

WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new academic year! It was fantastic to have the children back in school last week, and we are all incredibly excited about the year ahead. We thought it would be lovely to ask a few of them what they are looking forward to most this year. Here is what they had to say:

Oduwa O (Yr 3)

"I'm excited about learning more in English and Maths lessons. I'm also looking forward to going to Legoland."

Harry T-E (Yr 4)

"I'm looking forward to learning more history—we're learning about the Romans!"

Heyan P (Yr 6)

"I can't wait to go on camp, I'm also looking forward to doing computing"

Mya H (Yr 1)

"I'm really excited about learning lots and having fun with my friends!"

Darcey W (Yr 5)

"I'm looking forward to doing more maths and going on school trips."

Freddie W (Yr 2)

"I'm really excited about learning my times tables!"

Hearing such wonderful enthusiasm from the children is a brilliant reminder of what makes our school community so special. Whether it is mastering times tables, diving into history, or heading off on exciting trips, we cannot wait to support every single pupil as they learn, grow, and make unforgettable memories this year.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's make this year our best one yet!

Key Dates:

September

Wed 23rd and Thur 24th - Yr 1 Scooter Skills

Mon 28th – NSPCC workshop for Yrs 2 & 6

Tue 29th – NSPCC workshop Yr 5

Wed 30th – Nasal Flu immunisations

October

Tue 6th - Reception Tour for Sept 2027

Thur 8th – Coffee morning

Fri 9th – Yr 5 Trowbridge Museum trip

Thur 15th – Yr 3 Cheddar Gorge visit

Tue 20th – Parents/carers Meetings

Wed 21st - Parents/carers Meetings

Back to School Nights in September
(via zoom) at 16:00:

Mon 21st - Yr 4

Tue 22nd - Yr 1

Wed 23rd - Y3

Thur 24th - Yr 2

Fri 25th – Reception

Mon 28th - Yr 5

Tue 29th - Yr 6

A warm welcome for our new starters

We have kicked off the new academic year on a high note, with our youngest learners leading the way. Our children have adapted to school life with remarkable ease, already wowing the team with their enthusiasm and early achievements. Over in Nursery, the children have thrown themselves into their new WTL journey, diving headfirst into daily play and discovery with bright, curious minds. It is wonderful to see our newest additions already embodying RADAR values: **Respect, Adventure, Determination, Achievement, and Resilience**. A huge thank you to our Early Years staff for creating such a smooth, welcoming transition for all our new children.

Learning Expectations

Every year group has hit the ground running, moving seamlessly into their new classrooms. Pupils have spent these opening days crafting their class charters and reconnecting with our behaviour expectations:

- **Be safe**
- **Be respectful**
- **Be ready to learn**

These core guidelines set the tone for a positive, supportive environment where everyone can thrive. We are delighted to see the children demonstrating such outstanding conduct right from the start, and we cannot wait to see everything they accomplish this year.

Welcome

We would like to welcome some new members of staff to WTL. Firstly, Mr Plaister (TA) who will be working in Yr 5 and secondly Ms Barnes (TA) who will also be working in Yr 5.

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

Coffee Morning dates for your diaries 26/27

Thursday 8th October 9-10am

Thursday 3rd December 9-10am

Thursday 4th February 9-10am

Thursday 11th March 9-10am

Thursday 13th May 9-10am

Thursday 8th July 9-10am



Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

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: Dougie Allward

Place of birth: Bristol

Role in school: Teaching Assistant

Time worked at WTL: Since March 2026

Other employment in schools: I have worked as a Learning Support Assistant in a number of schools, both mainstream and special schools.

Hobbies outside of school: I enjoy playing football and swimming, going for walks with my dog, photography and filmmaking, and spending time with my son.

The best thing about working at WTL is: The children and the people, and feeling supported by those around me.

My biggest achievement/proudest moment at WTL: I have particularly enjoyed supporting children one-to-one and helping them to access school life as independently as possible.

Favourite subjects: PE and English

An interesting fact about me: Before moving into education, I worked as a sports photographer for many years, regularly photographing Bristol City. It also took me a little further afield, including photographing Champions League football at Barcelona's Nou Camp and in Belgium at R.S.C. Anderlecht.

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 Wednesday 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!

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 is 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 once again 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!

New Drop off/Pick up area

We're excited to unveil a freshly updated drop-off/pick up area for our **Years 3 and 4** classes at the front of the school! Over the summer break, the old timber decking was completely removed and replaced with a safer, more durable surface designed to make morning drop-offs smoother and much brighter. A special thank you goes to **Mr Robinson and Mrs Radford** for their hard work in overseeing the project over the summer break!



Buddy Bench

Our inspiring Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been busy brainstorming new ways to support our school community, coming up with the fantastic idea to install a dedicated Buddy Bench in the playground! This special spot will serve as a welcoming space where any pupil can take a seat if they are feeling lonely or looking for a new friend to play with. We extend a huge thank you to our wonderful Friends of School for generously funding this initiative and bringing our ambassadors' heartwarming vision to life.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.





Welcome back to everyone and especially our new starters in nursery and reception. Hope you've had a lovely summer and are settling back into school life.

New to school and want to know more about FOS? Check out our web page and socials to find out more...

<https://www.wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk/friends>

AGM

In October we will be hosting our AGM-keep an eye out for details.

This is your chance to find out more about how FOS works and share your ideas or suggestions for the coming year.

We will be voting for our committee so come and have your say.

Ever thought about joining the committee? Being a committee member means you have a say on what events we plan and how funding is spent. It's a fantastic way to get more involved and is a great opportunity to make new friends and build your CV.

More hands make lighter work and we are keen to increase our active members-the future of FOS depends on this. Quite simply without more helpers there will be less events for the kids and less money to spend on nice things for school. Many roles and tasks are flexible and can fit easily around work and family life.

Get in touch with the team on socials or email to find out more.

Funding

The anti-bullying ambassadors sent us some very special letters in the summer requesting a new rainbow buddy bench. We are delighted to be able to fund this for the playground.

Support us

Don't forget we have three easy ways you can help us raise funds without leaving the comfort of your sofa:

- **Easyfundraising:** Download the easyfundraising app and earn cashback for FOS every time you shop at no cost to you. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-school-at-west-town-lane-academy>
- **Uniform labels:** Is the kids uniform going missing already? Get them labelled up asap and when you buy from My Nametags and Stikins you'll earn commission for FOS
<https://www.mynametags.com> and enter fundraising number 18946 at checkout
<https://www.stikins.co.uk> and use fundraising number 24896
- **Parents lottery:** Play this weekly lottery for just £1 a week and be in with a chance of winning up to £25,000! For every £1 ticket you play FOS receives back 56p-so far we have raised £391. Thank you. Get your tickets here:
<https://www.theparentslottery.org/school/friends-of-west-town-lane-academy1768325180>

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.

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 is Black History Month

Our Safeguarding Team is:

Mrs Franklin (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mr Robbins (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Whiddington (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Hendy (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Colin Clements (Safeguarding Governor)

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:

Ladybirds – Rupert M

1KP – Oakley H

1R – Florence H

1P – Olivia H

2R – Lottie P

2WL – Lila Z

2D- Lyla H

3B – Indie R

3DS – Penelope W

3H – Sebastian B

4TPH – Samuel W

4JW – Amir M

4LW – Lily B

5TC – Penny W

5C – Isabelle J

5H – Rey Z-P

6B – Penny S

6J – Billie R

6W – Nancy W

