



West End Academy

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Friday 18th September 2026

It's been a busy week in school this week!

We are fully in the swing of things now with routines embedding and fantastic learning taking place across our classrooms. Our Year 1 pupils started their Little Wandle phonics lessons this week and our class teachers have worked hard to build on our recent Oracy training, by sharing with our pupils what a good talker and listener looks like. We have also introduced a brand-new debate assembly which takes place every Wednesday with Mr Jackson. In these, our pupils have the opportunity to learn about issues in the world and vote on what action they would take. We are learning to challenge each other whilst speaking in a respectful way.

Over the coming weeks, we have lots of exciting events happening...here's a round up of what's on the horizon!

TT Rockstars Day

On **Friday, 25th September** – children and staff are invited to attend school in their best rockstar outfits! We will have a series of fun activities running throughout the day to promote learning our times tables. This is especially important for the children in Year 4 who will take their Multiplication Check at the end of this year.

We also have a **VERY** special surprise for everyone too – shhhhh – it's a secret!

School Photos

Our school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 30th September**.

If you would like a family photograph and your youngest child is not at school, you can arrive at school from 8.00am as the photographer will be ready from this time to take group photos. You will be asked to queue up outside the hall doors. **Please be aware, all children need to be in the classroom for 8.45am as normal.**

For children whose siblings are already at school (this does not include children in pre-school), family photos will be taken automatically in school time once all the individual photos are complete.

Hello Yellow Day

This year, we have signed up to take part, along with thousands of other schools, in Hello Yellow Day on **Friday 9th October**. Children and staff are invited to wear something yellow for the day alongside normal school uniform to raise awareness of Children's Mental Health and to show young people that they are not alone with their mental health.

Because we stand brighter, together.

The item of yellow can be as small or as big as you like. All we ask for is a small donation which can be given to your class teachers that morning. All donations received will go to the Young Minds charity and school will be in with a chance of winning an M&S planter.

School Council Meeting

Mrs Jackson met with our new school council members this week to discuss the possibility of setting up a house system across school. The children loved the idea and voted to go ahead!

They discussed either parts of a tree or types of trees as their preferred names, which links beautifully to our sense of belonging at West End. Following a discussion, the children thought types of trees made nicer names for the houses and then decided to think about what the types of trees are known to represent. We then thought of slogans for the children to remember what their house stands for.

We are pleased to announce that our 4 houses will be named:

- ♣ **Oak — Strength** — *We stand strong together.*
- 🌿 **Willow — Kindness** — *We care for one another and help everyone to grow.*
- 🍁 **Maple — Individuality** — *We celebrate what makes each of us unique.*
- 🌳 **Beech — Wisdom** — *We are curious, learn and grow together.*

We will be sharing these with our children soon and letting them know which house they are in. This is just one initiative which we hope will give children a sense of belonging in our school as we are - *Rooted together. Growing together. Blossoming in our own special way.*

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Kind Regards,

The West End Team