



Wesley Methodist Primary School



Weekly Newsletter: WC 2nd September 2024

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 in all subjects and the children have produced some excellent pieces of work already. We have spoken with the children regarding pupil leadership roles through school and applications for these for Year 5 and 6 will be coming out and also for all children for our school council. 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 with their learning attitudes and behaviour. Keep it up Wesley – you are shining as stars!

Worship

This week 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 have discussed the importance of our school community and 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 this week. 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.

Unashamedly high expectations – our children deserve nothing but the best!

We have worked incredibly hard on raising standards all across school and these expectations are lived out by the children every single day and they really are amazing. I consistently say to the children “would you stand out as a Wesley child?” and they do, every single time! We have created some documents with our expectations on that we share within all classrooms, these will also be sent home this half term so that we have a copy of these too.



WOW award

The new year has started for our WOW - the Walk to School challenge. New badges have been designed and will be available to collect each month for every child that takes part in at least 1 active journey a week. This can be walking, cycling, even parking the car a short distance away from school to walk the rest (around a 10 minute journey) will count towards an active journey. Every day the children will log these at school and this will count towards receiving their badges. Last year we were the 4th most active school in Bury. Lets get to number 1 this year! Mrs Thomasson will be looking out for some class representatives to become a WOW Ambassador and promote it in class and help with tracking the journeys each day.



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 out of the listed hours, please do this via email to the school office on: office@wesley.epworthtrust.org.uk

House Points

This year will see us continue 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 have four houses at Wesley: Lyra, Pegasus, Orion and Cygnus – all star constellations that can be seen in the Northern Hemisphere, linking to our work around shining like a star and our outdoor learning offer.





Making Wesley a happy and safe place to be!

Over the past few years we have really focussing on developing our curriculum and ensuring that every child has every opportunity and can succeed when here at Wesley and this has had a significant impact on all of our pupils and a wide range of new skills, knowledge and vocabulary has been developed. Alongside this curriculum impact work we have also worked on our universal offer for all children and improving our inclusive culture at Wesley. Last academic year we were accredited with being a “Communication Friendly Setting” showing the ways in which we have developed the communication to our children throughout school and ensure all children can access their learning. We are now on a 12 month programme to become accredited with being an “Emotionally Friendly Setting” where we strive to support the wellbeing and mental health of our pupils and support all children to regulate and be ready to be the best version of themselves. We began this training on our INSET day on Monday 2nd September and will now begin our work on this. We will also be asking you as parents for feedback for this accreditation and using your voice to improve school. This will take place into the month of October.



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 assemblies and the dates for these will come out next week. Last year we made the move to host these at Wesley Methodist Church on Ainsworth Road and it was incredibly successful and both children and families enjoyed this change. Therefore we will continue to host our class assemblies at Wesley Methodist Church The children will come to school in the morning, register and then walk over the church for a 9:15am assembly start time.

Our sustainability programme – School allotment



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. We also have our community allotment where each class

grows fruits and vegetables. Just before summer we planted some items which a group of children have collected today with Mrs Seal, Miss Hunter and Oakley! These will go onto our menu at school next week and also on offer at the end of the school day.



Online safety – what parents need to know about 'youtube'

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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Attendance

At Wesley we see Attendance as crucially important to the success and progress our children make. The more time our children are in school the better progress they will ultimately make. We celebrate attendance on a weekly basis and each class has the opportunity to earn money for their end of year treat. Attending school more gives all children the best possible chance to keep up with their work, achieve better results and the possibility of developing further friendship 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

We will be really working hard on attendance this term and to ensure that all children are in school every day.

Our attendance winners this week are: Reception Sissay and Year 5 Boyle, both with 100%!

Class name	Average attendance this week
Reception Sissay	100%
Reception Neville	97.4%
Year 1 Peel	92%
Year 1/2 Wood	94.4%
Year 2 Rashford	98.9%
Year 3 Garvey	97%
Year 3/4 Walsh	97.5%
Year 4 Lowry	97.8%
Year 5 Boyle	100%
Year 5/6 Turing	94.8%
Year 6 Pankhurst	97.8%



Star Award

The following children received their Star Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Ethan S**

Reception Sissay: **Cody T**

Year 1 Peel: **Grace F**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Sienna-Grace P**

Year 2 Rashford: **Lily C**

Year 3 Garvey: **Florence C**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Brielle M-R**

Year 4 Lowry: **Elsie H**

Year 5 Boyle: **Molly-Rose R**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Maddie R**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Beau-Lily B**

These children have done amazing:
"shining like stars with love".

Gold Award

The following children received their Gold Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Poppy G**

Reception Sissay: **Isabelle W**

Year 1 Peel: **Lincoln M-R**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Stephen C**

Year 2 Rashford: **Lucas W**

Year 3 Garvey: **Jake E**

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

Year 4 Lowry: **Marley L**

Year 5 Boyle: **Alfie C**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Issac C**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Cole L**

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

