



Westwoodside Headteacher Blog

Friday 25th October 2025

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to my half term update in which I'll reflect on a busy start to the school year and look ahead to some highlights before Christmas.

Reading has been a top priority since we returned. EYFS hosted Book Chatter when parents joined their children in a fun-filled session and learned how they can encourage their child to love reading. Key Stage 2 travelled to the Baths Hall in Scunthorpe to be inspired by top author and illustrator Nick Sharratt. The second of our family reading sessions took place today, the last Friday of the month. Parents and carers were once again invited into school to listen to their child reading and we followed it with a coffee morning. Both have been lovely sessions this term and we thank everyone for coming in. Please put the next one in your diary (Friday, 28th November). The mobile library has made two much-anticipated visits this half term and the children also enjoyed a book fair. Family engagement and support was, again, much appreciated.

NHS service With me in Mind has been in school to help children and teachers develop positive mindsets. They hosted a talk to the whole school titled "Self esteem and positive self". In the afternoon, they had a session with our wellbeing ambassadors, a group of children who will use this training to support peers. On the same topic, we celebrated World Mental Health Day in non-uniform and by wearing a colour that made us happy. We also marked World Smile Day, with our wellbeing ambassadors leading a session on how smiling can elevate our mood.

In sport, Years 1 and 2 went to South Axholme Academy to participate in a multi-skills event, led by teachers and former Westwoodside students, which was lovely to see. Sports leader training Get Ahead has been undertaken by Years 5 and 6. They will have another session next half term after which they will lead activities and games with younger children in the playground at breaks and lunchtimes. It will give them extra responsibility and something they are looking forward to. EYFS children completed a sponsored "Jim, jog, jam" session, when they came in pyjamas, completed circuits of the playground and enjoyed a treat of jam and toast. Thank you to everyone's generosity they raised £371, money that will go towards buying equipment for EYFS.



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I want to give a special mention to our incredible PTA and the fundraising that will transform the quad area into a safe learning environment. The Westwoodside barn dance, held at J & J Fretwell's farm, saw £2,000 donated to the PTA. With teachers, the PTA organised an Autumn disco for the children yesterday (Thursday) and tomorrow (25th) please don't forget the Pumpkin Patch at Westwoodside playing field between 12 noon and 3pm. The PTA is holding a planning meeting on Tuesday, 4th November at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. We value and appreciate its support going forward.

Generosity was also shown at the harvest festival, held at Haxey Church, with children performing poems and singing. Donations went to the local food banks.

Years 5 and 6 travelled to the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln and learned what it was like to be in the RAF and living in Britain during the war years. A history expert delivered a Stone Age workshop in school to Years 3 and 4, with children dressing up and painting.

Plenty of exciting events and activities are also planned for next half term.. A SEND coffee morning will take place on 5th November while, on the 7th, we will have a crazy hair day. Year 5 and 6 will lay a wreath and take part in the remembrance service at Haxey memorial on 11th November. The day after, Year 3 will participate in a sports festival at South Axholme Academy. Funds will be raised for Children in Need with a non-uniform day on Friday, 14th November. The With me in Mind team will host a session for Year 3 on 20th November. Pupils will learn to ride cycles safely in Bikeability sessions on 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th December.

In terms of festive activities, Year 2 will attend the Wesley Church on 25th November, taking part in an interactive workshop called the Christmas journey. The younger children will attend a pantomime by Cast in Doncaster on 5th December. That is also the date when the choir sings carols in the Westwoodside Pond Christmas Lights switch on, always a popular event. It is also practicing for its trip to Young Voices in Sheffield during January. The Christmas nativity by children in EYFS and nursery will take place on Wednesday, 10th December at 10am. That is also Christmas jumper day for the rest of the school and when we will be enjoying a Christmas dinner.



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Another date for the diary is 17th December when we will host a Santa Sprint afternoon, raising money for Lindsey Lodge Hospice. For every lap completed, pupils will receive a Christmas treat, including a marshmallows and hot chocolate stick.

The Christmas service, to which families are also invited, will take place on 18th December at Haxey Church, with children in Years 1 to 6 having roles to play.

So, plenty to look forward to.

Thank you for reading my half term round up. The Arbor app is our key communication tool for parents and carers while, if you haven't done so already, please follow us on Facebook.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable break.

Aaron Rush

Interim Headteacher



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