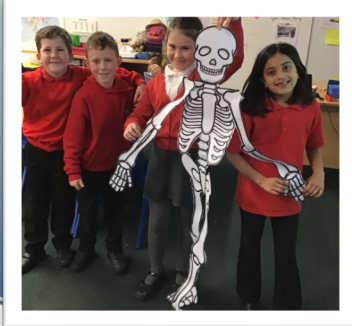


WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE



Welcome back and Happy New Year

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely break.

I'm sure you'll all agree that the Christmas activities and performances before the break, were a huge success. Many thanks to the staff and children for their hard work!

Also, we would like to thank the Friends of School for organising a fabulous range of activities in Term 2. Each event raised the following: Baubles competition £303.38, Fab bricks £ 159.55, December tuck shop £ 175.30, Carols £ 192.96, Disco £ 87.87 & Prize draw £1597.85. That's an amazing total of £ 2516.91!

All this money will be spent on activities and resources for the children!

IMAGE
MUSICAL THEATRE



We are thrilled to announce that the **Image Musical Theatre** will be visiting our school to perform their wonderful production of **Dr. Dolittle!**

This will take place on **Tuesday 3rd February 2026**.

The story introduces the children to Dr. John Dolittle, who lives in solitude behind the high walls of his lush manor in 19th-Century England. His only companionship comes from an array of exotic animals that he speaks to.

The children will join the Doctor as he embarks on incredible adventures with his very own furry and feathered friends! This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to experience the magic of live musical theatre right here at West Town Lane.

Key Dates Term 3

January

12th – Dragonflies Class – Stay & Play

22nd Coffee Morning - PiNS (Partnerships for inclusion of neurodiversity in schools)

27th - Bumblebees and Caterpillars Classes – Stay & Play

27th – 5C Class Assembly

28th – 5H Class Assembly

29th – 5TC Class Assembly

February

3rd – Image Theatre

6th – Yr1 visit to SS Great Britain

10th & 11th – Parents/Carers evening

Top 10 Attendance - December

2DL were our Top Attending Class in December. A big well done to them! Each month, the class with the highest attendance will receive the Attendance Trophy and are rewarded with a 'Free- Time Pass' which entitles them to an additional playtime.

Ranking	Class
1 st	2DL
2 nd	6B
3 rd	5C
4 th	4LW
5 th	Ladybirds
6 th	3B
7 th	2VR
8 th	Dragonflies
9 th	4JW
10 th	4PHW



Christmas Performances

We would like to extend our huge congratulations following the spectacular Christmas performances by our Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One children!

The children were truly magnificent. Their enthusiasm, beautiful singing, and confident delivery were an absolute joy to witness. Every child embraced their role, whether they were shepherds, angels, stars, or innkeepers, making the performances so incredibly special and memorable for all who attended.

This wonderful success would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our incredible staff. A huge thank you to all the Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One teachers and support staff for their time spent teaching the songs, directing the scenes, and ensuring every performance ran smoothly.

Attendance Matters

Thank you very much for your continued commitment to ensuring that your children are at school every day and on time over the last 2 terms. Extensive research shows the strong connection between regular school attendance, academic success and improved mental health. By the end of secondary education, 84% of pupils who attend school regularly achieve grades 4 to 9 in their English and Maths GCSEs, compared to just 36% of pupils with attendance below 90%. By ensuring pupils are in school, we can work together to help them reach their full potential. Additionally, regular attendance supports the development of positive peer relationships, which are proven to enhance mental health and wellbeing, providing a strong foundation for happiness and resilience.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Lost minutes = Lost learning



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!



2DL - top attending class in December 😊

Children's Commissioner – A Guide For Parents On Managing Children's Digital Lives

How do we ensure our children are safe online while still letting them learn and socialise? A new guide, "**What I wish my parents or carers knew,**" has been released by the Children's Commissioner to help parents/carers manage everyday online habits.

Based on direct feedback from children and teenagers, the guide highlights a surprising truth: **young people want their parents to be firm and set clear boundaries.** They value their safety over unrestricted access.

We encourage all parents and carers to take a look at this resource to help navigate those tricky conversations about screen time, social media, and safety.

Please follow the link: [What I wish my parents or carers knew](#)



Staff & Volunteer Profiles

We thought it would be a great idea to let you get to know our staff and volunteers 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 and volunteers who have agreed to take part!



Name: Sarah Lowry

Place of birth: Keynsham

Role in school: Kitchen Assistant

Time worked at WTL: Just over 4 years

Other employment in schools: Just West Town Lane

Hobbies outside of school: I love being a mum & spending time with my 2 daughters & having fun days out. I also enjoy walking our dog, Bertie.

The best thing about working at WTL is: The best thing at working at WTL is all the lovely children & staff & being part of a school environment.

My biggest achievement/proudest moment at WTL: My biggest achievement at WTL is understanding & learning all the children with special diets & allergies.

Favourite subjects: My favourite subject at school was PE. I really enjoyed playing netball & hockey.

An interesting fact about me: An interesting fact about me is in the year 2000 I travelled around Australia in a campervan & got to experience some amazing things & places.

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.



Inspiring the Next Generation in STEM – Extension!

We've had a fair response so far to our call for STEM professionals, a huge thank you to those who have already volunteered. We want to make sure everyone has a chance to get involved, hence we are extending the invitation to volunteer until the end of Term 3.

Do you work in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths? We are looking for passionate individuals to join our Careers Afternoon for Year 5 and 6. Our goal is to bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world, showing our pupils exactly what it takes to succeed in these exciting fields.

- The Commitment: A short ~20-minute presentation followed by a Q&A.
- The Date: April 21st, 2026 (13:30 – 15:00).
- The Goal: To inspire and answer the curious questions of our oldest students!

If you or someone you know can help, please contact adrianrobbins@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk by the end of this term. **If you volunteered during our last event and can help again, could you please confirm that you can attend.**

S



Science

T



Technology

E



Engineering

M



Mathematics

Happy New Year from the Friends of School

Happy New Year to all of the WTLA school community!

2025 was a brilliantly successful fundraising year, and just in Term 2 alone, the Friends of School had Fab Brick keyrings to purchase, the record-breaking Christmas Prize Draw, the Christmas Bauble competition, Disco sweets, Tuck shops and the Christmas Carol refreshments - phew! Thank you all for your support with these events, either by volunteering your time or by purchasing.

Funds raised in Term 2

Fab bricks	£ 159.55
Baubles comp	£ 303.38
Dec tuck shop	£ 175.30
Carols	£ 192.96
Disco	£ 87.87
Prize draw	£1597.85
	£ 2516.97

Funds spent

Ready for Term 3, we have purchased two sets of new games, Giant Tetris Tumble and Giant Connect Four, for the children to enjoy at lunchtime. £270 well spent!

Father Christmas also spoke to all the class teachers, to ask what they would like for a class Christmas present for the children. Ideas included magnetic shape building blocks, disco lights, book sets for reading areas, star projectors, marble runs, play-doh sets and more. These presents were funded by us (£550) and delivered by Father Christmas just before the last day of school. Ho ho ho!

Easy Fundraising app (see link on the next page)

Help us this January, by using the EasyFundraising app when booking holidays, purchasing a new winter coat for this freezing weather or making January sales purchases. The Friends then earn a percentage of your total spend. Brilliant, as you get nice things and you help us earn some free funds too!

Looking forward

If you are inspired by our fab fundraising, are keen to help think of some new fundraising events, want to find out more about what we do, help to think of new games and theming for the Summer Fair or just to get out of bedtime duties for an evening (he he he!), the Friends of WTLA are holding a **Socialising and Planning volunteer meeting** on **Monday 19th January at 7.30pm** at the bar in the **Imperial Sports Ground**. We'd love to see lots of parents, grandparents, and carers there!

Safeguarding – Term 3 theme

Our Safeguarding assembly theme for term is Mental Health and Wellbeing and our inclusion theme is People Who Made the World a Better Place.

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)

Raise funds for us for FREEwith  **easyfundraising**

Join as our supporter today at:

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Just search for:

Friends Of School At West Town Lane Acad...

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

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it on to us
:-)

Plus, you'll get...

Exclusive retailer offers

Competitions

A warm feeling inside!

Over
£60m
raised for UK good causes**£0**
extra cost to anyone**RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS****Children on our RADAR**

The following children have displayed an **outstanding** combination of **Respect**, **Adventure**, **Determination**, **Achievement** and **Resilience** over the month. Congratulations to:

Ladybirds – Hendrix H
 Caterpillars – Theo P
 Dragonflies – Rowan H
 Bumblebees – Florence H
 1KP – Rocco M
 1R – Izzie H
 1P – Sophie S
 2DL – Shelby G
 2VR – Preston S
 2D – Millie P
 3B – Freyja S

3DS – Arthur B
 3H – Lorelai M
 4LW – Phoebe P
 4JW – Maddie L
 4PHW – Dolly M
 5TC – Olivia S
 5C – Olwen E
 5H – Harley M
 6B – Andrea L
 6J – Freddie W
 6W – Max B

