



Newsletter

Friday 14th February, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another wonderful half-term at Westwoodside, it has been fantastic to see the children flourishing in so many different ways—engaging in their learning, developing friendships, and growing in confidence every day. The school has been full of smiles, laughter, and enthusiasm, and it has been a pleasure to see the children take part in such a wide range of experiences.

As I write this newsletter, love and learning are in the air, as our EYFS children have been celebrating Valentine's Day by dressing in red and exploring what love and kindness mean to them. They have been discussing what love looks like in their lives—whether it's the love they feel for their families, their friends, or even their favourite toys! It has been heartwarming to hear their ideas and see them embracing the message of kindness, friendship, and caring for one another.

Last week, the children took part in Children's Mental Health Week, which focused on understanding their emotions, strengths, and areas for growth. Throughout the week, they explored the theme of "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself," where they reflected on what they feel confident in and what they would like to improve. The discussions were insightful and helped the children recognise the importance of self-awareness and resilience. To end the week, we celebrated "Wear the Colour That Makes You Happy" Day, which filled the school with vibrant colours and joyful energy. It was fantastic to see the children and staff dressed in shades that brought them happiness, creating a bright and uplifting atmosphere across the school.

This week, children also took part in Safer Internet Day 2025, an important initiative promoting online safety and responsible internet use. This year's theme, "Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online," encouraged children to think critically about the information they encounter online. They learned how to spot online scams, fake news, and misleading content, as well as how to protect themselves and others from digital deception. With technology playing such a significant role in children's lives, these discussions are essential in ensuring they navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

It has been wonderful to connect with parents and carers throughout the term, especially during our Family Read sessions and SEND Coffee Mornings. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to join us, share your thoughts, and contribute ideas. Your feedback is incredibly valuable, and we hope you are beginning to see the positive changes happening as a result of our ongoing conversations. To continue strengthening communication between school and home, we are introducing our new “Suggestions & Shout-Outs” boxes. These will be available both virtually (via a link in this newsletter) and physically (in the school reception area). If you have suggestions for ways we can improve or enhance school life, we would love to hear them. Likewise, if you’d like to give a shout-out to a member of staff, a pupil, or another parent, this is a great way to spread some positivity—everyone appreciates a well-done or a thank-you. We understand that parents and carers have busy schedules, and finding the time to come into school isn’t always easy. We hope these boxes provide another way for you to share your thoughts and feedback with us. As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a member of staff—we are always happy to help.

We hope the children have been sharing with you the improvements we have made to school dinners. Over the past few weeks, I have continued to join the children for lunch, sampling meals (and far too many desserts!) and listening to their feedback. We have seen more and more children enjoying their meals, and the new sandwich option has been particularly popular. Please continue to share any further feedback with us and Dolce so we can ensure lunchtimes remain an enjoyable experience for all.

Looking ahead to next half-term, we have many exciting learning opportunities planned. We are looking forward to Careers Week, where children will explore different career paths and hear from visitors about a variety of jobs. A huge thank you to the parents and carers who have kindly agreed to come in and talk about their careers and what they love about them—it will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about the world of work and the many possibilities available to them. We also have Science Week to look forward to, with this year’s theme being “Change and Adapt.” Throughout the week, children will explore how living things, environments, and even scientific thinking have evolved over time. We will also be challenging stereotypes about what a scientist looks like, reinforcing the message that anyone can be a scientist. Another exciting event on the horizon is World Book Day, one of the highlights of the school year. We always love seeing the children dress up as their favourite book characters and immerse themselves in the joy of reading. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the power of books, and we can’t wait to see their creativity and enthusiasm once again this year.

Please remember to check the Jotter app regularly for school updates and our calendar for upcoming events. We wish everyone a happy, restful, and well-deserved half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back after the holiday, ready for more learning and adventures.

Warm regards,

Aaron Rush

Head of School



NEW

Suggestions and shout-outs

“

it's good to talk! it's even better to be heard!

Got a suggestion for improvements to the school, to school protocols, about fund raising, or anything else beneficial to our wonderful school, and our pupils? Then simply, drop us a line from our website Contact Page, or even better, pop into school's reception area and drop one in our Suggestions Box.

<https://tinyurl.com/wws-suggestions>



Suggestions and shout-outs

WWS

date

name (optional)

email (optional)

suggestion/s or shout-out

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.



Visit our school Facebook page to see all the wonderful learning opportunities taking place at Westwoodside!



From exciting classroom activities and creative projects to special events and whole-school celebrations, our page showcases the fantastic experiences our children are enjoying every day.

Stay connected with our school community, celebrate our pupils' achievements, and get a glimpse into the engaging and inspiring learning happening across all year groups. Don't forget to like and follow the page to keep up to date with the latest news and events!

<https://www.facebook.com/wwsschool>



Westwoodside Church of England Academy

123 likes • 152 followers



Westwoodside Church of England Academy



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

Vinnie

Archer

Sophie

Lucy

Evelyn H

Maddie

CERTIFICATE



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!



Upcoming Events

Something for the fridge door...



February

- **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
- **Mon 30th** - Year 6 Transition day to South Axholme Acadmey

July

- **Tuesday 1st** - Year 6 Transition day to South Axholme Acadmey
- **Wednesday 2nd** - Year 6 Transition day to South Axholme Acadmey



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

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



With the internet playing such a huge role in children's lives, it's important to be aware of the risks that come with it—including the spread of misinformation and 'fake news.' While false or misleading content online is nothing new, scammers and cybercriminals are increasingly using this type of material to manipulate, frighten, or persuade their victims into sharing personal details or taking harmful actions.

As scams evolve and the volume of misinformation grows, it's vital that we work together to safeguard children from these tactics. Here are some key ways scammers use 'fake news' to their advantage and how we can help young people recognise and avoid being misled:

- ◆ Scare Tactics – Fraudsters often spread alarming false stories to create fear and urgency, pushing individuals to act quickly without thinking critically.
- ◆ Fake Competitions & Giveaways – Scammers may use fake promotions or offers to trick children into providing personal information.
- ◆ Impersonation Scams – Some may pose as trusted sources, such as well-known brands, celebrities, or even friends and family, to gain trust and deceive victims.
- ◆ Clickbait & False Advertising – Misleading headlines or posts designed to grab attention can lead to dangerous websites or scams.

How to Protect Children:

- ✓ Encourage children to question what they see online—ask Who posted this? Why? Where did this information come from?
- ✓ Teach them to check multiple sources before believing or sharing information.
- ✓ Remind them to never share personal details, even if a message looks official.
- ✓ Use parental controls and safe browsing settings to reduce exposure to harmful content.
- ✓ Keep communication open so they feel comfortable discussing anything suspicious they encounter.

By staying informed and supporting children in developing critical thinking skills, we can help them navigate the online world safely and confidently. If you have any concerns or would like further guidance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

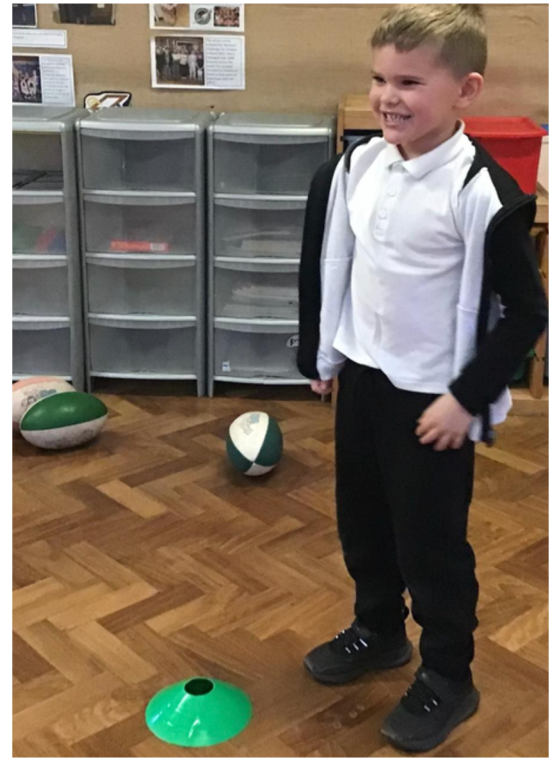
This Week at Westwoodside!

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

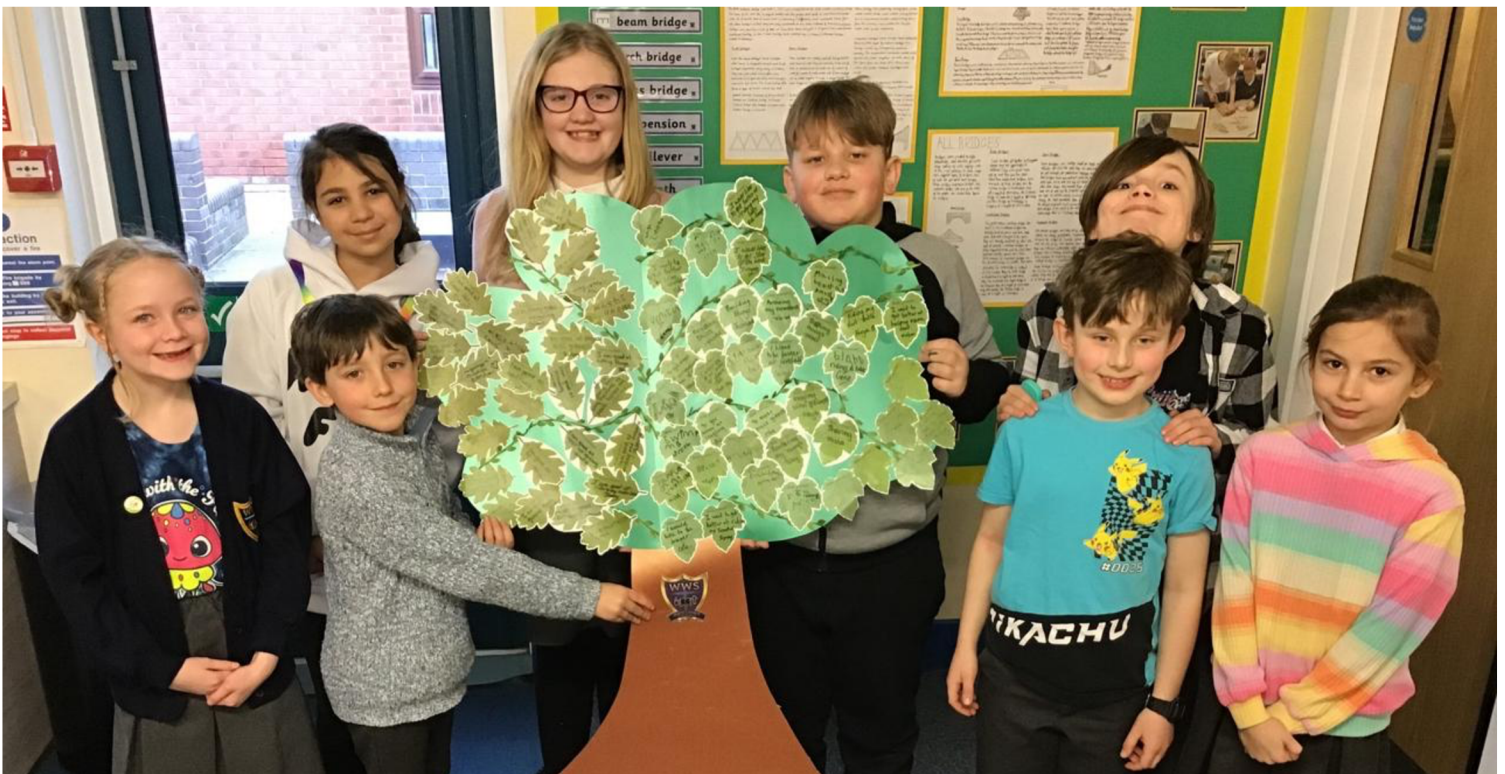


Our pupils had a fantastic time at Rugby Tots Club this week, enjoying their final coaching session of the term! Under the guidance of their brilliant coach, Jez, the children have been developing their rugby skills, teamwork, and confidence throughout the sessions. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, determination, and progress each week. A huge thank you to Jez for his support and encouragement—what a great way to finish the term! We look forward to seeing even more skill-building and fun in future sessions. Well done, everyone!





The children learned so much about their emotional well-being during **Children's Mental Health Week**. They explored what they are good at as part of 'Know Yourself' and discussed areas they want to improve on in 'Grow Yourself'. Then, on Friday, they celebrated 'Wear the Colour That Makes You Happy' day, filling the school with vibrant colours and joyful energy!





Our Year 6 pupils did a fantastic job supporting Year 3/4 with their weaving projects in Art! It was great to see them working together so well, demonstrating patience, teamwork, and leadership. Their encouragement and guidance helped the younger pupils develop their skills and confidence. Well done to everyone involved!





Our EYFS pupils had a fantastic time celebrating Valentine's Day, learning all about **kindness and love**. They enjoyed decorating beautiful Valentine's hearts, indulging in some sweet treats, and sharing the celebrations at dinnertime. A special thank you to Mr. Lomas and Mrs. Skinner for baking the delicious Valentine's Day shortbread— and an extra big thank you from Mr. Rush for saving him some heart-shaped shortbread... yum!



YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL IS A BOOMREADER SCHOOL

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Download on the App Store

boomreader

boomreader.co.uk/parents

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 Lincoln

1/2 - Florence

3/4 Benjamin

4/5 Ettie and Emily D

6 Evie

Further Congratulations to the class with the most reads!



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