



Westhead Lathom St James'

www.wlsj.lancs.sch.uk

Number 02

15TH September
2023

Dear Families,

We've had a very busy week in school and of course it is our first full week back too. There are a few tired faces in class as all of the children have been working incredibly hard. We are amazed with how well they have settled into their classes this year and are very impressed with the standard of work being produced across school.


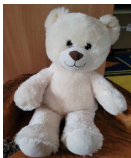






This week our clubs and extra-curricular activities have started and it has been great to see how busy these have been. The Den Building and Orienteering Club on a Tuesday is now full. The children had a great session over on the field on Tuesday. Science club kicked off their first session with an experiment cleaning up some pennies. Geography club used Digimaps to create maps of the school grounds and have designed their own orienteering trails.

During lunchtimes, our Playground Leaders have started and it has been lovely to see children of all ages playing and interacting during these sessions. Lego, Chess, Young Voices and Ethos have also all been very well attended and it is great to hear how

excited the children are about all of these activities. These clubs will change as the year progresses and different year groups will get the opportunity to participate in a range of clubs.

On Thursday morning, our Ladybirds and Butterflies had a fabulously fun session of

Clever Ending Stories. This session includes stories, music and movement and is a great way of building up those early Literacy skills plus their fine and gross motor control. At the end of the session the company that had come in to lead this commented to say that in 20 years of working in schools this was by far the best group of pupils they have encountered. We think this is a great thing to hear especially as it is only the first full week in school for these children. Well done Ladybirds and Butterflies!

	Ladybirds & Butterflies		Busy Bees		Eager Beavers		Wise Owls	
	Jude Jackson – Jones		Dylan Gregory		Harriet Davidson		Isla Alty	
Reception	Busy Bees		Eager Beavers			Wise Owls		
Olivia Hurst 	Jimmy Keegan 	Ruby Chapman 	Pia Pickett 	Harry Hickson 	Grace Williams 	Orrin Ainscow 		

DJ Danny came to school today and the children had a fun assembly and will have letters coming home to book a place on his sessions. The sessions are limited numbers so if you would like a space be quick!!



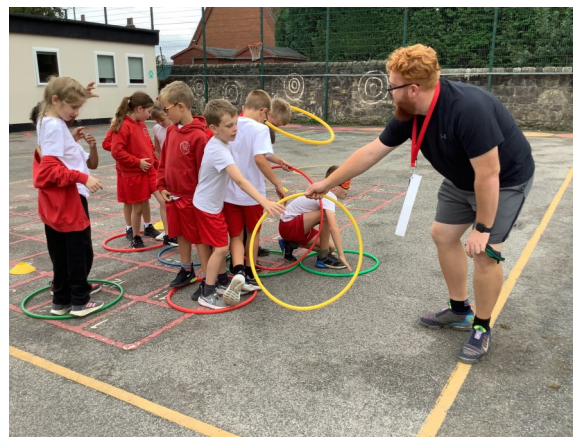
Children explored many tasks that needed critical thinking and concentration in this weeks Geography club. The children worked together indoors and outdoors where they combined ICT with traditional resources to create their digimaps.



Reception captivated by the story telling in their 'Clever ending story' session today.



Eager Beavers having an action packed sports partnership PE session.



Parent Questionnaire Results- Week 2 Feedback

24 out of 26 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that school made them aware of what their child would learn during the year. 1 respondent disagreed and 1 respondent answered saying sometimes.

25 out of 26 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that when they raised a concern with school it had been dealt with appropriately. 1 respondent answered saying sometimes.

24 out of 26 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that school has high expectations for their child. 1 respondent answered saying sometimes.

24 out of 26 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child does well at this school. 1 respondent disagreed and 1 respondent answered saying sometimes.

26 out of 26 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school lets them know how their child is doing.

What you said about school our communication with home and children's progress:

Excellent school with fantastic, caring staff.

Excellent at communicating e.g. key dates.

Could not have picked a better school for my child!

My child loves coming to school and is always talking about her day.

Lack of consistency/high levels of turnover in substitute teachers (supply) has been unsettling for Y1/2 children.

My child is very happy and thriving at his school. His progress is fantastic and he enjoys all his learning. He has made great friendships and has built great relationships with all staff.

The learning environment and provision are amazing and the staff are fantastic and keep you updated regularly on your child's progress and learning.

Could not be happier with school. Love everything they do, very well organised and good staffing.

Overall very happy with the education provided here.

Enjoyed the school over the past ten years and will be sad to leave.

Miss Tither is amazing, she makes the learning fun and memorable.

School is brilliant.

From EYFS to Year 6 children are respectful, polite and look out for one another.

My child has thrived in all areas since starting this school.

A loving, safe environment.

Your suggestions for further development:

A lot of emphasis is placed on English and Maths and the success of the child depends on how good they are 'academically'. I don't think the school does enough to

celebrate other subjects/other areas of the curriculum where children can excel.

Better communication about events/dates for diary.

Better communication over timetable ahead of term i.e. PE/swimming.

Sometimes the only chance you get to see the teacher is on the school gate, can be a busy time to talk although you can contact through the APP but sometimes it is better to talk face to face.

As a school we try very hard with communication between home and school. Dates for the year are always on the school website on the calendar and holiday dates can be found in the parents section of the website. Upcoming dates for your diary are also always on the school newsletter each week. Additionally, emails regarding clubs and events go out every half term. Reminders are sent via emails and the school text messaging system. Messages regarding PE and swimming were sent out last year via email and Seesaw. We will try to add more reminders via text message so parents know when these sessions are happening.

Last year we continued to offer our Open Sessions in addition to more formal parent evenings throughout the year. These sessions have proved very popular and have been a great way of keeping families updated on what the children have been learning in class. We will be continuing with these sessions in 23/24 and dates are already in the diary.

We are thrilled that so many of you recognise our commitment to wider curriculum. At WLSJ we do not narrow our curriculum offer with core subjects (English and Maths)

limited to morning sessions and each afternoon dedicated to the wider curriculum. In

addition to our regular curriculum offer we aim to enhance and enrich the curriculum with a range of visits, visitors and experiences. Last year we ran two residential trips, day trips to Windmill Farm and Southport, we offered participation in over 30 clubs and

inter-school competitions (more than we have ever done before), welcomed in visitors for our History, DT and RE curriculum, hosted an Aspirations week, participated in the Young Voices concert and the Big Sing, performed live at our Nativity and end of year

productions and supported a range of charities.

We already have lots of exciting plans for 23/24 for continuing to bring our curriculum to life and we are sure the children will really enjoy what we have planned.



Open Evening

Thursday 21 September 2023
4.30pm-7pm

Prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school's outstanding facilities to meet our lovely staff and students and see why we are so proud of our school.

The Headteacher, Mr Burnham welcomes visits by appointment at other times for a tour of the school.

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Ormskirk School

Scan to find out more

Ormskirk School have asked us to share that they are having their annual Open Evening on Thursday 21st September. Scan their QR code for more about what they can offer.



Lathom Park Trust
Heritage Open Day
Sunday 17th September 11am-4pm
Scout HQ, Hall Lane, Lathom, L40 5UN

History and heritage talks and presentations throughout the day
Children's creative history activities
Local History displays from Skelmersdale Heritage, Lathom Park Trust, North West Heritage and Ormskirk & District Family History Society

FREE EVENT
FREE PARKING
School Yard Opposite
SOUP & A ROLL £1

CHURCH NEWS

St James' Church, Westhead

Sunday Service 10.30am

Children's Prayers have been forwarded to Rev John to read out in service this week

For pastoral support and zoom log-ins please contact—

Rev John Sephton on john-sephton1@yahoo.com or 07929512847

Westhead Village Hall

Family fun & Food event –30th September

Free Event—Music, fun, games and food



Heritage Open day at Lathom Park Trust is hosting a free event for all the family and boasts lots of historical presentations and activities for all the family. It is Sunday

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 15th September	Swimming starts
Monday 18th September	Mental Health Day
Tuesday 26th September	Wise Owls' Saxon Day
Wednesday 27th September	Parents' Mathematics Workshop 6pm—all welcome
Monday 2nd October	Individual School Photos
Sunday 8th October	10.30am Harvest Festival at St James' Church, Westhead
Tuesday 10th October	Busy Bees' Blackpool Zoo Trip
Monday 16th October	Wise Owls' "We Will Rock You" at Ormskirk High
Tuesday 17th October	Governor Committee Meetings
Thursday 19th October	2.45pm Open Session (1 adult per child)
Friday 20th October	2pm onwards 170th Birthday Celebrations
Monday 23rd-Friday 27th October	HALF TERM
Tuesday 31st October	Intrahealth Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 7th November	Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 13th November	Parents' Evening
Thursday 16th November	Open Morning for prospective parents
Monday 20th November	Parents' Evening
Thursday 7th December	Wise Owls' Carol Concert at Christ Church, Aughton
Sunday 10th December	10.30am Nativity at St James' Church, Westhead
Monday 18th December	Eager Beavers and Wise Owls' Christmas Parties
Tuesday 19th December	Ladybirds, Butterflies and Busy Bees' Christmas Parties
Thursday 21st December	2.30pm Helpers' Thank You
Friday 22nd December	Break for Christmas at 2pm