



Newsletter

Friday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy few weeks it has been at Westwoodside Church of England Academy, filled with exciting activities and wonderful moments!

It was a joy to see so many children enjoying the Family Read Morning with a loved one. There's nothing quite like seeing a room full of children and adults completely absorbed in a story. Reading together is one of the best ways to encourage a lifelong love of books, and we are grateful for your support.

The Book Fair has also been a huge success, with children eagerly browsing the shelves, discussing their choices, and selecting new books to enjoy. It has been lovely to see their excitement as they discover new stories and authors. If your child hasn't had a chance to visit yet, there's still time—the Book Fair will be open for one more day on Monday at 3:30pm, so we encourage you to pop in and explore the selection together.

Our school choir has been in fine voice this week as they continue their rehearsals for the Epworth Music Festival. It has been wonderful to hear their confidence growing as they perfect their harmonies and develop their performance skills. A huge well done to all involved—we can't wait to see them shine!

Red Nose Day was another highlight, with the school filled with fun, laughter, and a brilliant sea of red! It was fantastic to see both pupils and staff fully embracing the spirit of the day, whether through dressing up, taking part in activities, or simply enjoying the excitement of the event. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over £100 to support the important work that Comic Relief does for children and families both in the UK and around the world. Thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by donating or joining in with the fun—it was a fantastic day, and your kindness makes a real difference.

...contd

Another memorable experience this week was the Year 5 Easter Journey trip to Wesley Church in Epworth. This visit provided a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to explore the Easter story in a meaningful and interactive way. The pupils on the visit asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated real curiosity—we were incredibly proud of the way they represented the school.

A special thank you goes to our fantastic PTA, who have been running the Pop-Up Shop every morning this week. The children have thoroughly enjoyed choosing gifts for the special people in their lives, and I'm sure they will be proud to give their carefully selected presents this Sunday for Mother's Day. The hard work of the PTA in making this happen is truly appreciated, and it has been wonderful to see the excitement on the children's faces as they picked out their gifts.

It has also been great to have the chance to meet with so many parents and carers during our parents' meetings this week. We hope that these meetings were useful and provided helpful insights into your child's progress. If there are any further questions you would like to ask following parents' evening, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we are always happy to help.

As we approach our final week before the Easter holidays, there is still plenty to look forward to. One of the most anticipated events is our Easter Bonnet or Easter Garden Scene Day on Wednesday, where children will have the chance to showcase their creativity by designing either an Easter Bonnet or an Easter Garden scene. This event is always a highlight of the school year, and we love seeing the incredible effort that goes into each creation. At the end of the day, at 3:30pm, parents and carers will have the opportunity to admire all the wonderful designs—we are sure it will be a fantastic celebration of the children's hard work and imagination.

Wednesday is also World Autism Awareness Day, an important opportunity for us to celebrate neurodiversity and raise awareness of autism. Throughout the day, children will take part in activities to help them develop a greater understanding of autism and the different ways people experience the world. As a school, we are committed to developing an inclusive and supportive environment where all children feel valued and understood, and this day will provide a valuable opportunity for pupils to learn more about how we can all be kind, supportive, and accepting of one another.

On Thursday, we are looking forward to welcoming you all to our Easter Service at Haxey Church at 2pm. This is always a special moment for our school community, providing us with the opportunity to come together and reflect on the meaning of Easter through song, prayer, and performance. The children have been working hard to prepare for the service, and we would love to see as many parents and carers as possible join us for this special occasion.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Whether it's attending events, encouraging learning at home, or contributing to our fundraising efforts, your involvement makes such a difference to the life of the school. We are looking forward to a wonderful final week before the Easter break and to celebrating this special time of year together as a school community.

With warm regards,

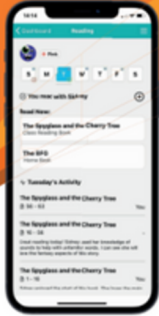
Aaron Rush
Head of School



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



YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL IS A BOOMREADER SCHOOL



Search: Boomreader Parent



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 Harrison
1/2 Florence
3/4 Milan
4/5 Joe
6 Chloe

Yr
1/2

Further Congratulations to the class
with the most reads!



SchoolLife

Westwoodside Church of England Primary Academy

We've had a fantastic couple of weeks at Westwoodside Church of England Academy! The school has been buzzing with energy, and it has been a joy to see our pupils so engaged and eager to explore and learn.

World Book Day was a particularly wonderful day, with both pupils and staff transforming into their favourite book characters. It was wonderful to see so many creative costumes and to hear the children share their favourite stories and authors with such enthusiasm. A big thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the day by helping with costumes and encouraging a love of reading at home.

We also recently celebrated National Careers Week, which was a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to broaden their horizons and start thinking about their futures. The children were truly inspired by the diverse range of professions and the personal journeys behind them.



Westwoodside CofE Primary Academy, Nethergate,
Westwoodside, Doncaster DN9 2DR |
Tel: 01427 752355 | Email: admin@wws.academy

John Rutter REQUIEM

Isle Choral Singers
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Conductor: Robert Steadman
Accompanist: Maurice Davies

Wesley Memorial Church
Epworth
Saturday 12th April 7pm

Tickets £8

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Information: 07786126277 (Christine)
email: christine@islechoral.co.uk
www.facebook.com/islechoral

Reg Charity No: 701227



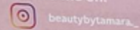
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14 Please mention "The Arrow" when responding to advertisements

To advertise please call 01302 532676 or 07912 643010

Did you know? Our school's latest exploits can often be found in The WWS Arrow publication

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!



This Week at Westwoodside!

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

Red Nose Day

An amazing day was had by all the children and staff, filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of red!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised over £100 to support the brilliant work that Red Nose Day does for children and families both here in the UK and around the world.





School Choir

Our school choir has been in fine voice this week as they continue their rehearsals for the Epworth Music Festival. It has been wonderful to hear their confidence growing as they perfect their harmonies and develop their performance skills. A huge well done to all involved—we can't wait to see them shine!



A Westwoodside Bear Hunt

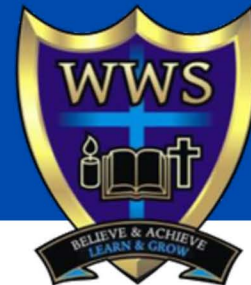
The nursery children went on a bear hunt! They explored the great outdoors, splashed through 'rivers,' squelched through 'mud,' and bravely ventured through the trees in search of a bear.

We're not entirely sure if they found one—but they certainly had lots of fun looking!



Upcoming Events

Something for the fridge door...



April

- **2nd** - World Autism day
- **2nd** - Easter Bonnet day
- **3rd** - Easter Service at Haxey Church
- **7th - 22nd** - Easter Holiday
- **23rd** - With Me in Mind Coffee Morning
- **24th** - Reception/Year1 Parent and Carer update
- **25th** - Family Read morning
- **25th** - Half Term Shining Light Awards

May

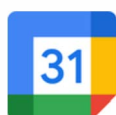
- **5th** - May Day Bank Holiday
- **12th - 15th** - KS2 SATs Week
- **21st** - Year 6 Cycling proficiency day 1
- **23rd** - Family Read morning
- **23rd** - Half Term Shining Light Awards
- **26th - 30th** - Half Term Week

June

- **4th** - Trip to Austerfield Reception and Year 1
- **4th** - Year 6 Cycling proficiency day 2
- **12th** - Empathy Day
- **27th** - Family Read morning

July

- **3rd** - Sports Day
- **4th** - Reserve Sports day
- **18th** - Final day of Summer term



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

Clubs & After School

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.

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.





MAKE TIME AFTER SCHOOL MORE FUN!



RUGBYTOTS AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Our play sessions enable **boys and girls** to try **non-contact** rugby in a fun, focused and friendly way.

Classes boost each child's sense of **sportsmanship, confidence and self-esteem**, as well as their ability to **catch, pass, kick, run with the ball and play in a team**.

Scan the code to register and to book your child's place. Or, for more details, just call or email:

jez@rugbytots.co.uk
0345 313 0289

Westwoodside
Academy School Club

Thursdays at 3.30pm – 4.30pm
24th Apr – 22nd May

£4.00 per class, booked as a
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COACHING

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TIME | 15:30 – 16:30



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disclaimer: not the ACTUAL team

Primary school governors play a vital role in shaping the direction and success of the school.

As a governor, you'll work alongside the headteacher and staff to ensure the school provides the best possible education for its students. Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic vision, ensuring accountability and supporting school leadership. They provide valuable insights, offer advice, and make decisions that affect the school community. Governors also act as a link between the school and the local community, ensuring the school's goals align with the needs of the families it serves.

By becoming a governor, you'll have the opportunity to make a positive impact, develop new skills, and contribute to the growth and success of the next generation. It's a rewarding role that allows you to be part of something meaningful, helping to shape the future of education in your community.



Apply in the office, or email admin@wws.academy

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 using our details, below



Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr. Rush

dsl@wws.academy

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms. Janney

ddsl@wws.academy

Safeguarding

at Westwoodside
Church of England Academy



Keeping Children Safe on Roblox

Online multiplayer games like Roblox are hugely popular among children and young people, offering an engaging way to socialise, create, and play. However, like any online platform, Roblox also comes with potential risks, including exposure to inappropriate content and financial pitfalls such as in-game purchases.

It's important for parents and educators to be aware of these risks and take steps to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for young players. This week's safeguarding section provides advice on how to support children in navigating Roblox safely—highlighting ways to set appropriate boundaries, manage in-game spending, and intervene before issues arise.



Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr. Rush

dsl@wws.academy

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms. Janney

ddsl@wws.academy

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.



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