

WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE



Welcome Back!

A Warm Welcome to Our New Starters

It's been a wonderful start to the school year, especially for our newest pupils. The children in **Reception** have settled in incredibly well, and the staff are already so impressed with the progress they're making. Our **Nursery** children have also started their adventure at WTL, and are already engaging brilliantly with activities and enjoying their time here.

Our new starters are already showing the qualities we value most: **Respect, Adventure, Determination, Achievement, and Resilience**. Our Early Years team is doing a fantastic job ensuring a great induction process for everyone.

A Smooth Transition for All

Across the school, all the children have transitioned smoothly into their new classes. To kick off the year, they've been busy creating their **class charters** and revisiting our three core behaviour expectations:

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be ready to learn

These three expectations help us maintain high standards and ensure the children understand how to interact positively with everyone in our school community. We're proud to report that behaviour continues to be excellent across the school.

We're all looking forward to a fantastic and exciting year ahead!

Key Dates:

September

Back to School Nights (via zoom):

Mon 15th - Yr 4

Tue 16th - Yr 1

Wed 17th - The Circus is in town!

Thur 18th - Yr 3

Fri 19th - Yr 2

Mon 22nd - Yr 5

Tue 23rd - Yr 6

October

10th - Yr3 visit to Cheddar Gorge

21st & 22nd – Parents/Carers Meetings

Welcome

We would like to welcome some new members of staff to WTL. Firstly, Ms Tunnah (TA) who will be working in Nursery and Yr 3, secondly Ms Puddy (TA) who will also be working in Nursery and finally Ms Crawshaw (TA) who will be working in Yr 1.

A full West Town Lane staff list can be found on our website.

Reading Army

Many thanks to those that have already volunteered! If you haven't yet and would like to become a reading volunteer, please let us know by contacting:

volunteers@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk

by Tuesday 30th September as we can then organise training and the relevant safeguarding checks. You really could help make a huge difference in improving our children's reading skills!

The Circus is in 'Town'

Get ready for an unforgettable day! Happy Circus is set to dazzle West Town Lane on **Wednesday, September 17th**. The show is packed with hilarious comedy and jaw-dropping performances by world-class circus artists.

This wonderful event is all thanks to the hard work of our amazing **Friends of School**.

Universal Free School Meals

A reminder that hot school meals are available and that children from **Reception to Year 2** are entitled to a 'universal free meal'.

Families on certain benefits are also entitled to other support- please contact the office if you think you are eligible.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Getting your child into school, on time, every day is a fantastic way to start the new academic year! Regular attendance helps children to settle into the school routine quickly, creates a sense of belonging and builds good habits for life. Let's make this year a great one for everyone by ensuring your child is here every day, on time and ready to learn.

The top 10 classes with the best attendance will be shared each month, with 1st place receiving a whole class reward. Keep a look out in the newsletter each month to find out which class is at the top of the leader board!



Staff Profiles

We thought it would be a great idea to let you get to know our staff a little better. We employ over **100 people at WTL** so there are a lot of individuals that you may know very well, but a significant number you may have never seen before! Many thanks to those staff who have agreed to take part!



Name: Kelly Munds

Place of birth: Bristol

Role in school: Lunch time supervisor

Time worked at WTL: 8 years

Other employment in school: as well as working at WTL I also work at St. Bernadette Primary School

Hobbies outside the school: I enjoy going for walks and swimming, concerts and spending time with family and friends.

Best thing about working at WTL: Is working in the Nursery, seeing the children so little and young, watching them grown over the years, developing their own personalities and leaving for secondary school strong and confident.

My biggest achievement/proudest moment at WTL: Getting to work alongside my dad and my sister brings me daily joy and makes me very thankful and proud. Also working with such an amazing team, who have become my forever friends!

Favourite subjects: English and Music

An interesting fact about me: Nigel Benn (former world middle and super middle weight champion boxer) once gave me a firefighters lift through a restaurant and back to the hotel lobby.



Name: Tammy Tunnah

Place of birth: South Africa, Johannesburg. I moved over to England when I was 8 with my mum, dad and brother.

Role in school: TA

Other employment in schools: This is my first school I've worked in but I've been working in nurseries for the past 10 years.

Hobbies outside of school: I love going out with my husband and my two boys on the weekends exploring different National trusts and English heritages.

What are you most looking forward to whilst working at WTL? I am looking forward to seeing the children learn new things and to build long lasting friendships.

My biggest achievement/proudest moment working in schools: As this is my first school job I would say getting this job and learning how a school works.

Favourite subjects: I enjoyed maths and DT.

An interesting fact about me: I love crocheting and trying to make my own bags.

Home Learning

English Homework

As always, we have a focus on reading and spelling. We need your support to help your children become fluent, confident readers, as well as developing their spelling skills.

Reading

There can be few things as powerful as regular reading, which is why we place this at heart of our curriculum. Reading for pleasure is essential for children to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. At WTL, we not only see it as a skill, but something that should be done for the sheer joy of it.

We encourage the children to read in some form every night and ask you to read with your child at least 3 times a week. Aim for sessions to be between 10 -20 mins. Remember, each read can be different as we are aiming to develop your child's fluency as well as their reading for pleasure.

Suggested activities:

- Child reading to an adult;
- Shared reading (e.g. a sentence each, page each);
- Adult reads to a child and the book is discussed and enjoyed together;
- Story books, non-fiction any reading is reading;
- Recipes;
- Audio books;
- Rereading sections to improve fluency;
- Discussions about characters and words.



Reading Records

Please keep a note of your reads in your child's reading record: what you read, any interesting discussions, new words learnt etc. This will enable us to be part of your reading journey.

All children who are recorded reading three times a week will be awarded a team point.

Spelling

Each term, a spelling list will be sent home, which will include weekly word lists and the date that they will be tested in school.

Maths (Times tables)

From Year 2 - Year 6 (pupils in Yr 2 should begin during term 2), children should practise their times tables regularly at home. This may involve 'chanting' tables or even answering quick-fire questions for 5 mins on a daily basis. The children are responsible for completing tasks via the "TT Rock Stars" website on a weekly basis, which leads on to a test each week (Years 2 – 6 only).

National Curriculum expectations:

- Year 2 – To know division & multiplication facts for 2X, 5X and 10X tables
- Year 3 - To know division & multiplication facts for 3X, 4X and 8X tables
- Year 4 - Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12
- After Year 4 children should be focusing on applying these skills to fractions, decimals, percentages and reasoning.

The children will also receive a short list of questions based on their weeks learning. This will enable them to consolidate this knowledge and share their learning experience.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding theme for term 1 is The Right to be Safe and our Inclusion theme for is Black History Month.

Our safeguarding team are:

Mrs Franklin (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Mr Robbins (Deputy DSL)

Mrs Whiddington (Deputy DSL)

Mrs Hendy (Deputy DSL)

If you have any concerns relating to the safety of a child at West Town Lane Academy, you can contact us at office@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk or on 0117 377 2295.

You can also report safeguarding concerns directly to First Response by following this link:

[First Response link](#)

If you believe a child to be in immediate danger, call 999.

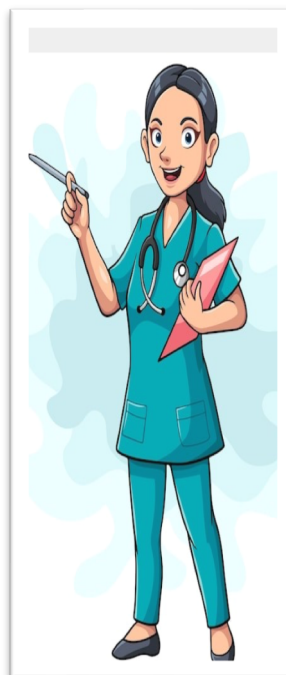
NHS School Nurse

Our school nurse, Marie Bowden, will be available for drop-in sessions on the first **Friday of each term from 9-11am**. Slots are 15 mins.

She can offer support in topics such as:

- Eating
- Sleep
- Toileting
- Emotional Wellbeing

Parents can arrive at 9am at the office and wait for a slot.



Children on our RADAR

The following children have displayed an **outstanding** combination of **Respect, Adventure, Determination, Achievement** and **Resilience**, what a great start to the year. Congratulations to:

1KP – Rosie H
1R – Poppy W
1P – Ada K
2R – Yazmin M
2DL – Thomas C
2D – Jack F
3B – Frankie P
3DS – Mohamed A
3H – Malika S

4PHW – Fatima N
4JW – Dexter D
4LW – Kady G
5TC – Heyan P
5C – Korey V
5H – Spencer W
6B – Ellie-May K
6J – Phoebe T
6W – Savannah M

