasing role in daily life, it is crucial that our pupils develop strong digital literacy skills, and we look forward to engaging them in these important discussions.

As always, we encourage you to regularly check the Jotter app for the latest school updates, announcements, and event reminders. The school calendar is also a great resource for keeping track of upcoming activities.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in school life. Working together, we can ensure that Westwoodside remains a nurturing, engaging, and inspiring place for all our children to learn and grow.

Warm regards,

Mr Rush and the Westwoodside C of E Academy Team

Safeguarding At Westwoodside Church of England Academy



Welcome to the Westwoodside Safeguarding Update

At Westwoodside Church of England Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility—and our top priority. Anyone who comes into contact with children and their families has an important role to play in ensuring their safety and well-being.

The purpose of these newsletters is to share helpful updates that may support children and families within our community, guiding you to the right sources of help and advice whenever needed.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our details are provided below.

Ms. Janney
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
ddsl@wws.academy

Mr. Rush
Designated Safeguarding Lead
dsl@wws.academy

Worried about a child or young person?

Safeguarding children and young people or keeping them safe is the responsibility of everyone. If you are concerned that a child is being abused or they may be at risk of harm, you should contact North Lincolnshire's Children's Services Duty Team on:

01724 296500 (9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm Friday)

08081 689667 (free phone)

01724 296555 (answerphone - out of office hours and at weekends)

101 - Police non emergency

999 - Police emergency

Link to the CMARS website: <https://www.northlincscmars.co.uk/children-and-young-people/>

Safeguarding At Westwoodside Church of England Academy



Supporting Children in Managing Screen Time and Digital Wellbeing

As technology becomes an increasingly integral part of daily life, it can be challenging for parents and carers to determine whether their child is simply engaged with digital devices or developing an unhealthy dependence on them. With the rise of social media, online gaming, and instant access to content, many children and young people are spending more time online than ever before.

As trusted adults, it's important that we feel confident in identifying the signs of excessive screen time and understanding how to support children in developing healthy digital habits. Finding the right balance is key—not only to protect their physical and mental wellbeing but also to ensure they get enough sleep, avoid app and gaming addiction, and maintain positive relationships both online and offline.

To support you with this, the attached helpful guide includes practical tips on:

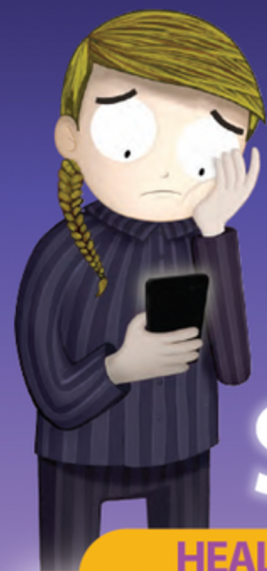
- ✓ Recognising the signs of screen time dependency
- ✓ Encouraging healthier digital habits
- ✓ Reducing the risks to sleep, wellbeing, and mental health
- ✓ Managing app and social media usage safely

We encourage all parents and carers to take an active role in discussing healthy screen time habits with their children. By working together, we can help ensure that technology remains a positive tool for learning and connection, rather than a source of stress or dependence.

If you have any concerns about your child's screen time or would like further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

Ms. Janney
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
ddsl@wws.academy

Mr. Rush
Designated Safeguarding Lead
dsl@wws.academy



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?



47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens



What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



National Online Safety



Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focused the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged **3-4** go online for nearly **9hrs** a week

82% of children aged **5-7** go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week

93% of children aged **8-11** go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week

99% of children aged **12-15** go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018

Breakfast Club!

Don't forget we offer a Breakfast Club!



Breakfast club is open every morning from 7:30 AM to 8:50 AM. We offer a range of healthy breakfast options to help your child start their day energised and ready to learn.

The cost is £3.50 per session. If you're interested in booking a space for your child, please contact the school office for more information or to reserve a space.

After School Clubs

From exploring music and performing arts to honing athletic skills, there's a wide range of opportunities for your child to discover new passions and develop valuable skills.

MONDAY

- Rugby tots

TUESDAY

- Dance Club for Year 1 to Year 6

WEDNESDAY

- Multi-sports Club for Year 3 to Year 6

THURSDAY

- Choir for Year 1 to Year 6
- Multi-skills club Reception to Year 2

FRIDAY

- Performing Arts for Year 1 to Year 6
- Football

To register for any of the After School Clubs, simply contact the office or click on the links on any of the flyers which are on the school notice-boards, or which you will have received via email from the school.

Attendance

A top priority at Westwoodside



At Westwoodside Church of England Primary Academy, we are committed to ensuring outstanding attendance and punctuality for all our pupils. Regular attendance is crucial for maximizing learning opportunities, and we rely on parents and carers to help encourage a positive attitude towards attending school. Research shows that pupils who attend school consistently not only achieve better academic results but also build stronger friendships with their peers.

Our school's minimum attendance target is 96.5%, and we expect all pupils to meet or exceed this. Every day matters, and maintaining good attendance will have a significant impact on your child's overall progress and development. Let's work together to support your child's success in both learning and social growth.

Together, we can ensure that all our pupils have the best possible opportunities for success!



Shining Lights

of the week

Here are this week's Shining Lights of the Week! These pupils have been shining lights for others to follow, embodying our school vision through their kindness, effort, and positive example. Let's celebrate their achievements and the difference they make in our school community!

Nursery

Reception/Year 1

Years 1/2

Years 3/4

Years 4/5

Year 6

Caitlin

Lucas

Annabelle

Pola

Evelyn

Alex

CERTIFICATE



Upcoming Events

Something for the fridge door...



February

- **1st - 7th** - Children's Mental Health Week
- **7th** - Wear the Colour that Makes You Happy Day : Come to school in your 'happy colour'
- **Tues 11th** - Internet Safety Day
- **17th - 21st** - Half Term Week
- **28th** - Family Read Morning

March

- **3rd - 8th** - National Careers Week
- **Thur 6th** - Get dressed up as your favourite storybook character for World Book Day
- **7th - 16th** - British Science Week
- **25th** - Parents Evening
- **27th** - Parents Evening
- **Fri 28th** - The Easter Journey Year 5

April

- **7th - 22nd** - Easter Holiday

May

- **5th** - May Day Bank Holiday
- **12th - 15th** - KS2 SATs Week
- **26th - 30th** - Half Term Week

June

- **Wed 4th** - Trip to Austerfield Reception and Year 1



Remember to see further dates please log into the School Jotter App where you can view and subscribe to the school calendar

Part of a Governors role is to know what's going on across all aspects of school. One of the subjects that often comes up at the school gate is school dinners. Are they working well and are the children enjoying them? So, with this in mind, our roving Governor Reporter, Mr Bolstridge, undertook a mission to sample these for himself and to report his findings back to the Governors.

=====

School Dinner Report / 2025-01-17

S Bolstridge

=====

I asked for a normal pupil portion (I watched and can confirm that it was the same size as the pupils' portions).

Sampled:

- Jacket potato/ beans
- (apple) sponge/ cake/ custard
- glass of water

Findings:

The jacket potato was cooked through, soft, tasty, warm, decent size (I was full at the end). The beans were warm and, err, "bean-like"! After talking with Mrs Hather [Governor] and a pupil throughout lunch, my pudding was (quite rightly) cold-sh to the touch/ the custard warm. Had we not talked throughout, I would imagine it would be warm as expected.

Conclusion:

I asked a fair few pupils for their verdicts on the dinners which they'd had recently, and were to have that day. Except the obvious comments about "nobody touches the salad", "we always get peas whether we want them or not", and "I like fish-n-chips day", my overall feeling was that the children appear to like the majority of the food, it seems to be warm when served, and decent sized portions for the age demographic. Whilst OBVIOUSLY not Michelin Star ready, my particular experience was favourable, and better than some fast food places which I've been forced to endure.

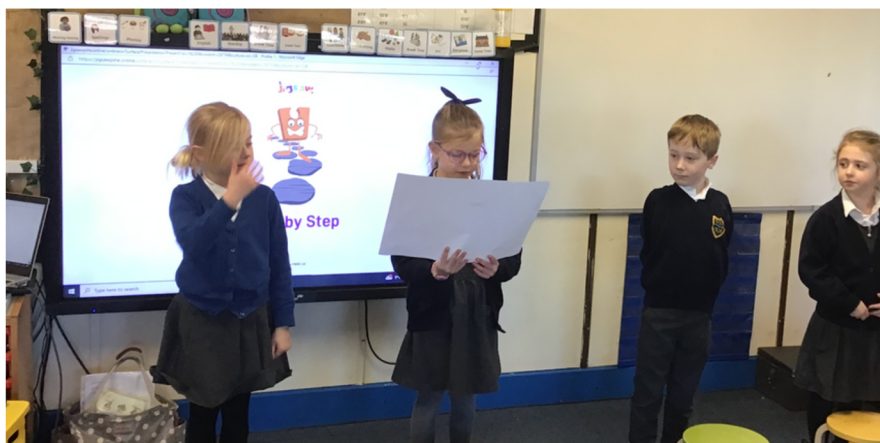
This Week at Westwoodside!

Take a look at some of the fantastic experiences we've had in school this week!



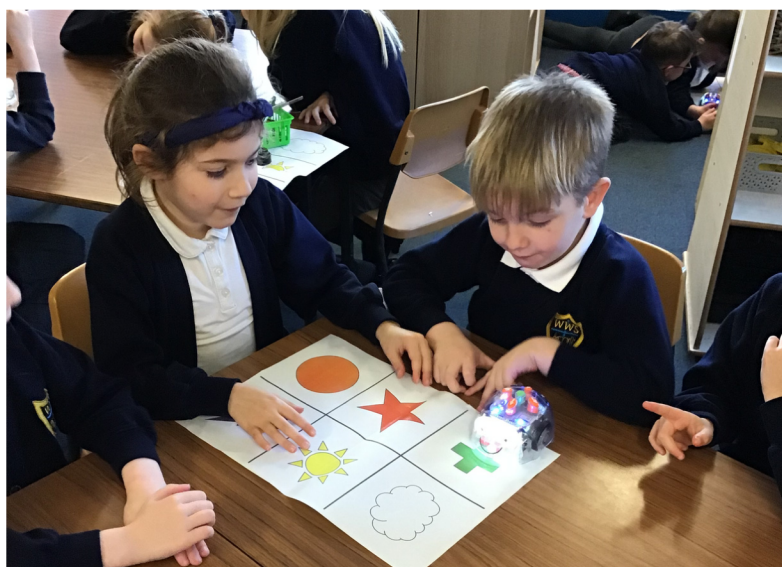
Wellbeing Ambassador Meeting

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors met today to discuss how they can effectively deliver important messages for Wellbeing Week. They explored ideas on how to promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the school community.



Year 1/2 (PSHE) explored the Steps to Success, learning how breaking tasks into smaller steps helps achieve a goal. They used the example of making a jam sandwich, identifying each step needed to reach the final outcome.

Year 1/2 explored programming by predicting where the Bee-Bot would end up after inputting their algorithms, developing their logical thinking and problem-solving skills.





Reception/Year 1 enjoyed moving to a rhythm during their music lesson, enhancing their coordination, timing, and listening skills.

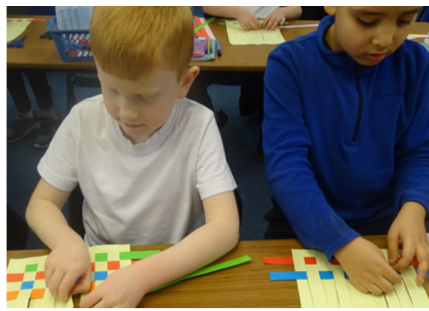


Year 4/5 learned how to create branching databases, organizing information using structured decision-making and classification techniques.



In PSHE, the children explored how to stretch their minds when facing challenges. They created stretchy flowers to represent how our brains grow when we persevere with tricky learning instead of giving up.





Our Year 3/4 pupils have been exploring the art of paper weaving, developing their fine motor skills and creativity! They carefully intertwined colours and patterns to produce some fantastic designs.



Our Year 1/2 pupils have been perfecting their gymnastics rolls, including the log roll, egg roll, and dish and hollow roll! They showed great control, balance, and determination as they practiced their movements. Fantastic effort from everyone—future gymnasts in the making!

Boom Readers of the week

A huge congratulations to our Boom Readers

of the Week! These children have earned the most gems on BoomReader by showing fantastic dedication to reading both in school and at home.

Well done to all of you for your hard work and enthusiasm—**keep it up!**

R/1 Harrison

1/2 Austin

3/4 Dermot and Amelia

4/5 Ettie

6 Chloe S

**Further Congratulations to
the class with the most reads!**

**Yr
3 / 4**

Westwoodside Church of England Primary School, Nethergate,

Westwoodside, Doncaster DN9 2DR

Tel: 01427 752355 | Email: admin@wws.academy