



Wesley Methodist Primary School



Weekly Newsletter: WC 9th October 2023

The penultimate week at Wesley has been wonderful and we cannot believe this half term is almost over! It does not seem two minutes since the children returned with us in September for the start of this academic year. The children have made wonderful progress and it has been fantastic to see this in action through the work they are producing and sharing with others. It has also been great to see their learning behaviours develop and show the excellence that we have at Wesley with how hard every single child works. We have one week to go until half term – keep it up Wesley!



Worship

Over this half term we have had a range of impactful collective worships with the children. One of the most impactful assembly we do together is our Monday collective worship where we discuss our Fruits of the Holy Spirit and what our focus will be for the week. This week we have been focused on 'shining like a star with kindness'. This has been particularly impressive from the

school with adults finding it incredibly difficult to choose just one child for this week's star award as all of the children have been wonderful, particularly in showing kindness towards both the other pupils and the adults around school.

Expectations at Wesley

We do have very high expectations at Wesley, in both learning attitudes and behaviour around school. It has been a real privilege and honour in recent weeks taking prospective Reception parents for September 2024 around school visiting the different classes and talking through all that we do at Wesley. Whilst doing this, visiting classes with exceptional behaviour taking place and seeing the children work as hard as they can. We have three simple rules at Wesley: Ready, Respectful, Safe and feel these cover all of our expectations as a school, the children follow these fantastically well and are rewarded in a range of different ways: praise, sent to other classes to show work, stickers, headteacher awards, gold and star awards, messages home among many other ways we celebrate the children. Part of our expectations also come through the uniform of the children and how they act when walking around school. We do ask that the children have their t-shirts tucked in and show 'wonderful walking' when moving around school. This involves hands by our sides and walking in single file quietly down corridors. We have seen a wonderful response to this from the children and are certainly seeing great behaviour around school. We also have our school prefects that support us in this showing wonderful pupil leadership and stand at key points on corridors to support in reminding the children of the expectations. We are incredibly proud of all our children and we are really seeing them stand out as 'Wesley children' setting an incredibly high standard and being role models to one another. Well done Wesley!



Smoking outside school

As we all know smoking is prohibited on school grounds and we have not had to deal with any occasions of this, however in recent weeks there has been more smoking just outside the school gates when waiting for the start of the school day and at the end of the school day when waiting for the gates to be opened. Please do be aware of other families, and children in particular, when smoking just outside of the school gates and where possible move to a less crowded space. I thank you for your cooperation on this.

How smoking harms the body



Attendance matters: every day counts

Why is it important to attend school regularly?

School attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. Higher attendance in school leads to; giving children the best possible start in life; the ability to keep up with their work; they achieve better results; and they will develop further friendships and social skills.

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 lessons	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 lessons	Good
10 days	95%	50 lessons	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 lessons	Concern
30 days	85%	150 lessons	Significant concern

So far this year we have seen wonderful attendance scores throughout school and we are currently above the national average for attendance. We really want this to continue and to see the children in school every day – thank you for your support on this!

This weeks attendance winners are: Reception Neville with 98.1%

Online safety – What parents need to know about YouTu

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.




National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Author and picture book of the week!

This week's recommended picture book:



Dog Gone
By Rob Biddulph



This week's recommended author:



Louie Stowell



Louie Stowell writes books about magic, gods and monsters - there's always an adventure for you to go on!

Her latest series - Loki - is a diary-entry style story where Loki, a god, is banished to Earth for pulling one trick too many and must now attend school. The informal writing style will have you laughing out loud and wishing for book two. Which, lucky for you, there is

Star Award

The following children received their Star Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Lincoln M-R**

Reception Sissay: **Ronni-Rae R-C**

Year 1 Peel: **Andrew**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Oakley S**

Year 2 Rashford: **Xander B**

Year 3 Garvey: **Lillie F**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Jake C**

Year 4 Lowry: **Emille-Bea H-H**

Year 5 Boyle: **Brooke C**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Poppy A**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Harry D-P**

These children have done amazing:
"shining like stars with kindness"

Gold Award

The following children received their Gold Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Ivy B**

Reception Sissay: **Carter B**

Year 1 Peel: **Amelia D**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Amelia B**

Year 2 Rashford: **Alfie C-H**

Year 3 Garvey: **Bodhi S**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Anaya A**

Year 4 Lowry: **Isaac W**

Year 5 Boyle: **Elliot R**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Youssef S**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Harvey C**

Well done to all of these children – we are so proud of you!

