

WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE THE LEARNING JOURNEY IS AN ADVENTURE



Bumblebees



Dragonflies



Caterpillars

Introducing our new reception classes 25/26

A huge thank you!

We would like to extend our immense gratitude to two key members of the **Friends of School** who are stepping down after devoting a total of 15 years to the group.

Firstly, a huge thank you to **Laura Rutter**, who has volunteered for **nine years** and has been a driving force for the group.

Also, a huge thank you to **Vicky Viles**, who has volunteered for **six years**. She has been a brilliant Treasurer, keeping track of spending, fundraising and paying for projects.

During their tenure, they have organised some fantastic and legendary events, (inc: the Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, Shopping Night, Quiz night, The Circus and World Book Day Sponsored reads) and have raised money for:

1. The Adventure Playground
2. The Pirate Ship
3. The outdoor gym equipment
4. Mosaic bench & mural
5. Discounted school trips and visits

...and many other school initiatives and improvements.

They have been amazing to work with and have done so much for the children at WTL. Indeed, in the last three years alone, the Friends have raised a staggering **£40,000!!!**

The Friends are always looking for new members. Without them, the events mentioned above simply wouldn't go ahead. If you can help in any capacity in the future, please attend their **AGM on Monday, October 20th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aspire building opposite the main office** or contact them directly: Friends@wtlacademy.bristol.sch.uk.

*Further details can be found in the **FoS** section below.*

Key Dates:

October

10th - Yr3 visit to Cheddar Gorge

Parents/Carers Evening –
21st & 22nd



Laura &
Vicky

Phonics support for Parents/Carers

Our website contains lots of information regarding our phonic scheme of work. It also has video clips that our reading lead Mr Brown has created, containing the different phases of phonics that the children learn. The videos also give examples of how to pronounce the different phonemes within each phase and the actions that represent them. Some of the sounds may surprise you, so it is well worth checking to ensure you're using the correct sounds when you're reading with your children.

On the page, you can also find recommended reads for each year group. These books would make a wonderful gift. Please follow this [link](#).

Mathematics – Arithmetic Methods

Some of the arithmetic methods that we teach the children may be very different to how you were taught at school. To support parents/carers with this, Mr Burtonshaw, our maths leader, has included a calculation policy and video clips within the maths section of our website.

Please follow the [link](#).

Universal Free School Meals

A reminder that hot school meals are available and that children from **Reception to Year 2** are entitled to a 'universal free meal'.

Families on certain benefits are also entitled to other support- please contact the office if you think you are eligible.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Getting your child into school, on time **(08:55)**, every day is a fantastic way to start the new academic year! Regular attendance helps children to settle into the school routine quickly, creates a sense of belonging and builds good habits for life. Let's make this year a great one for everyone by ensuring your child is here every day, on time and ready to learn.

Black History Month

This month, is Black History Month. This year's theme is **"Standing Firm in Power and Pride,"** a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people be they leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth.

Bristol celebrates Black History month with events across the city so if you'd like to find out more, please visit the website below. We'd love to hear from any of our families who have taken part in these events, so do get in touch if you have.

[Black History Month in Bristol](#)

We have already started to celebrate at WTL with a series of assemblies. Black history and the history of other cultures is fully embedded into our curriculum and taught throughout the academic year.



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: Rachel Crawshaw

Place of birth: London (but I grew up in North Devon)

Role in school: Teaching Assistant

Other employment in schools: Victoria Park Primary School and Bridge Farm Primary School

Hobbies outside of school: I play violin in an orchestra, go to a yoga class and love reading. I also play guitar, piano and sing.

What are you most looking forward to whilst working at WTL? :

Supporting the children I work with and being a part of the lovely team at WTLA.

My biggest achievement/proudest moment working in schools: leading singing assemblies

Favourite subjects: Music, Art, English and Drama

An interesting fact about me: I was previously a primary school teacher for three years



Name: Colin Clements

Place of birth: London (but I'm a Bristolian really!)

Role on the Governing Board: Safeguarding Link Governor

Time volunteering at WTL: Since summer 2025

The best thing about being a Governor at WTL: I work in a secondary school and have loved having some insight into how things work from Reception through to 6.

My biggest achievement/proudest moment at WTL: My daughter has just started Year 1. My proudest moment at WTL so far was watching her perform in the Xmas play.

Favourite subjects at school: Maths, Drama, PE (if it was football).

Hobbies outside of school: Reading, cooking, guitar, sometimes running, watching films and football.

An interesting fact about me: I used to play guitar in a very noisy band with two of my friends (we'd say we were 'post-punk'), and we were once subject of a modest profile in the famous and defunct NME magazine!

Friends of School



Happy's Circus comes to WTLA

A huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets, refreshments and food at our first ever circus at WTLA. Of course, with all that fun came lots of incredible fundraising! And we're very excited to say we have raised almost £4,000 so far, with money still coming in. A big thank you to the team and attendees. We will confirm the final amount once we have it.

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of School will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 20th October and we would love to see some new faces there – whether you're a new parent to the school or one who has enjoyed some of the great work we do and feel like finding out more, we would love to see you there. We're a very friendly bunch in the FoS team, so while the AGM is a formal event we always spend some time afterwards catching up, so it's a really great opportunity to find out more with absolutely no obligation to sign up to anything.

You really have nothing to lose...except (and sorry, here comes the serious part) your Friends of School. This could mean NO future circus, NO Christmas Fair, NO Summer Fair, NO Mother's Day sale, and NO extra fun, new resources and memories for our kids. This term has seen two parents depart the Friends team due to their kids leaving the school or starting new jobs, so this means we will be more stretched this year.

So come down, meet the team, have a drink and see if you would like to give some of your time to help support the Friends of School.

The AGM will be on Monday 20th October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Aspire building opposite the main office.

Information about being nominated for a position in the committee was sent out by email. Copies of the letter are in the office, if you need a paper copy.

The Cxxxxxxx fair (don't want to mention that word quite yet...)

Due to organising the circus, we are unsure of how a Cxxxxxxx Fair will look this year, as by now we would have a date and be part way through planning and organising.

So, if you love all things red and gold, tinsel and the big man in red, and you can and want to help, please watch this space.

And finally

A message from Vicky and Laura, who as you'll know are standing down:

By far the best part of FOS is seeing all the families and children enjoy the events we work so hard to put on, it makes it all worth it and is really rewarding. We would like to thank all the families at WTL who have supported our events over the years, we really have appreciated it. If anyone is considering getting involved with friends of school please do, it's lots of fun, we have made lots of friends along the way, got to know staff and parents we wouldn't have otherwise and learned so many skills around event planning. Friends of school really need some new recruits to keep going so please get in touch with them.

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.



Top 10 attendance

4JW were our Top Attending Class in September. 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 st	4JW
2 nd	6J
3 rd	1R
4 th	3H
5 th	Ladybirds
6 th	Dragonflies
7 th	3B
8 th	4LW
9 th	6B
10 th	5TC



4JW

Year 6 visit

The Year 6 teachers, along with the admin team organised a brilliant trip to the Lifeskills Centre. The children had a fantastic time taking part in numerous activities and tasks.

The centre is always looking for volunteers to support the programme, so if you'd like to find out more about the volunteering opportunities, please visit the website. [Lifeskills website](#)



Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding theme for term 1 is The Right to be Safe and our Inclusion theme is Black History Month.

Our safeguarding team are:

Mrs Franklin (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Mr Robbins (Deputy DSL)

Mrs Whiddington (Deputy DSL)

Mrs Hendy (Deputy DSL)

If you have any concerns relating to the safety of a child at West Town Lane Academy, you can contact us at office@wtacademy.bristol.sch.uk or on 0117 377 2295.

You can also report safeguarding concerns directly to First Response by following this link:

[First Response link](#)

If you believe a child to be in immediate danger, call 999.

Parking

Please think carefully about where you park during drop off and pick up times. A number of residents and parents/carers have contacted the school concerned that cars are being parked across drive ways and in dangerous positions, consequently blocking disabled access.

Thank you for your cooperation



Children on our RADAR

The following children have displayed an outstanding combination of Respect, Adventure, Determination, Achievement and Resilience, what a great start to the year. Congratulations to:

Ladybirds - **Stanley B**
 Dragonflies – **Lyra H**
 Bumblebees - **Raeya M**
 Caterpillars - **Alba F**
 1KP – **Jaylania R**
 1R – **Felix B**
 1P – **Soren L-L**
 2R – **Lola M**
 2DL – **Camilla B**
 2D - **Jazmine H**
 3H – **Riley D**

3B – **Kyan D**
 3DS – **Forest W**
 4PHW – **Ezra F**
 4JW – **Frankie H**
 4LW – **Seth S**
 5TC – **Harry V**
 5C – **April P**
 5H – **Hetty W**
 6B – **Zahra R**
 6J – **Jersey J**
 6W – **Tom W**

