Lest we forget

November 2026

WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE







Christmas Key Dates

Incredibly, Christmas is just around the corner, and we have lots of fantastic events and activities planned to celebrate. We have a packed schedule, and the staff and children will soon be preparing for their performances. Please note, we have added an extra date for the KS1 performance.

Please see dates and times below:

Mon 7th Dec	9:20 -10:15	Reception production
Tue 8th Dec	9:20 -10:15	Reception production
Wed 9th Dec	9:15 -10:15	KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) production
Thur 10th Dec	9:15 -10:15	KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) production
Fri 11th Dec	9:15 -10:15	KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) production Christmas Carols - KS2 (Meet outside the main hall) - 15:25
Tue 15th Dec	14:30 – 15:10	Nursery Christmas Songs
Wed 16th Dec	-	Christmas dinner (Free for all children) & Xmas Jumper day
Thu 17th Dec	14:30 – 15:10	Nursery Christmas Songs
Fri 18th Dec	-	Christmas parties (Year 1 & 2)

We also have the Yr 3 – 6 Christmas Disco to look forward to on Monday 14th December 3:30 – 5:00!

We are very much looking forward to the festivities!

Key Dates November

10th – Year 2 trip to Aerospace

13th – Children in Need: Everyone to wear spots.

24th - 4JW Class Assembly

25th – 4PT Class Assembly & Individual School Photos

26th 4LW – Class Assembly

Other December dates

1st – Year 6 visit to Life skills Centre & Reception Tour 27/28

2nd - Year 6 visit to Life skills Centre

3rd – Coffee Morning

11th – Rocksteady Concert



Building Strong Readers Together: The Power of Reading at Home

Learning to read is the foundation for all future learning. While our teachers work hard every day to build reading skills in the classroom, the single most impactful boost a child can receive comes from reading at home with you.

Why Reading at Home Matters

Reading regularly outside of school does far more than help children complete homework, it transforms their vocabulary, imagination, and overall academic confidence. Consider these powerful facts:

-***Massive Word Exposure:*** *Children who read for just 20 minutes a day are exposed to approximately 1.8 million words per year, compared to just 8,000 words for those who read for one minute a day.*

-***Better School Outcomes:*** *Research shows that children whose parents/carers read with them regularly, are two to three times more likely to perform at or above the expected standard in reading.*

-***Long-Term Advantage:*** *Regular reading routines at home can give children an academic advantage equivalent to over 1.5 additional years of schooling by age 15.*

Our Expectation: Reading recorded in reading records 3 times a week

To ensure every child gains these benefits, we expect all pupils to read at home a minimum of three times per week.
Whether it is reading aloud to a parent/carer, sharing a picture book together, or reading independently for older pupils, every minute spent with a book counts! Please make sure to sign your child's reading record log each time they read at home.

Earn Rewards for Reading!

We love celebrating our dedicated readers! To motivate pupils to read regularly, every child who has three recorded reads in their reading records each week will be celebrated.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your child's learning. Together, we can foster a lifelong love of books!

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: Kate Robinson
Place of birth: Swindon
What is your role as a volunteer: Friends Of School Committee Member
Time volunteering at WTL: 5 years
The best thing about volunteering at WTL: Getting to know the school staff better and also getting to know parents outside of my children's classes or friendship groups.
My biggest achievement/proudest moment at WTL: To date, it has been developing and growing the FOS Social media channels. I do hope I will have many more though!
Favourite subjects at school: Art, Music and Drama.
Hobbies outside of school: Going to gigs; Live music, comedy, theatre and design talks.
An interesting fact about me: In my early 20's I worked in a motorbike shop and rode a VFR400. I also played pool for Wiltshire and at a regional event I beat an England team player.

South and East Bristol Harvest Foodbank Collection

A huge thank you to our wonderful Rights Action Group for organising this year's harvest collection in aid of the South and East Bristol Food Bank! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, the volunteers who collected our donations shared that this was the largest harvest collection they have ever received. Your thoughtful contributions will make a meaningful difference to local families across South and East Bristol.





WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY FRIENDS of SCHOOL
Registered Charity Number 1216549

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Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Thank you to everyone who came and attended our AGM. Welcome to our three new members - Hannah Bond (children in Y1 and Y4), Hev Steel (children in Y3 and Y1) and Jenna Norman (children in Y4 and Y1). Four members remain from last year (Kate Robinson Y5 and Y3, Louise Stutt Y6 and Y4, Sophie Pring Y3 and nursery and Sarah Burchill Y6 and Y3).

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Leanne Hall from the committee. A huge thank you to Leanne for her fantastic organisational skills over the last year, being a rota guru, and sweet shopper extraordinaire. She has volunteered for over 4 years, and her brilliant planning and strategic overview of events will be much missed. Thankfully for us, she is going to still help Friends of School when she can around renovating, job hunting and being an amazing mum.

CHRISTMAS

It is with a heavy heart that we have made the decision to continue with a lower key Christmas offering. That will mean no Christmas Fair or Christmas shopping night. Though hugely popular, the team are nervous to organise a fair or shopping night, when every Christmas since covid, the volunteer rota has been decimated due to sickness and parent helpers dropping out last minute and the ever-rising cost of goods means it is harder to raise funds for the effort and stress involved.

CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW

However, our amazing volunteers have been out organising some fantastic prizes for our Christmas Prize Draw. If you own a business and would like to sponsor a voucher for £50, £100 or £150 please get in touch with us by email - friends@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk.

We have been supported in the past by WTLA family businesses such as Straight up scaffolding, Cromwell and Company, MedAestethics Ltd, Feelgood Fitnesss, the Finance Advice Centre (Bristol) Ltd and Limara Brailsford PT, to name but a few. The draw will open on Monday 16th November - so keep an eye out for the information on our socials and via email.

CHRISTMAS BAUBLE COMPETITION

We will also be holding the Christmas Bauble competition for a second year. We loved looking at the brilliant artistry from the children and seeing them displayed. Information to come in socials and emails.

VOLUNTEERS

The new committee would love to continue with great events, but need the support of our fantastic volunteers. These incredible people are part of a WhatsApp group and help us put into action our great ideas. We would love to grow our volunteer numbers - by having a big group of people who volunteer to do little jobs - counting wooden baubles into class groups, contacting companies by email to ask for prizes - it means less work for volunteers in the long run. So please, if you think the amount we raise is great and the experiences we fund are amazing, join our volunteer group and make such a massive difference to the activities and experiences we can fund for our children.
https://chat.whatsapp.com/Gm4HE42WhAQKQz6M3X0JS6?s=cl&p=i&mlu=4&ilr=4&iam=2

FUNDRAISING GOALS for 2026/27

Due to government funding cuts to Sport Premium Funding, there is a big hole in the school's budget to provide activities and experiences to enhance our children's sports experiences.

Parents with children in older years will know that previously the Sports Premium has funded the cost of water sports, tobogganing, climbing, scooter skills, tennis, bouncy castles and the transport coaches to get to the venues. The school has asked if we can fund the gap. That is just the start of the funding requests …

We look forward to creating some fantastically fun events and activities that also raise crucial funds to help our children to have the best primary experience possible.

FRIENDS OF SCHOOL NEED YOU!!!! 👊

Did you know that as a parent or carer at West Town Lane, you are automatically part of our Friends of School community? Our Friends committee works tirelessly behind the scenes to organise fun, memorable events for our children and families while raising vital funds that enrich the educational experience across all year groups. Every penny raised goes directly back into providing extra resources, exciting experiences, and facility enhancements for our pupils.

Wonderful Events & Support

Over the years, the committee has hosted and organised a fantastic array of events that bring our school community together, including:

- Quiz nights, Summer Fair, Christmas Fair, Mother and Father's Day gift shops and Sweet Shops.

- Subsidising school trips across the year groups, as well as funding special visits such as the Explorer Dome, Little City, Living Eggs, and providing books for every child at Christmas.

- Funding the Adventure Playground, the Pirate ship, the outdoor classroom shelter, mosaic benches, mosaics, refurbishing our school pond and bug hotel area, and helping establish our fruit and vegetable growing area.

They Need More Volunteers – Every Bit Counts!

The incredible support provided by the Friends group is only possible through the generosity and time of our parent/carer community. The Friends of School need you! They are currently looking for more volunteers to join in and help keep these fantastic opportunities running for our children. Any help that parents/carers can give, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated. You do not need to commit to long meetings or large amounts of time; there are many flexible ways to lend a hand!

If you are able to help in any capacity, have a query, or would like to volunteer, please reach out to the team at friends@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk or speak to a member of staff.

Thank you for your continued support!

Top 10 attendance

4PHT 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
1st	4PHT
2nd	3DS
3rd	2D
4th	1KP
5th	1P
6th	2WL
7th	5C
8th	4LW
9th	5TC
10th	3H





4PHT our Top Attending Class in October



TERM DATES FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR - 27/28

Term 1: Wednesday 1 September 2027 – Friday 22 October 2027

Half-term holiday: Saturday 23 October 2027 – Sunday 31 October 2027

Term 2: Monday 1 November 2027 – Friday 17 December 2027

Christmas holiday: Saturday 18 December 2027 – Monday 3 January 2028

Term 3: Tuesday 4 January 2028 – Friday 11 February 2028

Half-term holiday: Saturday 12 February 2028 – Sunday 20 February 2028

Term 4: Monday 21 February 2028 – Friday 31 March 2028

Easter holiday: Saturday 1 April 2028 – Monday 17 April 2028

Term 5: Tuesday 18 April 2028 – Friday 26 May 2028

Half-term holiday: Saturday 27 May 2028 – Sunday 4 June 2028

Term 6: Monday 5 June 2028 – Friday 21 July 2028

Staff training Days 27/28 - Inset (Provisional dates)

Wednesday 1st September 2027
Friday 22nd October 2027
Tuesday 4th January 2028
Friday 26th May 2028
Friday 21st July 2028

Celebration of Culture Day (Thursday 10th June 2026)

We are in the process of organising our second 'Celebration of Cultures Day' which will take place on Thursday 10th June 2027. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn more about diversity and celebrate the many different cultures that make up the school community.
To support with the planning, we would love to hear your suggestions on how we can celebrate, and hopefully arrange volunteers too e.g., deliver a presentation/workshop, with the aim of sharing a skill or tradition which relates to a specific country/culture/religion.

If you are able to help it would be very much appreciated.
Please contact
office@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk

Did you know? *- 16 languages (inc English) are spoken as a first language at our school, amazing!*



Arts & DT

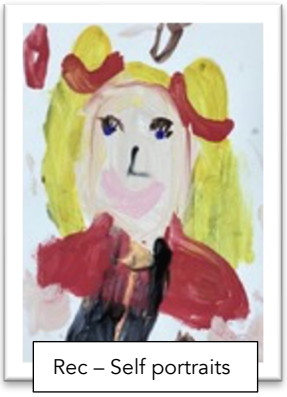
The children at WTL are taught a broad & balanced range of subjects. This month we thought we would share some of their beautiful Art & DT work, produced in term 1!



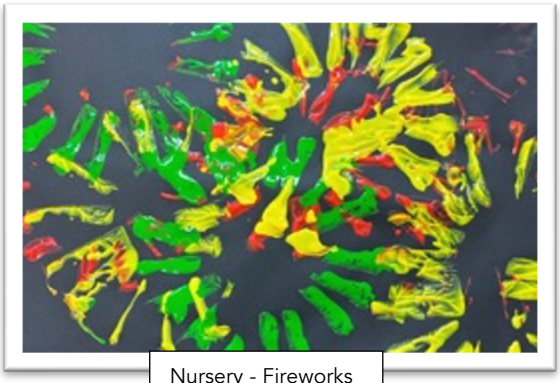
Yr 6 – Recreating Henry Moore's Reclining Figures



Yr 3 –Cave paintings



Rec – Self portraits



Nursery - Fireworks



Yr 1 – Designing and creating delicious wraps



Year 4 – Tie Dye





Year 5 – Clay Chess Pieces



Yr 2 – The Great Fire of London

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding and Inclusion theme for term 2 is Anti-Bullying

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,** last month. Congratulations to:

Ladybirds – **Jude H**
Dragonflies – **Celine A**
Bumblebees – **Avery V**
Caterpillars – **Joey H**
1KP – **Poppy C**
1R – **Raeya M**
1P – **Lottie P**
2R – **Sophie F**
2WL – **Alma S-S**
2D – **Jamie B**
3H – **Lola D**

3B – **Lola M**
3DS – **Maggie W**
4PHT – **Dylan H**
4JW – **Cali J**
4LW – **Riley D**
5TC – **Lilah S**
5C – **Alex N**
5H – **Everest T**
6B – **Zeynap A**
6J – **Reggie – Lee P**
6W – **Davyd Z**









