WESTHEAD LATHOM ST JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK ENDING

23rd October 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Families,

What a busy and exciting final week of the half term we have had! It has been wonderful to see so many fantastic learning opportunities, special events and celebrations taking place across school as we bring another successful half term to a close.

We started the week on Monday with our Wise Owls enjoying their first Art Day of the year. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to get creative, develop their artistic skills and immerse themselves in a day of art.

On Tuesday, our Governors met for their first committee meetings of the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our Governors for generously volunteering their time, expertise and commitment to supporting our school. Their dedication is greatly appreciated and plays such an important role in helping our school continue to grow and flourish.

Thursday was another exciting day, with our Busy Bees stepping back in time for their Victorian Day, bringing their history topic for this half term to a memorable close. The children looked absolutely fantastic in their Victorian costumes, and it was lovely to see them bringing their learning to life with such enthusiasm. Thank you to all our families for your support in making the day so special.
On Thursday evening, our wonderful PTA hosted a Spooky Disco for the children. It was lovely to see everyone dressed up in their fantastic costumes, enjoying themselves and having so much fun with their friends. The evening was a brilliant success and raised an amazing **£250.00** for our school! A huge thank you to our PTA and everyone who helped organise and support the event. We are incredibly grateful for all that you do for our school community.

Friday provided a fantastic end to the half term as we welcomed Joseph Roberts, a poet from Liverpool, into school. We began the day with an inspirational assembly, during which Joseph shared his passion for poetry and inspired the children to think creatively about words and language. This was followed by workshops in class, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to explore poetry further and develop their own creativity. It was a brilliant experience for everyone and a lovely way to finish the week.

Also on Friday, our Wise Owls enjoyed their well-deserved attendance treat at Midstream, having achieved the best attendance across school this half term. A huge well done to Wise Owls for this fantastic achievement! We are very proud of their commitment to coming to school every day and hope they thoroughly enjoyed their special treat.

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our children, staff, parents and carers for your continued hard work, enthusiasm and support. There has been so much to celebrate over the past few weeks, and it has been a pleasure to see the children enjoying their learning, making progress and creating special memories together.
I hope you all have a wonderful half-term break, with plenty of time to rest, relax and enjoy spending time together as families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term.

Wishing you all a happy and restful half term!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Dates/Events

Tuesday Mornings- Rocksteady Music Lessons for those signed up.

Wednesday- PE for Years 1 to 6.

Friday- 3pm Celebration Assembly, families welcome to come along.

Friday 18th September	Swimming lessons start for Eager Beavers for 9 weeks.
Friday 23rd October	Break for Half Term
Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October	HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 2nd November Wednesday 4th November Thursday 5TH November	Individual School Photos Mad Science starts for those signed up Whole School Dropped at Church

Monday 9th November	Yr 1 Hearing Tests
Monday 9th November Monday 9th November and Thursday 12th November	New Winter Lunch Menu WK 3 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 10th November Friday 13th November Monday 23rd November	Full Governors' Meeting at 4pm Non-Uniform Day – Children in Need Reception & YR6 Height and Weight and Yr6 Questionnaires
Friday 27th November	Swimming lessons start for Busy Bees for 9 weeks.
Tuesday 1st -3rd December Wednesday 2nd December Thursday 3RD December Friday 4th December Sunday 6th December Tuesday 8th December Friday 11th December Wednesday 16th December Friday 18th December	Bikebility Busy Bees Cameo Singing Nativity Dress Rehearsal whole school drop off at church Non-Uniform for raffle Prizes Nativity at St James' Church 10.30AM Rocksteady Concert at church – Whole school. Drop at church. Santa Dash Pardoe Court Yr3/4 Christmas Grand Raffle
Friday 18th December Monday 4th January Tuesday 5th January Friday 8th January Friday 5TH February Friday 5th March Monday 15th March Thursday 25th March Friday 23rd April Friday 14th May	2pm Finish for Christmas Holidays Inset Day Start of Term Mad Hair/ Non-Uniform Day £1 each Popcorn (Movie) Party Pizza Party and Beetle Drive Non-Uniform for raffle prizes Bake off and raffle Non- Uniform for Bingo Prizes Family BBQ

St James Westhead

KNOWING JESUS | MAKING HIM KNOWN



Church News

Sunday 10.30am

Worship & Prayer

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day in school is an opportunity to learn, belong and thrive.

Why attendance is so important
Regular attendance supports learning, friendships, routines and confidence. Missed days add up quickly, so please work with school to keep absence to an absolute minimum and share any concerns early.

The attendance picture

A full school year is typically 190 pupil days. These examples show how attendance percentages translate into approximate days present and missed. The RAG bands are an editable guide: align them with your school attendance policy.

RAG	Attendance	Approx. days in school	Approx. days missed	What this means
GREEN	97–100%	184–190	0–6	Strong attendance: learning is rarely interrupted.
AMBER	95–96.9%	181–183	7–9	Attendance needs attention: missed learning is beginning to build.
RED	Below 95%	180 or fewer	10 or more	Cause for concern: regular absence can significantly affect progress and routines.

How missed days add up

Attendance	Days in school	Days missed	Approx. weeks missed
100%	190	0	0
97%	184	6	just over 1
95%	181	9	nearly 2
90%	171	19	almost 4
85%	162	28	over 5

Working together: If attendance is becoming difficult, please contact school early so we can understand barriers and agree support.

CELEBRATING OUR PUPILS

Attendance

Ladybirds and Butterflies	73%
Busy Bees	86%
Eager Beavers	95%
Wise Owls	85%