



# Westhead Lathom St James'

[www.wlsj.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.wlsj.lancs.sch.uk)

Number 05

06th October  
2023

Dear Families,

A huge thanks to a whole host of volunteers that have helped us in school the past few weeks. We have had assistance from Barclays Bank who have sent volunteers to tidy the grounds and carry out simple maintenance tasks as well as the support of a gardener who has given their time to cut down the long grass at the top of the school field. We very much appreciate all of this help and support. If anyone else feels like they are able to offer any help at any time then please contact the school office.

On Friday, last week, our Eager Beavers' class enjoyed a visit from two local historians from the Lathom Park Trust. Dot and Pam talked to the class about the pivotal role that Lathom Park played as a remount depot for the war horses during WW1. The children learnt about the horses coming from North America into the docks at Liverpool then being transported by train to Ormskirk before being herded up to Lathom.

Our Eager Beavers had a great start to their week carrying out some Geography fieldwork around the village. The children went out and about spotting signs of how the village has changed over the years. Back in class they have had great fun creating a large 3D model of the village based on their fieldwork.

I had a lovely afternoon with the Wise Owls on Tuesday when we were carrying out a science investigation into what materials are soluble and insoluble. The children were fabulous during the investigation and worked so hard to present their findings.


We had some great news this week to say our Year 5 Debate Team have reached the final of the Lancashire Big Debate competition. The team will attend the finals at County Hall in Preston on 7th November. Well done team!

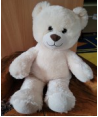






A reminder that it is our Harvest Festival this Sunday (8th October) at 10.30am in St James' Church, Westhead. Pupils should wear uniform and arrive for 10.15am. Our charity collections this year are for Ormskirk Food Bank (food donations) and the WWF Climate Recovery Fund (monetary offerings).

Donations are gratefully received on the day.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Miss Clark

	<b>Ladybirds &amp; Butterflies</b>	<b>Busy Bees</b>	<b>Eager Beavers</b>	<b>Wise Owls</b>
	Nancy Baxter	Matilda McGrath	Oliver Newton	Phoebe Chapman

Reception	Busy Bees		Eager Beavers		Wise Owls	
Eliza Condliff 	Amber Larson 	Lucie Williams 	Ayda Hallsworth 	Noemi Livesley 	Arwen Gregory 	Max Delaney Cain 

Dot and Pam from Lathom Park Trust.



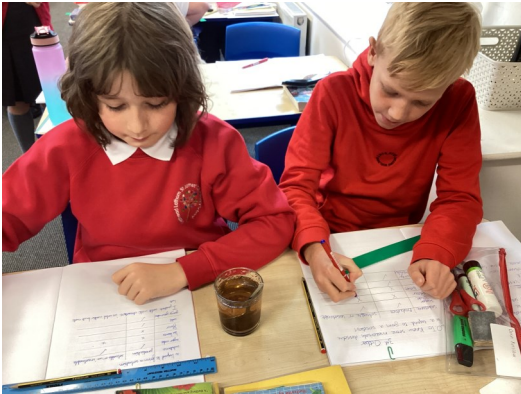
Eager Beavers carrying out their local area fieldwork.



Our Barclays Bank volunteers hard at work.



Wise Owls investigating what is and is not soluble.



## Attendance Matters

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of those families that are committed to their child attending regularly at school. We really appreciate your support. We have many pupils already on track for attendance of 97% or above.

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend school regularly to allow them to fulfil their potential. As a school, we want all our children to achieve and we are constantly looking at ways of improving our systems for that to happen.

For a school to be considered to have good attendance we must have attendance *of at least 97%*.

**Our current school attendance is 95.3%.**

We are very concerned about this and have made it a key target for our school to improve attendance over the course of 23/24. We can only achieve this by working together. Attendance is monitored weekly and we will contact families where we have cause for concern for a pupil's attendance. Governor

Attendance Panels are offered to families where attendance has become a serious concern so that we can offer appropriate support.

Every single day a child is absent from school, equates to a day of lost learning. Attendance percentages can be misleading. For some parents 90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance. However, the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a day of school each week or 19 days of school during the school year. That is nearly four school weeks. We are working really hard to encourage children to come to school every single day. We can cope with colds and headaches in school and would encourage you to send your child into school if at all possible.

Attendance will be celebrated in school each week in class with the class with the highest attendance each week receiving a reward.

Already this year we have received a large number of holiday requests. Unfortunately, holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a penalty notice being issued. There are 175 non-school days in a year and we urge parents to make use of these days for family holidays.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please phone school or email

[bursar@wlsj.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@wlsj.lancs.sch.uk) before 9.30am to inform us. This should be done every morning of a pupil's absence.

What your child's attendance figures mean...

<b>100% attendance</b>	Zero days missed	<b>Excellent!</b>
<b>99% attendance</b>	Two days of absence across the year	<b>Excellent!</b>
<b>97% attendance</b>	Five days of absence across the year	<b>Good</b>
<b>95% attendance</b>	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed.	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>90% attendance</b>	Nineteen days of absence across the year; three weeks and four days of learning missed	<b>Poor</b>
<b>85% attendance</b>	Twenty-eight days of absence across the year: five weeks and three days of learning missed.	<b>Very Poor</b>
<b>80% attendance</b>	Thirty-eight days of absence across the year: seven weeks and 3 days of learning missed.	<b>Unacceptable</b>
<b>75% attendance</b>	<b>Educational Neglect</b> Forty-six days of absence across the year: nine weeks and one day of learning missed.	<b>Unacceptable</b>

***Attendance in school this week...***

Ladybirds/Butterflies 95.5%

Busy Bees 94.4%

Eager Beavers 96.3%

Wise Owls 95.3%

**Well done to this week's best attenders Eager Beavers' class.**



Well done to the pupils who have won a place in the 'Great Lancashire Debate' final. This will be on 7th November.... More details to follow

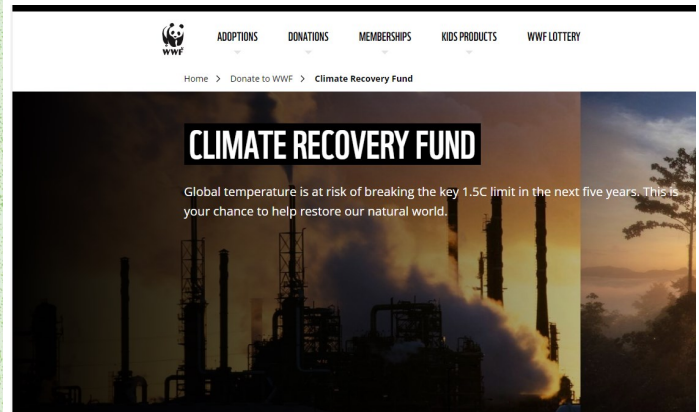
## TOP 5 ITEMS NEEDED THIS WEEK:

1. Tinned fruit
2. Coffee
3. Biscuits
4. Tinned Tomatoes
5. Deodorant

Date 02/10/2023



Harvest Charities this year are the Ormskirk Food Bank and WWF Climate Recovery Fund. Donations gratefully received.



## CHURCH NEWS

St James' Church, Westhead

Sunday Service 10.30am

Children's Prayers have been forwarded to Rev John 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



to

## Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 8th October	10.30am Harvest Festival at St James' Church, Westhead
Tuesday 10th October	Busy Bees' Blackpool Zoo Trip
Thursday 12th October	7pm PTA meeting in school-all welcome
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
Monday 30th October	PTA Spooky Disco 6-7pm Ladybirds, Butterflies and Busy Bees 7-8pm Eager Beavers and Wise Owls
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
Wednesday 29th November	Visiting athlete leading a sponsored circuits event
Friday 1st December	PTA Christmas Movie Night
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