



Wesley Methodist Primary School



Weekly Newsletter: WC 22nd September 2025

This first month back at Wesley has been wonderful – the children have shown great learning attitudes and are displaying some sensational work throughout the curriculum. On the return to school we have had a clear focus on presentation and expectations, which the children have responded to brilliantly by showcasing a range of exceptional pieces of work throughout the curriculum. It has been wonderful being around school, seeing this learning in action and the high levels of commitment the children show day in day out. I am very proud of all the children and their achievements and we have certainly had lots of these this opening month. I know it is going to be a brilliant year for the children!

Worship

This week in worship we have explored the meaning of 'peace' and how we can achieve this in our lives. We discussed that bringing peace to school will make it a happy and safe place to be, but also, bringing peace to our lives supports in being calm. The children showed a great understanding of this and could express their 'happy places' and what they do to find peace. We shared the 3-5 breathing method (breath in for 3 seconds and out for 5 seconds for one minute) and explained the difference this made to us in the hall. It has been brilliant to see the children live this value out this week and ensure it makes a difference to all of us.



Celebrating Languages and Cultures

This week we enjoyed a fantastic whole-school celebration of *European Languages Day*. Each class chose a different European country to focus on, spending the day exploring its language, traditions, culture, and even sampling some of its cuisine! The excitement around school was wonderful to see, with children dressed in the colours of their chosen countries and eagerly sharing what they had learned. Events like this bring our curriculum to life and link directly to our three drivers at

Wesley: knowledge of the world, diversity, and culture. By immersing themselves in new experiences, the children are developing as well-rounded global citizens who show curiosity, respect, and appreciation for the richness of other cultures.

It was a day full of learning, fun, and celebration, and one we know the children will remember.



Football Stars in Action!



This week, a group of our Year 2 children had the exciting opportunity to take part in a football coaching session at Redbank playing fields. The morning was filled with a variety of skill-based games, giving the children the chance to develop their techniques, teamwork, and confidence on the pitch. Every child



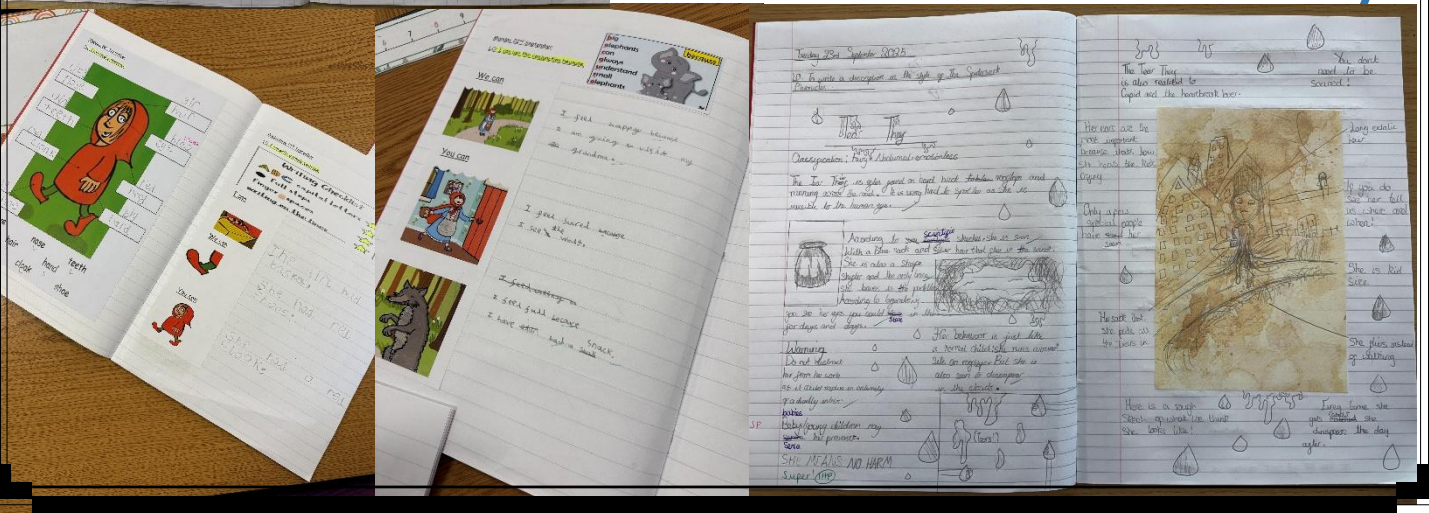
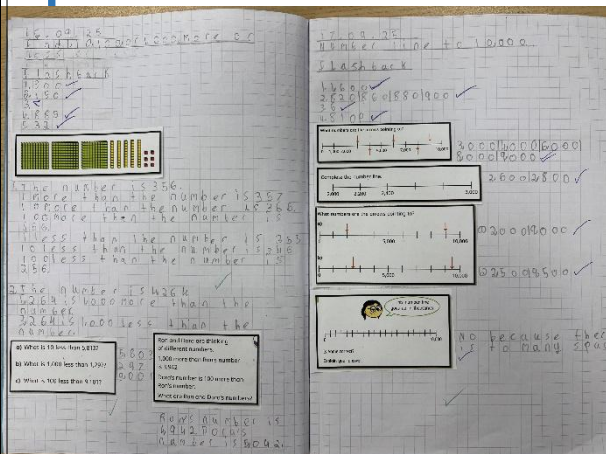
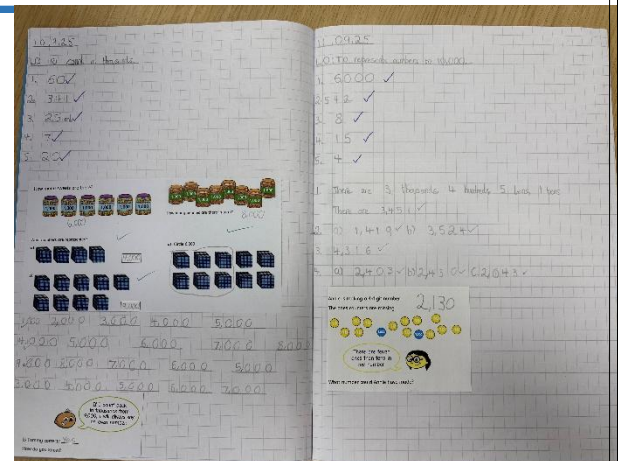
was recognised with a 'Spirit of the Games' award for the fantastic way they joined in, supported one another, and demonstrated brilliant sporting values. It was wonderful to see them excelling, having fun, and being such positive role models of what it means to be a Wesley child.

Excellence in Every Page

Since the beginning of September, we have placed a strong emphasis on high-quality presentation and the standards of work across all subjects. The children have

risen to this challenge brilliantly, and their books are looking truly outstanding.

It is inspiring to see the pride they are taking in their learning, with beautifully presented work that reflects their effort and commitment. Across the whole curriculum, our pupils are showcasing their skills with excellence – a fantastic start to the year!



Online safety – what parents need to know about ‘combatting online bullying’

At Wesley, keeping children safe online is a top priority. While the digital world offers huge opportunities for learning, creativity, and fun, it also brings risks that children need support to navigate. To help with this, we will be sharing weekly guidance from The National College on different aspects of Online Safety. This week’s information is designed to give parents and carers important knowledge about *YouTube* – how it works, the potential risks involved, and practical steps you can take to help your child use it safely and responsibly. We encourage you to read the guidance and have an open conversation with your child about what you learn.

At The National College, our *WakeUp/Wednesday* guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS
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 screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION
YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING 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 message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which 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 cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS
The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE
For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

18 CENSORED TRY GOOGLE FAMILY
Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their 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 a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT
YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people; many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS
It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

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 a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING
Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *Tom's Guide*, *The Evening Standard* and *The New Statesman*.

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Learning, Friendships, and Fun – Be Here Every Day

At Wesley, we believe that excellent attendance is vital to every child's success and progress. Quite simply, the more time children spend in school, the more they learn, achieve, and grow. Good attendance not only supports academic progress but also helps children to build friendships and develop important social skills.

We celebrate attendance every week, with each class having the chance to earn money towards their end-of-year treat. This is a fun way to reward commitment and encourage everyone to play their part.

This term, we will be placing a strong focus on attendance and working closely with families to ensure that every child is in school every day, giving them the very best chance to shine.

Our attendance winners this week are: Year 2 Rashford with 98.3%



Class name	Average attendance this week
Reception Sissay	97.7%
Reception Neville	94.8%
Year 1 Peel	98.1%
Year 1/2 Wood	91.7%
Year 2 Rashford	98.3%
Year 3 Garvey	97.3%
Year 3/4 Walsh	95.1%
Year 4 Lowry	97.2%
Year 5 Boyle	93.3%
Year 5/6 Turing	90.6%
Year 6 Pankhurst	96.7%



WELL DONE!

Star Award

The following children received their Star Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Reuben C**

Reception Sissay: **Aaron B**

Year 1 Peel: **Shay M**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Henry L**

Year 2 Rashford: **Sadiki K**

Year 3 Garvey: **Keira P**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Noah F**

Year 4 Lowry: **Alfie C-H**

Year 5 Boyle: **Bodhi S and Frankie D**

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

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Darcey R**

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

Gold Award

The following children received their Gold Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Jaxon L**

Reception Sissay: **Edyth A**

Year 1 Peel: **Isabelle W**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Billie H**

Year 2 Rashford: **Romeo M**

Year 3 Garvey: **Alfie A**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Patrick S**

Year 4 Lowry: **Aubree A**

Year 5 Boyle: **Thomas A**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Bella B-P**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Grace R**

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

