



Westhouses Primary School Autumn 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the calendar year, we reflect on our past achievements and consider what the future will bring. At Westhouses, we have had a great, jam-packed term full of learning and community activities, from observing Remembrance Day to unveiling the new (correctly spelt) street sign with local MP, Natalie Fleet. We have been to the panto—oh yes we have! - and rehearsed for our own performances. We've finished harvesting from our community allotment and made soup linked to our studies on the world wars. We held our Christmas fayre and held Miss Briggs' baby. Construction for the new outdoor EYFS area began and should be completed by the end of next term. We introduced 'Ay up me duck Friday' which the children have loved, particularly when they catch the staff out! We will continue with this and revisit the most common grammatical errors on a rolling programme to embed them in speech ready for writing.

In the new year, all staff will update their paediatric first aid training, and continue working on our priorities from the school improvement plan: the new online safeguarding system, oracy, RE, PE and music. Governors will meet for the first time with the newly-elected parent governors (see bottom left). Please feel free to approach them to share ideas and views, as they represent you on the governing board.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2026, but in the meantime, have a magical Christmas and Happy New Year!

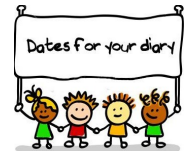


ATTENDANCE From September 2025

Little Explorers:	~	93.6%
Big Explorers:	~	97.6%
Pioneers	~	95.7%
Philosophers:	~	95.5%
Trailblazers:	~	96.55%
Total Attendance:		95.94%

Attendance target is 97%.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts



Monday 5th January	INSET Paediatric First Aid Training
Tuesday 6th January	Children back to school
Monday 12th January	Resource Management Committee meeting
Tuesday 13th January	Teaching and Learning Committee meeting
Thursday 15th January	Bright Bites Oral Health workshop Swimming sessions restart
Tuesday 20th January	Valley CIDS assembly
Tuesday 27th January	Full Governing Board meeting
Thursday 29th January	Sports hall not available at the leisure centre, but swimming as usual
Monday 2nd February	6pm Parish Council meeting
Friday 6th February	Opening of the new EYFS outdoor area MP visit
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day and Parent Workshop
Thursday 12th February	SEND networking meeting for parents



Parent Governor Election Results:

Liz Terry was re-elected and Amy Gouldstone was elected as a new parent governor.



Congratulations to both!



Explorers

We have had a fantastic half term learning all about 'Marvellous Me'! It was lovely to see so many family photos and how confident and proud the children were to stand at the front of the group and talk about their family.

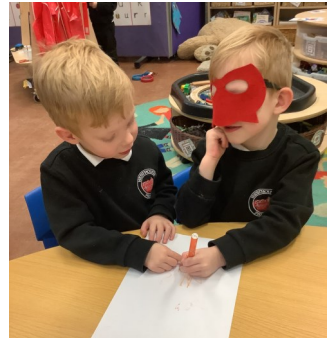
We loved sharing our baby photos and trying to guess who it was.

We talked about how we have grown and changed from being a baby to now.

In topic work we have enjoyed learning about the five senses and have had a go at blindfolded drawing to see what it would be like to not be able to see. The season has changed from autumn to winter and we have been exploring what this feels and looks

like using our senses.

It's Christmas! We have been very busy making Christmas cards, decorating the Christmas tree, a trip to the Pantomime, enjoying Christmas dinner and keeping an eye on our class elf Elvis!

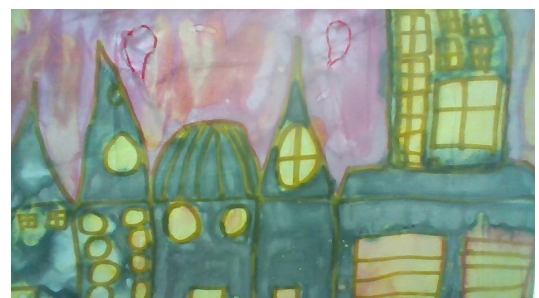


Pioneers

This half term has been so exciting, as it always is leading up to the Christmas holidays. We created some beautiful poppies to put on the Westhouses Memorial.

We did brilliantly performing our play 'Whoopsie-Daisy-Angel'! All the children spoke clearly and were very sensible when we performed.

In history we have learned so much about the Great Fire of London, and the children were able to talk lots about the fire, how and where it started, why it spread and how London was different afterwards. But, we have mostly enjoyed our art project. We used silk! We dyed the silk and then did a little sewing to add details to our flames. All the artwork was amazing, well done!



Philosophers

In Philosophers' class this half term, our History topic has been all about the Ancient Egyptians. The children have been learning about the importance of the River Nile in Ancient Egypt, and wrote a set of instructions about the mummification process. In Art, the children created some fantastic canopic jars, using Modroc.



In English, we have enjoyed reading 'The Tear Thief' by Carol Ann Duffy and the children planned and wrote newspaper reports about the mysterious disappearance of children's tears.

In science, we have been learning about animals including humans and their skeletons. The children created super poster presentations all about exoskeletons, endoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons.



This half term in computing, the children have also received school email addresses and passwords which allows them to log into Canva. They have experimented with font, pasting images and formatting to create birthday invitations and magazine covers.

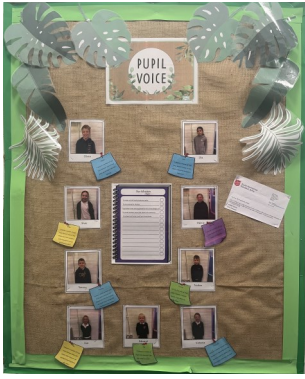
In addition to all of this, The Philosophers have also been busy practising for their Christmas nativity. They have made us very proud with how hard they have worked at learning their lines and the songs.



Trailblazers

This half term in Trailblazers we have had such a fun time. Within our World War One topic, we have imagined what it would have been like in the trenches and even sampled some tinned food! We have had an expert come in to share many of her World War One artefacts too. In science, we have been experimenting with reactions and even used our learning to prompt new questions and we tried them out. In English, we have used our knowledge of the Cadbury World trip with the book - 'The Rainplayer'. We even had games of Pok-a-Tok that featured in the book. We have been amazing artists and created our own war collages. Plus lots, lots more.





Pupil Voice:

We have been working with staff to rewrite our school behaviour policy. We are currently making a child –friendly version to share with the school. Once we have received feedback and have an agreed policy it will go to the governing board in January and will then be available on the school website. We are also hoping to record ourselves reading it, so those who struggle with reading can also access it.

Earlier this month some of us went to Tibshelf Community School for Pupil Parliament. This is where school councils from the Five Pits Partnership meet together. Our focus this term was online safety.

Mini Leaders:

We have been setting up and running lots of different activities at lunchtime including: dodgeball, tennis, rounders, basketball, hockey, table tennis, obstacle courses, cricket, football, parachute games and diddy car events. For the Explorers, we set up balance bike activities. We have also run challenges on the Active Wall. By Ethan Mar and Shae.



Arts Ambassadors:



We have been really busy making tree toppers for the community and preparing an enterprise project for the Christmas Fayre: children were able to make silk painted baubles. We also visited The Harley Gallery in Worksop and worked with two local artists.



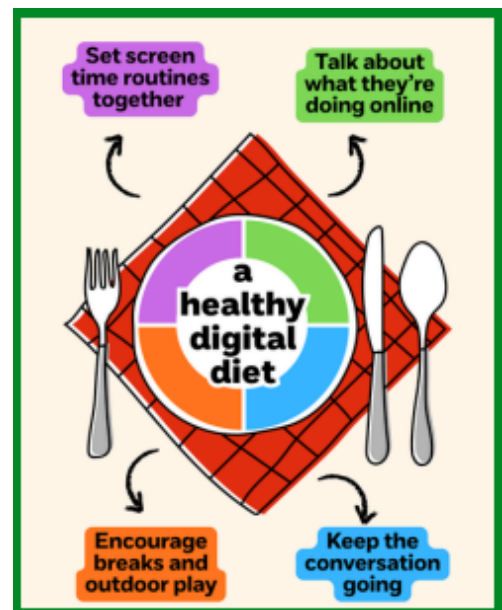
Online Safety

Our online safety focus for this half term was: Online Bullying and Self image and identity.

Our focus for next half term is: Online relationships and reputation

From a young age we're teaching children about healthy and balanced diets – but how can we help teach them about healthy and balanced online habits? Here's some top tips:

- ◆ Watch and play together
- ◆ Set gentle screen time routines
- ◆ Talk about what they're seeing



PE

This half term our Year 5 and 6s took part in a dodgeball competition at Frederick Gents school. We were pleased to see the children happy to get stuck in and play the game with fairness and enthusiasm.

Sadly, the dodgeball event for Year 3 and 4 did not go ahead. Thank you to the pupils who signed up to take part. Mrs Coupe hosted a dodgeball game evening in school in place of the competition. It was great fun and some wonderful skills were displayed. Thank you to those who joined in.

Pioneers have been enjoying the great outdoors in their Forest School slot this half term.

All pupils have really impressed our external coaches this half term. They commented that they were the best hockey lessons they had delivered to junior classes before.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

There is clear evidence to show that days off school impact on your child's attainment and progress.

365 days in each year	175 non school days a year →				To spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments
	190 school days in each year	12 days ab- sence			
		178 days of education	19 days ab- sence		
			171 days of education	29 days ab- sence Half term missed	
		161 days of education	38 days ab- sence		
152 days of education					
	100% to 95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
	GOOD Best chance of success.	WORRYING Less chance of success		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Possible legal action	