



Wesley Methodist Primary School



Weekly Newsletter: WC 4th September 2023

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and it is fantastic to welcome you back to Wesley! The children have returned to school with fantastic enthusiasm to do their very best and have shown excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning throughout the past few days. We have begun some exciting work for our Art Gallery Exhibition which will be open to all on Thursday 28th September 3:30-4:30pm. All the adults in school are extremely proud of everything that is being achieved by the children and they have returned to school wonderfully, setting a great example to with their learning attitudes and behaviour. Keep it up Wesley!

Worship

This half term during our worship sessions we have focussed on the return to school and what we can do to make everybody feel welcome. The children have had the opportunity to discuss how important it is to treat others the same as we would like to be treated and how our actions can make others feel, we looked at the Lionesses and the response that has been had to all their achievements. The children have shown a wonderful understanding of this and it is clear how loving of a school community we have here at Wesley. We have also discussed the importance of making mistakes and how this can help us in the future. The children have also discussed our three-rule policy in school "ready, respectful, safe" this is helping the children show a clear understanding of the right choices to make for behaviour and to also have a clear knowledge of how to act and behave in school.



Thank you!

We could not be prouder of the children's learning behaviours and attitudes since our return, but we are also extremely grateful to all of you who have helped us achieve this. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents and carers that have supported the school in our return since the start of September. You have helped the children settle into their new routines, to be prepared for school and you have supported your children with their work. You have also been incredibly supportive to all the staff in school. Wesley really is a family school which aims to support all, but it is also a school that is supported by all and we appreciate it.

Practice your best smiles!

We will have John Hunt photography in school on Tuesday 26th September for both individual and sibling photos. **If you would like a sibling photo with children who do not attend Wesley and are under school age, please arrive at school for 8:30am.** Otherwise sibling photos of children who are at Wesley will be completed during the school day. We look forward to seeing you then!



September key dates:

We will aim to give you all of the key dates each half term so that you are aware of everything coming up. Next week I will send out all of the dates up until Friday 20th October, however for now, these are the key dates for September (further information will be sent closer to the dates):

Thursday 21st September: Breaking Barriers in to meet with Year 6

Friday 22nd September: Freddy Fit to train play leaders in Year 6

Tuesday 26th September: Photo day

Wednesday 27th September: European Languages day

Thursday 28th September: Art Gallery Exhibition 3:30-4:30pm



Important
Dates

Class Dojo

As we all know, class dojo is a fantastic means of communication for yourselves as parents/carers to have direct access to your child's teacher and to also receive key updates throughout the year. Over the next week you will receive updates regarding PE days and also Forest School days and what clothing will be needed. As a school we will consistently champion for mental health and wellbeing awareness for all of our children and also our staff. Therefore, I ask that any communication to our staff on class dojo happens between **8am – 4:30pm on weekdays only** to support their work-life balance too. If you need to send a message to school via email out the hours listed above, please email the school office on:
office@wesley.epworthtrust.org.uk



House Points

This year will see the use of House Points through school. A selection of our Year 6 children will be House Captains and there will be a weekly trophy to be won, with an end of term treat for the leading house. We are currently working on the logistics, including placing children into houses and naming our houses so that they relate and are important to our school culture here at Wesley. As soon as we begin these within school we will send more information.



Celebration Assembly!

Celebration Assemblies will return from next week, Friday 15th September 2023.



Curriculum maps

Throughout school we use curriculum maps which are designed to give you as the parents/carers as much information as possible about what your child will be learning each half term. We are going to continue this and have developed them slightly to give more information, not only regarding each subject your child will be taught, but we have also included some of the knowledge and skills your children will develop in each subject over this half term. The curriculum maps will be sent out next Friday 15th September. At the end of the half term you will be sent a highlights page which shows this learning in action. Please also keep an eye on our twitter account: **@Wesley_Primary** to see more of what happens in school each week.



Art Gallery Exhibition

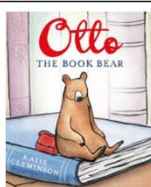
This week the children have been focusing on creating their own self-portraits in a range of styles through school. At Wesley, we focus on ensuring **every child gets every opportunity** and that all children have a broad and balanced curriculum ensuring they can focus on every subject within school and that all subjects are important as one another. Art has been a focus for us this week and the work created by the children will be placed into an Art Gallery Exhibition that will take place on Thursday 28th September 3:30-4:30pm. You are all invited to come into school to see the children's work on display and also the amazing work that has been completed in the 'Mystery Artist' competition that is currently running.



Author of the week!

At Wesley, reading is of high importance to us. It is the opportunity to explore new worlds. Please see this week's recommendations:

This week's recommended picture book:



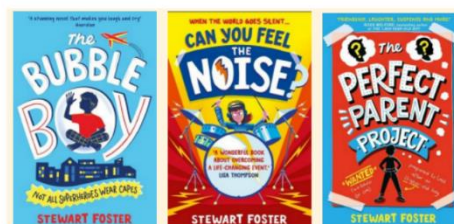
Otto the Book Bear
by Katie Cleminson



This week's recommended author:



Stewart Foster



Stewart's books always feature a diverse main character who represent so many different people! They include children who have OCD and ADHD, as well as children who have foster parents. Each book is filled with emotion, adventure and drama, making them an exciting read while still ensuring you care about the characters, too!

Class Assemblies

Throughout the year each class will complete a class assembly. During the autumn term our Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 Boyle, Year 5/6 Turing and Year 6 Pankhurst) children will complete their assembly. **We will begin with Year 6 Pankhurst on Thursday 5th October.** The only change to these is that they will now be hosted at Wesley Methodist Church on Ainsworth Road. The children will come to school in the morning, register and then walk over the church for a 9:15am assembly start time.



Forest school

As you will all be aware, Forest School is a very important part of our curriculum to both us and the children. They have a wide range of learning opportunities developing their confidence, independence, resilience, self-esteem and many more important attributes. We value the work Mrs Seal does with the children outside and have really seen this part



of our school develop over the years. Last year we had Danny from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust in school to complete some work and here is a link to a blog post he has written about the work he did at Wesley: [Building Confidence and Communities at Forest School | The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside \(lancswt.org.uk\)](https://www.lancswt.org.uk/blog/building-confidence-and-communities-at-forest-school-the-wildlife-trust-for-lancashire-manchester-and-north-merseyside)

Online safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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