

Westdale Infant School

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Weekly Attendance Update

This week: 92.6% This Year so Far: 96.5% | Target: 97%

A very busy last week of our first Autumn Term.

Our Robins, Wrens & Little Star's all had their Parents Evenings this week. A big thank you to all those who attended, it was good to share how well all the children have settled and thank you for all your support.

As you know, we break up today for 2 weeks and **school re-opens on Monday 2nd November at 8.45am.**

The calendar is very busy after half term, with an Owl Visit from Go Falconry for our Foundation children, Diwali celebrations in school, our Year 1 & 2 Parents Evenings and then Anti Bullying week! Wow!

Thank you to all of our parents for a great first half term, we appreciate all of your support with events in school, donations and trip contributions.

Have a happy, safe and relaxing half term all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd November

Owl Visit for Robins & Wrens

6th November

Diwali Assembly (internal)

10th November

Year 1 & Year 2 Parents Evening

12th November

Year 1 & Year 2 Parents Evening

16th November

Odd Sock Day—come to school in odd socks!

Anti-Bullying Week

20th November

Children in Need Day

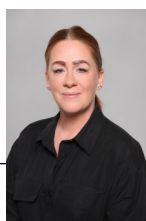
Staff Shout Out

This week's shout out goes to four of our staff members.

Mrs Lewis, Mrs Sawford, Miss Fenton & Miss Hoult all gave up their Saturday morning to open up school to show our potential September 2027 starters around.

It was very well attended and we hope that we get lots of people applying for a place.

A big thank you for giving up your time and showing off our wonderful school!



Parent Reading Survey: Results and Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our parent reading survey. Please find the results and feedback from the parent reading survey attached.

It was great to see that most of you enjoy using the Boom Reader app and find it easy to use. If you are having any difficulties with it, please get in touch with me and I will be very happy to help.

Many of you told us that you would prefer us to celebrate home reads with certificates rather than prizes. We will therefore be amending our home-reading incentives in line with your feedback.

Children who read 20 times this half term (four times a week since books were issued) received a certificate today to celebrate their efforts

Parent Reading Survey (October 2026) - Review

Home reading

The review received responses from over 60 families, with responses were equally split between Foundation, Year 1 and year 2. The review indicates that reading at home is usually happening. **Many parents reported that they read daily or regularly with their child and that reading forms part of the bedtime routine.** Children often enjoy reading, listening to stories or being read to. Families also identified reading as important for bonding, language development and imagination. In addition, **100% of parents said that they considered reading and essential life skill.**



Boom Reader app



Positively, **89% of parents said that they regularly log their child's reading on the Boom Reader app, and 82% said that the app was easy to use.** However, some parents commented that they forget to log reads or find using the app inconvenient at bedtime. Some expressed a preference for paper diaries, particularly because these are more convenient when reading with other relatives. A few parents also requested clearer guidance about what should be logged and how often. This information has been shared at Meet the Teacher events and an example shared on the school Class Dojo page at the end of September.

Barriers to Reading at Home

A repeated reason for some difficulty was that **children are often too tired after a full school day.** Families also referred to clubs, wraparound care and busy home routines. Some children may struggle to concentrate or remain motivated in the evening and benefit from shorter reading sessions or flashcards. Families highlighted a wide range of **circumstances that can affect reading at home**, including:

- work patterns and irregular working hours;
- multiple children and busy home lives;
- tiredness and after-school activities;
- shared custody;
- parental literacy or confidence; and
- multilingual home languages.

Their main message was that one-size-fits-all expectations may not be fair.



Rewards and Recognition

77% of parents **supported the use of certificates to reward reading at home**, with others suggesting use of stickers for effort and rewards that are discrete and inclusive. Many **parents strongly felt that any other visible rewards for reading at home can be unfair** because the support required depends on adults, rather than solely on children. Visible rewards, such as non-uniform days, may exclude or embarrass some children. Rewards based on a fixed number of reads can feel like a punishment for families who are busy, work irregular hours, share care or struggle with literacy. Parents emphasised that reading should be encouraged for its own sake.

Positive Feedback

Many parents said that their child loves reading, appreciates the school's phonics teaching and views reading as a special family time. Parents also requested advice on extending stronger readers and expressed that they value the school's work and support.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the reading survey; it is a great opportunity to share your thoughts and views, so we can work effectively together to support your child and help to remove any barriers to their reading.

Halloween Colouring Competition



We had some amazing creations for our Halloween colouring competition arranged by our KAPOW team. We raised £50 in total.

It was a very hard choice to select the class winners this time!

However, the winners for each class are:

Little Stars— **Daisy**

Kingfishers—**Scarlett**

Kookaburras—**Maya**

Wrens - **River B**

Puffins - **Everly**

Cockatoos—**Jake**

Robins - **Phoenix**

The overall winner of the whole competition was **Audrey** in our Kingfishers class.



Safeguarding Focus



This week in safeguarding; we have been creating QR codes to display in the staffroom to give staff & visitors quick access to guidance and support to important websites.

This one directs you to NSPCC; please keep it handy if you need some guidance or support. There are some great resources for you to use.

Harvest Food Donations



On Tuesday; Miss Hoult & Miss Walker-Price took all of your food donations down to the Carlton Community Hub Food Bank.

As you can see they were very gratefully received, they couldn't believe how much there was! Our donations are going to be weighed and we are going to receive a certificate.

Again, a huge thank you to everyone for donating, this really does go to a great cause in our local community.



Thank You for Supporting Our Book Sale

On Monday and Tuesday, we held our afterschool book sale to raise money for new reading resources across the school. This includes decodable reading books and support towards revamping our library in the office foyer. Thank you for all your generous donations and contributions. In total, we managed to raise £146!

It was lovely to hear parent feedback about how much children enjoyed picking books for pleasure, and the children enthusiastically talking about their new books on the playground. We also spotted some children from the Juniors sneaking back to choose another book, which showed just how popular the sale was!

Thank you again to everyone who donated books, contributed money or helped to support the sale. Your kindness will make a real difference to our reading resources across school.

Year 2 Pirate & Sea Shanty Day



I love the anchor.
Also the crow's nest
looks very comfy
The colourful sails
the galley to
row to shore is
fantastic also
the treasure gems.



I love the small details
like the hidden smaller ship,
the hoist is great engineering
well done. The anchor
is a great addition too.

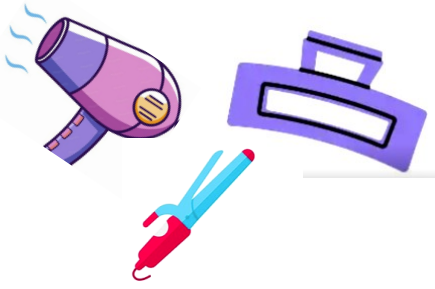


Pirate Sea Shanty Sing-Along

Yesterday, the Year 2 children looked incredible whilst they performed their songs, including the favourites 'When I was one...' and 'What shall we do with a grumpy pirate?'. It was lovely to see so many parents in attendance, joining in with our pirate sea shanty sing-along and supporting the children.

Parents commented on how lovely it was to be invited back into the classrooms to see their child's boat models. The children were excited to share their designs and talk about their learning. It was also lovely to read so many nice comments on the children's feedback sheets.

OPAL Play Donations



Our latest OPAL area to develop (and high priority for lots of children) is a hairdressing station.

If anyone has any old hairdryers, curling tongs, large hair clips they are able to donate (which we will take the plugs off!) we would be very grateful.

Pop any items to the office after half term and we shall make sure they reach the correct person!

Thank you

Class Dojo Winners

...and the duck race winners for each year group this week were:

Hudson (Year 1) & Raya (Year 2)

This weeks contenders were-

Kingfishers— Hudson & Francis

Kookaburras—Ezra, Raya, Iris, Freya

Puffins— Isaac, Koen, Romie & Larae

Cockatoos—Connie, Lily & Ishaan



A big well done to all of you for your achievements this week!



Autumn Dates

Friday 6th November – Diwali Celebration Assembly (In school)

Tuesday 10th + Thursday 12th November – Y1 + Y2 Parents Evening (3:30-6:00pm)

Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Assembly (In school)

16th – 20th November – Anti Bullying week

Monday 16th November – Odd Sock Day

Friday 20th November – Children in Need Day

Tuesday 24th November – Flu immunisations (F2/Y1/Y2)

3rd November – DEADLINE for Christmas art design

More information will be sent out VIA Arbor/Dojo. If any of these date change, we will let you know ASAP.

