

Westdale Infant School

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Welcome back everybody! We hope you had a fantastic half-term holiday and we are enjoying hearing all about your adventures. We have started the new term with a super busy and fun week, including a visit from a fire engine for Little Stars, and a party day in reception classes as our Ladybirds and Butterflies celebrated 100 days at school! Our new CookStars group started the term with a wonderful sausage pie.

Thank you so much for your Mother's Day orders, we have loved seeing all the brilliant drawings and sent them off to the printing company. We will let you know when everything arrives back in school.



Weekly Attendance Update

Year so far: **94.57%** | 24th – 28th February: **95.64%** | Target: **97%**

Parent Governor Vacancy

We sent out a ParentMail message this week to advertise for a Parent Governor Vacancy. Please note that the deadline for responding is Tuesday 4th March at 10am and here is a reminder of the role:

School governors are volunteers who sit on a governing board. The job of the board is to help the school be the best it can be for its pupils. The board does this by making sure:

- Everything a school does is aligned with its vision, ethos and strategy
- That school leaders are held to account, and
- That school's finances are monitored.

Boards often meet about six times a year to fulfil these functions. Please see the documents attached to the ParentMail message for more information.



Upcoming Events

04.03.25

Class Group Photos

06.03.25

World Book Day

Important Information

Please can we ask all parents and carers to ensure they have up-to-date contact details registered with the office.

School Dates Summary

Please find the latest School Dates added to our [calendar](#). Please note that **Sports Day** will be on Wednesday 9th July in the afternoon.



Next week's [School Dinners](#) will be **Week 3**. Please note that dinner orders are taken a week in advance.

World Book Day 2025 - Thursday 6th March

Don't forget that it's **World Book Day** next week on Thursday 6th March. The focus this year is 'Read Your Way'. Research shows that children feel reading is something they have to do, rather than something they choose to do. 'Read Your Way' encourages everyone to let go of reading pressures and expectations and empowers children and young people to have fun discovering reading on their own terms.

Therefore, we would like to invite children to **wear anything on World Book Day that makes them happy** - whether that's World Book Day dress-up, their pyjamas, their uniform or any other clothing. We would also like children to **bring in their favourite book** as the children will be sharing them with another class during the afternoon. We can't wait to see what everyone brings to school!

We are also still accepting entries for our fun competition, with prizes for the most interesting reading locations. In the past, our adventurous readers have amazed us by enjoying books at the dentist, up a tree, and even at the top of a mountain! To enter, simply send a photograph of your child reading in a peculiar place to the office by **Monday 3rd March** so we can review the entries. Winners will be announced later that week. Happy reading!

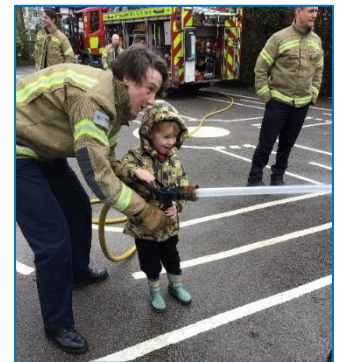
You can also head to our [school website](#) to look at our children's recommended reads.

Little Stars – Fire Service Visit

Our nursery children had a super exciting visit from a fire engine on Wednesday. This is part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic and we are very grateful to our local fire service for giving the children the opportunity to explore and learn all about the vehicle and their job role. They even got to use the hose!



READ YOUR WAY



Y2 Lunchtime Club

Suns and Rainbows families will have received a ParentMail this week inviting their children to join a special 'Explorer Lunch Club'. This will be running on Wednesdays from March 5th and led by Reverend Forsyth. Please contact the office if your child would like to join in, we have a couple of spaces left.



Westdale Infants year 2 pupils we invite you
as

st James presents EXPLORER LUNCH CLUB

The lunch club offers a place where children can freely explore the Easter story over five lunchtimes, starting on the 5th March until the end of term

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Dancing and Singing
- Craft
- Bible Story
- Weekly Challenge

St James Church



Y2 Topic – Great Fire of London

On Friday this week, Year 2 had a special visitor from the past. Partake Theatre sent Samuel Pepys to tell us all about the Great Fire of London. We found out how disgusting London was at the time, dressed in old-fashioned clothing, acted out key events from the story, sang some songs, created a fire dance and rowed ourselves to safety! It was a great start to our Great Fire of London topic.



Science Day 2025

To celebrate Science Day, Year 1 have participated in a tasty experiment with Skittles and observed how food colouring can change flower petals. Year 2 have created a rainbow waterfall and a tornado in a bottle!



Staff Shout Out

We would like to say a huge thank you and sad farewell to one of our brilliant Midday Play Leaders, Miss Key. We have been so lucky to have Miss Key with us for nearly four years, and we have appreciated all her hard work, caring nature, thoughtfulness, and ability to keep the children safe and engaged during their lunchtimes. We will miss you, Miss Key!



St James Church – Pancake Party

You are all invited to St James' Pancake Party with the Annual Pancake Day Races on Tuesday 4th March from **3.30pm till 5pm**. There will be freshly cooked pancakes along with all the toppings, as well as fun games and crafts, and a pop-up café with warming hot chocolates and fresh coffee too. Please see the attached flyer for more information.



Nottinghamshire Families Information Service – Feedback

Each year, NFIS create a User Satisfaction Survey to get feedback from users of their social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [Nottinghamshire Families Information Service \(@nottsfis\)](#), [Instagram photos and videos](#)) and the [Nottshelpyourself](#) website. These views help them shape the way they work. NFIS have asked us to share the [link to this survey](#) which launched on Monday 24th February and is running until the Sunday 23rd March.

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

Nottinghamshire County Council is thrilled to announce that funding for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme will continue in 2025! This means that children across the county will once again have access to engaging activities and nutritious meals during the school holidays.

Spring (Easter) Holiday Clubs – Bookings Open Soon!

Mark your calendars! From week commencing 10th March 2025, families can book their places for the Easter holiday clubs. Visit: [Activities and venues | Nottinghamshire County Council](#) to secure a place.

What is HAF?

HAF is a Department for Education funded programme that provides FREE holiday activities and meals to children who receive benefits-related free school meals. The programme runs during the Easter, Summer, Autumn (October), and Christmas holidays.

Who Can Benefit?

- Children aged 5 – 16 years (Reception aged 4 and Year 11 inclusive)
- Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals
- NEW for 2025: Discretionary funded places are available for children in priority areas (this is often where schools have around 30% of pupils on benefits related free school meals) families can apply for a funded place, the HAF team will check the postcode and school of the child, and decide if a funded place will be granted.



This is not a food voucher scheme – all activities are delivered face-to-face! Please see the attached poster for more information.

Have a lovely weekend everybody!