



December 2025

WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE



Careers Afternoon for Year 5/6

Do you work in field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)?

Would you like to be involved or know an individual who would like to take part in a 'Careers Afternoon' to share experiences with our children?

Our aim is to inspire the children and allow them to gain an understanding of what's required to achieve a career in these fields.

If you are happy to participate and present a short presentation (approx. 20 mins) with an opportunity to receive questions from the children, we would be extremely grateful. The event is aimed at children in Yrs 5/6.

If you, or you know somebody who might be interested, please contact: adrianrobbins@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk by the end of term. If we have enough volunteers, the event will take place on the 21st April 2026, from 13:30 – 15:00.



Key Dates Term 2

December

19th – End of term

January

6th – Return to school

All Xmas event dates can be found in the November newsletter.



Have a lovely Christmas from All at West Town Lane





Term Dates 26/27 Reminder

Term 1: Thur 3rd Sep 2026 to Fri 23rd Oct 2026

Term 2: Mon 2nd Nov 2026 to Fri 18th Dec 2026

Term 3: Mon 4th Jan 2027 to Fri 12th Feb 2027

Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb 2027 to Thur 25th Mar 2027

Term 5: Mon 12th April 2027 to Fri 28th May 2027

Term 6: Mon 7th June 2027 Fri 23rd July 2027

Staff training Days 26/27 - Inset (Provisional dates)

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Friday 4th September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th Jan 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Healthy Heroes

A huge thank you to Miss Simmonds & our Healthy Heroes for organising 'Fruity Friday'. It was a huge success raising £125.16, they sold 250 cups of juice/smoothies in total. The funds will be spent on a Friends of School project.



Times tables

In order for children to be successful young mathematicians, they should be proficient with their times table knowledge. One way to achieve this is by encouraging children to complete 21 minutes of TTRockstars practise a week from Year 2 to Year 6 - that's only 3 minutes a day!

Waterproof coats (polite reminder)

There are still children coming into school without coats. Please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat in school. We do send our pupils out to play in fine rain, therefore it's essential they bring in a suitable coat.

Please ensure they are clearly named.

Children in Need



Thank you all so much for your kind donations we raised a brilliant £568.



Christmas Post

The Christmas postal service begins on Monday. Children can post their cards in the post box in the foyer by the office. Classes will be designated to sort and deliver cards at lunchtime.

If your child wishes to use the service, please ensure the names of the recipients are clear, along with their class. 



Year 2 visit

The Year 2 teachers, along with the admin team organised a brilliant trip to Bitton Railway Station last term. The children had a fantastic time riding on the old steam train and taking part in numerous activities and tasks. This visit links to their 'How has travel changed over time?' enquiry.





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 who have agreed to take part!



Name: Pat Chadwell

Place of birth: Birmingham - I have lived in Bristol for over 60 years

What is your role as a volunteer: Reading assistant

Time volunteering at WTL: A long time! Can't remember exactly, but it is over 20 years.

The best thing about volunteering at WTL: Enjoying books with the children

My biggest achievement/proudest moment at WTL: I love it when children are able to move to the next level of reading book

Favourite subjects at school: English & History

Hobbies outside of school: Reading, swimming and having coffee or lunches out with friends

An interesting fact about me: Once, for a "significant" birthday present, I had a ride in a hot air balloon. It was very exciting.

Top 10 Attendance

3H were our Top Attending Class in October. 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	3H
2 nd	3B
3 rd	4PHW
4 th	6B
5 th	1R
6 th	4LW
7 th	Ladybirds
8 th	4JW
9 th	2DL
10 th	2VR



3H



Teaching British Values at West Town Lane

At West Town Lane, we are committed to upholding and promoting the fundamental British Values, ensuring that every child leaves us prepared for life in modern Britain. These values are not just subjects to be taught, but principles that underpin our entire school ethos and curriculum.

What are the British Values?

The government defines the following key values:

- **Democracy:** Understanding how citizens can influence decision-making through an equal right to an opinion and a vote.
- **The Rule of Law:** Understanding that the country is governed by laws, and that these laws protect us, and are followed by everyone, including those in authority.
- **Individual Liberty:** Understanding and exercising their rights and personal freedoms safely, and knowing how to make positive choices.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs:** Understanding that all people are equally important and showing respect for the views, beliefs, and practices of others.

How are the Values Taught in Primary School?

These values are woven into daily school life in ways that are accessible and meaningful for our children:

- **Democracy:**
 - **Rights Action Group:** Children vote for their class representatives, run elections, and see their decisions (e.g., changes to the playground or school events) put into action.
 - **Class Charters:** Collaboratively creating and agreeing on classroom charters at the start of the year.
 - **PSHE/Assembly:** Discussing how groups make decisions and comparing it to local or national elections.
- **The Rule of Law:**
 - **Behaviour Policy:** Consistent application of clear school and classroom expectations and boundaries, teaching children that there are consequences for actions.
 - **Visits:** Inviting community role models, such as police officers and firefighters to explain their roles in upholding laws and keeping people safe.
 - **Discussions:** Learning about the importance of laws, playground expectations, and why we have them.
- **Individual Liberty:**
 - **Choice:** Providing children with safe boundaries within which to make choices (e.g., choosing learning activities, play partners, or how to present their work.)
 - **E-Safety:** Teaching children about their rights online and how to stay safe, knowing they have the freedom to express themselves while respecting others.
 - **Discussions:** Highlighting the right to choose their own friends, subjects, and interests.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance:**
 - **Religious Education (RE):** Learning about different faiths, traditions, and festivals in a respectful and non-judgemental way.
 - **Assemblies:** Celebrating diversity, including different family structures, languages, and cultures within our school community and the wider world.
 - **Inclusive Language:** Modelling and promoting positive and respectful communication between all members of the school community.

How Can Parents Support at Home?

You can reinforce these values with your child by:

Discussing expectations: Talking about rules at home and in public and why they are important for safety.

Encouraging Opinion: Asking your child's opinion on family decisions (e.g., dinner plans, weekend activities) and letting them know their voice is valued.

Celebrating Differences: Engaging with different cultures and beliefs through books, food, or community events, and modelling respect for all.

By working together, we can ensure our children develop into responsible, active, and well-rounded members of society.



A message from Friends of school

Prize draw

Exciting news-our Christmas prize draw is now live!

This year there is no Christmas fair so this is our main fundraiser-take those pennies you would have spent at the fair and invest them in prize draw tickets instead. You could be in with winning one of 30 fantastic prizes including:

- £150 one4all shopping voucher
- £100 John Lewis voucher
- £100 Amazon voucher
- £100 Cribbs Causeway voucher
- £50 Smyths voucher

And many more including Bristol Bears and Bristol City tickets, days out at Avon Valley Adventure Park and Wookey Hole, cinema, cakes, bowling, massage, crazy golf...

Thank you to our voucher sponsors Cromwell Insolvency, [Alex Cantle](#), Straight Up Scaffolding, Hunters Knowle and Bristol Finance Centre and all those who have donated these fab prizes.

Buy your prize draw tickets here: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/west-town-lane-academy-christmas-prize-draw-2

Share it with your friends. Share it with your family. Help us make this the most successful prize draw yet!

Events

Our Christmas tuck shop will take place after school on Friday 5th December in the KS2 hall. Christmas sweets from 50p to £1.50 and soft drinks.

We will also be selling hot drinks at the carols on Friday 12th December.

We still need one or two more volunteers to help us run these events-more volunteers means shorter queues.

These are great events for dipping your toe into volunteering with FOS. We know it can be tricky with children (we have them too!) so why not buddy up with a friend and let them take the kids to play whilst you help out? Sensible year five or six children are welcome to volunteer at tuck shop with a parent (but not carols due to hot drinks).

Email us at friends@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk to discuss helping out.

Bauble competition

We have had some beautiful baubles decorated and entered into our competition-thank you very much to all the children that took part! Prizes will be handed out in assembly this week and the winning baubles will be celebrated on our socials. They will be going up on trees in school this week for all the children, staff and visitors to enjoy. The baubles will be returned in the last week to take home.

Dates for the diary:

Friday 5th December tuck shop

Friday 12th December carols

Sunday 14th December prize draw closes

Monday 19th January FOS general meeting





Play equipment

Our site team conducts daily checks of our play equipment; it also undergoes an annual external inspection.

This safety review is being conducted by ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), ensuring that all our equipment meets the highest standards for safety and fun.

- What this means: While the inspection is ongoing, some play equipment may be temporarily closed off.
- Running Repairs: Please be assured that any necessary running repairs will be completed as quickly as possible to minimise disruption and get the equipment back in full, safe use for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to keep our playground safe and exciting!

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding and Inclusion theme for **term 3** is **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Our Safeguarding Team is:

Mrs Franklin (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Mr Robbins (Deputy DSL)

Mrs Whiddington (Deputy DSL)

Mrs Hendy (Deputy DSL)

Colin Clements (Safeguarding Governor)



Children on our RADAR for November.

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

Ladybirds – **Elsie A**
 Caterpillars – **Charlie R**
 Dragonflies – **Jaxson B**
 Bumblebees – **Arthur M**
 1KP – **Amelia FB**
 1R – **Motie K**
 1P – **Finley C**
 2DL – **Violet P**
 2R – **Archie B**
 2D – **Toby H**
 3B – **Ella H**

3DS – **Ava D**
 3H – **Lily B**
 4LW – **Atley M**
 4JW – **Theo H**
 4PHW – **Brooke M**
 5TC – **Jake G**
 5C – **Aiza Dar**
 5H – **Meadow D**
 6B – **Henry D**
 6J – **Lily B-G**
 6W – **Bea P**

