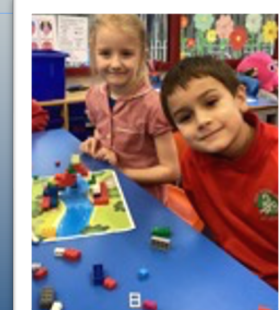


# WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE



West Town Lane, 1956



## West Town Lane turns 70!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with our school community. This coming academic year marks a truly special milestone: West Town Lane School will be turning **70 on Friday, October 26, 2026!**

As we prepare for this momentous birthday, we've been looking back at our unique history. Did you know that our school grounds were originally occupied by a local farm? To make room for the 'new' school back in the 1950s, the original farmhouse and outbuildings had to be demolished. However, a piece of that history still lives on today. If you look closely at our school buildings, you might spot an interesting architectural feature: some of the original stone from the demolished farm was incorporated into the school's construction.

### A Trip Down Memory Lane

The school has grown significantly since those early days:

The Original Building (see above): Intended for 320 Junior School children.

The 1958 Expansion: A second building was added to the site to accommodate 240 Infants.

### We Need Your Help!

We are planning a variety of events throughout the next academic year to celebrate our 70th anniversary, and we want you to be a part of it.

Do you have any ideas for how we should celebrate?

Do you know someone who attended the school when it first opened its doors? Whether it's a story, a vintage photograph, or a creative event idea, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch with the school office to share your memories or suggestions.

Let's make this 70th year one to remember!

**Interesting fact:** The first 'Headmistress' of WTL was a Miss L.E. Symes. I wonder if any Grand Parents might remember her?

### Key Dates

#### February

6<sup>th</sup> – Yr1 visit to SS Great Britain

9<sup>th</sup> – Dragonflies: Stay & Play

10<sup>th</sup> – Bumblebees & Caterpillars: Stay & Play

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – Parents/Carers evening

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – Ladybirds Celebration & Stay & Play

13<sup>th</sup> – FoS: Non School Uniform Day & Reception Fairytale Day.

13<sup>th</sup> – End of term

23<sup>rd</sup> – Return to school

26<sup>th</sup> – Nursery tour

#### March

5<sup>th</sup> – PINS Coffee Morning (Partnership for Inclusion of Neuro Diversity in Schools) & World Book Day

13<sup>th</sup> – FoS Mother's Day Sale

16<sup>th</sup> – Yr 4s Roman Baths Trip

18<sup>th</sup> – Yr 6 waterfall trip

19<sup>th</sup> – Yr 2 Nightingale Valley trip

21<sup>st</sup> – Red Nose Day

### Theatre Group Visit

We were thrilled to welcome the fantastic *Image Musical Theatre Company* to our school this week for a spectacular performance of the classic tale, Doctor Dolittle. The children had such a memorable theatre experience right here at West Town Lane. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and hear the corridors buzzing with talk about the show. A huge thank you to the *Friends of School* who funded the performance.



### Top 10 Attendance - January

**5TC** were our Top Attending Class in December. A big well done to them! Each month, the class with the highest attendance will receive the Attendance Trophy and are rewarded with a 'Free- Time Pass' which entitles them to an additional playtime.

| Ranking          | Class       |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | <b>5TC</b>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 6B          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 6J          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 4JW         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 4LW         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 4PHW        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 3B          |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Dragonflies |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 2DL         |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 3DS         |





## West Town Lane Sports

It has been a busy and exciting couple of terms for sport at the Academy. Here is a look at what our teams have been up to recently:

### Annual Ashton Park Sports Partnership Tag Rugby Competition

It was fantastic to return to this competition after a short break. We entered two squads, combining children who play regular club rugby with those experiencing Tag Rugby for the very first time.

Both squads produced some outstanding rugby, securing a number of well-earned victories. We were particularly pleased to see the children demonstrating all the Academy's key values alongside the core values of rugby. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event and one we will definitely be looking to participate in again next academic year.

### Utilita Kids Cup 2025/26

A huge well done to our Year 5/6 Football team who competed in this year's Utilita Kids Cup. They had a great run in the group stages—winning two, drawing one, and losing just one game—which saw them go through as runners-up.

The knockouts were tense! The team held their nerve to win the Quarter Final on penalties, before suffering a narrow, heart-breaking defeat in the Semi-Final (again on penalties) against the eventual tournament winners. However, they bounced back brilliantly to win their play-off match, finishing 3rd overall. This is an exceptional achievement given the standard of competition.

### Annual Ashton Park Basketball Tournament

For the first time ever, the Academy entered the Ashton Park Basketball Tournament. We took two teams of Year 5/6 children, which included a mix of experienced players and those completely new to the sport. It was an extremely enjoyable event, and it was great to see the children making progress week on week. Mr Evans and Mr. Mhyn were incredibly impressed with the resilience and determination shown by all the players over the three weeks.

### Annual Ashton Park Year 5/6 Football Tournament

We also entered two squads into the Annual Ashton Park Football Tournament. Both teams performed exceptionally well over the three-week period, but we were most proud of how they conducted themselves, they represented the school perfectly. We are currently just waiting on the final standings to see where we placed!

### Coming Up

We have plenty more sports coming up this term, including the Coronation Cup and the Year 3/4 Football Tournament. We are also looking forward to the Annual Ashton Park Swimming Gala, where we will be aiming to defend our title for the 3rd year in a row, a phenomenal achievement if we can pull it off.

**Looking for a Club?** If your child has been inspired by any of these events and is looking for opportunities outside of school, please do not hesitate to speak to **Mr Evans or Mr Boon**. We can put you in contact with local clubs to help them get started on their sporting journey."



Basketball team



Year 5/6 football team



5TC - top attending class in January 😊

## Every Day Counts: Why Mondays and Fridays Matters

Thank you so much for ensuring your child is here every day, when they are well enough to be. Regular school attendance really does improve the chances of social, emotional and academic success. Mondays and Fridays are the "bookends" of the week and being at school on those days really does make all the difference because.....

### The Monday Start

Monday is the **launchpad**. It's when teachers introduce new topics and set the week's objectives. When children miss a Monday, they often spend the rest of the week "playing catch-up," which can lead to increased stress and anxiety.

### The Friday Finish

Friday is the **anchor**. It's the day to review and celebrate the weeks learning and lock in the new knowledge. School is a great place to be on a Friday (and every day of course).



### Staff & Volunteer Profiles

We thought it would be a great idea to let you get to know our staff and volunteers a little better. We employ over **100 people at WTL** so there are a lot of individuals that you may know very well, but a significant number you may have never seen before! Many thanks to those staff and volunteers who have agreed to take part!



**Name:** Hamza Mhyn

**Place of Birth:** Bristol

**Role in School:** Teaching Assistant

**Time Worked at WTL:** 1.5 years

**Other Employment in Schools:** I have only worked at West Town Lane Academy.

**Hobbies Outside of School:** Basketball, watching TV shows and films, cardistry (fancy card shuffling), and video games.

**The Best Thing About Working at WTL:** The strong sense of community and the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with the children, while making a positive impact on their lives.

**My Biggest Achievement/Proudest Moment at WTL:** Working collaboratively with teachers and adults who once taught me during my own school years, and continuing to make a difference in children's lives by inspiring them to be their best selves.

**Favourite Subject:** History

**An Interesting Fact About Me:** While I was a pupil at West Town Lane, I appeared on TV (Good Morning Britain) and was interviewed about the heavy snowfall during 2013–14.

### NHS School Nurse

Our school nurse, Marie Bowden, will be available for drop-in sessions on the first **Friday of each term from 9-11am**. Slots are 15 mins.

She can offer support in topics such as:

- Eating
- Sleep
- Toileting
- Emotional Wellbeing
- 

Parents can arrive at 9am at the office and wait for a slot.



## Friends of School



January, which always feels like it is so much longer than 31 days, has passed and the days are getting lighter. Finally and woohoo! We have some great events and opportunities coming up, to brighten February even more!

### Image Theatre's 'Dr Dolittle' performance

The Friends of School were delighted to be able to fully fund the theatre group performance and enable this fantastic enrichment activity to happen for our children. We hope your children loved the experience!

### Parent's lottery

We are really excited to announce that we are about to launch the Parent's Lottery here at WTLA! It is a weekly lottery which has fantastic cash prizes to be won.

JACKPOT £25,000 - Match 6 (six) numbers in the correct order

£1,000 - Match 5 (five) numbers in the correct order

£25 - Match 4 (four) numbers in the correct order

£5 - Match 3 (three) numbers in the correct order

Also 60p from every £1 lottery ticket that bought is donated to us, so you will be supporting the Friends of school to raise funds AND you will be in with a chance of winning prizes.

Keep an eye out on our socials and for an email for how to sign up!

### £2 appeal on Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising is offering another chance for a free £2 bonus to Friends of West Town Lane Academy when parents sign up. It costs nothing to you, but gifts us £2, which we can use to fund activities and resources.

To sign up download the app via your app store (DON'T do it through their website or else we don't get the £2),

For google play - [click here](#)

For apple app - [click here](#)

### Non-uniform day - Friday 13th February

All years, from nursery to year 6, can wear their own clothes (or if you have a child in reception, an extra special Fairy Tale themed non uniform outfit) to school. It will take place on Friday 13th February, for a £1 donation to the Friends of School.

Please donate your £1 either in cash on the day or via zeffy- Follow this [link](#)

You can change the zeffy fee to £0 by clicking on the other option in the drop-down box.

### Company sponsorship, prize donations and grants!

We want to get the best possible prizes for our Prize Draws, encourage companies and businesses to sponsor our events and more. A major selling point is to show how many followers we have on Facebook and Instagram, where we can then showcase our donors and sponsors. So if you haven't followed us previously, please do, so we can keep you updated with our events as well as advertising our donor's details.

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

### Safeguarding – Term 4 theme

Our Safeguarding and Inclusion theme for term 4 is  
**Protected Characteristics**

Our Safeguarding Team is:

Mrs Franklin (Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Mr Robbins (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Mrs Whiddington (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Mrs Hendy (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Colin Clements (Safeguarding Governor)

**Raise funds for us for FREE**

with **easyfundraising**

Join as our supporter today at:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)  
Just search for:  
**Friends Of School At West Town Lane Acad...**

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

Argos, TESCO, JOHN LEWIS, ebay, JUST EAT

Start at the easyfundraising website or app → Click out to where you'd like to shop → Checkout: prices are exactly the same! → The retailer sends a % of your spend to easyfundraising → They pass it on to us

Plus, you'll get...

Exclusive retailer offers, Competitions, A warm feeling inside!

Over **£60m** raised for UK good causes

**£0** extra cost to anyone



### Children on our RADAR

The following children have displayed an **outstanding** combination of **Respect**, **Adventure**, **Determination**, **Achievement** and **Resilience** over the month. Congratulations to:

Ladybirds – Ivy M  
Caterpillars – Oakley D  
Dragonflies – Harlow M  
Bumblebees – Seren M  
1KP – Freddie W  
1R – Luke W  
1P – Rupert W  
2DL – Josh B  
2VR – Sara A  
2D – Grace P P  
3B – Samuel W

3DS – Emma S-H  
3H – Caitlin H  
4LW – Ayla B  
4JW – Rey ZP  
4PHW – Alexander N  
5TC – Charlie M  
5C – Seth B  
5H – Meadow D  
6B – Jenson S  
6J – Carla L  
6W – Tom H

