

West Vale Academy News



WEST VALE
ACADEMY

Making a superb start!

What a fantastic half term we have had! The summer holidays now seem a distant memory and Christmas is now in sight! An eight week half term is very rare but the children did a superb job of working hard until the very end. The children have amazed us with their fabulous behaviour, learning and achievements over the past eight weeks and we could not be prouder. A huge well done to our Reception cohort who have settled into school amazingly well and are already showing and upholding our school values. Our reception children even went on a visit to Tesco this half term to purchase items from their shopping list that they had written. The staff at Tesco, West Vale were blown away with their impeccable behaviour and manners! Well done Reception! Superb learning has taken place over all year groups this half term and we have seen some fantastic curriculum work. Attenborough class have enjoyed reading the story of Handa's surprise and have written some impressive character descriptions of Handa. Hawking class have been impressive us with their ukulele skills and have loved their weekly lesson with Calderdale Music Trust. Ennis- Hill have class loved learning aboutt the human body in Sciene and reenacted the digestive process in a practical way. Finally, Luther- King have had a busy half term and in Art the children have enjoyed creating an impressive plaster of paris sun dial and painted this by replicating a design from the Cistine Chapel. We were very impressed with the art work that the children produced!



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We support yellow!

On 10th October, we 'stood out and stood up' for young people's mental health on HelloYellowDay, an annual event organised by Young Minds. The children wore a yellow accessory to show their support for mental health.



Teaching children strategies to maintain positive wellbeing is important to us at West Vale. This half term we have focused on wellbeing and personal development in our assembly themes and linked this to our school value of kindness.

Learn more about our 'Five ways to wellbeing' and some of the resources we have in school to support children, visit our website <https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/wellbeing-safeguarding/>



Calderdale's Mentally Healthy School's Team

This half term we have worked closely with the MHST team in Calderdale. They have delivered workshop sessions for years 2-6, focusing on emotions, worries, anxiety, online safety and much more. They have also delivered a parent session on supporting children with anxiety at home and we gained some great feedback from parents about this session. We are keen to continue supporting parents with this so please let us know what other workshops would be beneficial. You can get advice or support by accessing the website below:

<https://northpoint.org.uk/service/calderdale-mhst/#:~:text=people%20in%20Calderdale-What%20we%20do,young%20people%20in%20your%20school>



Food, Glorious Food

This half term in design technology the focus for each class was food technology. Every class spend a full day designing, making and evaluating their products. In addition to this some classes were tasked with creating a budget for their product and others had to research 'farm to fork; to find out where the food came from. Attenborough class made fruit smoothies, Hawking class a tart and apple crumble, Ennis- Hill a biscuit from scratch and Luther- King were challenged to make a three course meal. Of course, the children loved tasting their creations and enjoyed using a range of skills to create their products.



Food for Families

On international poverty day, we welcomed some special visitors from 'Food for Families' who talked to the children about families who they support in our community and help to raise awareness about poverty. The visitors said that the children's behaviour was impeccable and they were so impressed with how engaged the children were, which is lovely to hear. Our school council have decided that the charity that we will be supporting this year will be 'Food for Families' to give back the help and support that they give our community. If you would like to sign up for food for families and receive a weekly food parcel, please let Nichola or Emily in the office know. A huge thank you to 'Food for Families' for their continued support.



Fantastic families

Wow, what a busy half term it has been with parent events! Families had so much fun at our autumn family art and craft sessions. It was wonderful to see so many parents in school, enjoying these activities with their children.

We were overwhelmed with positive feedback and are already looking forward to our Easter craft sessions.

At West Vale we value the importance of reading so have started a half termly parent story time for Attenborough class. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all- parents, children and staff!! Thank you for all your positive feedback about this, it is very much appreciated.

This half term we have also enjoyed our first curriculum showcase of the year where parents were able to look through books and see their child's learning. The children were so proud to talk through their books and we had such a great turn out of parents and carers- the best yet!

We have also welcomed families for our phonics workshop, book fair, MacMillan coffee morning and many more. Thank you for all your continued support in making this half term such a success. We are looking forward to our upcoming events in Autumn 2. If you have not seen our parent event calendar for the year please go on our school access to find dates of these events:

<https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/parent-events/>



Find us on Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/westvaleacademy>

Every 'like' and share is helpful as we continue to celebrate and promote all things West Vale Academy!

PTFA Spooktacular



A huge thank you to our fantastic PTFA who organised an amazing Halloween disco and design a pumpkin competition. We were amazed by the fantastic decorations and brilliant photo booth that was enjoyed by all! We would also like to say a big thank you to Sheard Packaging who purchased the sweet treats and competition prizes- thank you Sheards! This year our PTFA are raising funds to contribute towards school trips, school resources and support with projects within school. We will keep you updated on these. The PTFA have already purchased each one of our Reception families Little Wandle flashcards in order to support with learning at home, which has been fantastic. We would like to thank the PTFA for their continued support and are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas Fayre on Friday 1st December. Please look out for the PTFA newsletter for more information.

Did you know?

We upload monthly updates for parents and carers about keeping your child safe online to our website. The October edition has some updates on livestreaming, tips for teaching children about money and parental controls for online gaming. To read, visit

<https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/wellbeing-safeguarding/e-safety/>

e-Safety
for parents and carers

Important dates

Tuesday 7th November

- Start of the second half term
- Parents evening

Wednesday 8th November

- Parents evening

Thursday 21st December

- Close for Christmas holidays

Have a look on our school website for all the term dates for academic year 2023- 2024

<https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/diary-news/>



Places available now and for Reception starters in September 2024



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**"Pupils at West Vale Academy are
making good progress and achieving well"**
Ofsted, June 2022

At West Vale Academy we believe that children deserve the best possible chances in life and that they should be given every opportunity to succeed. We know that a child's primary school years represent a very special journey – we're here throughout to celebrate their successes, meet any challenges and provide a high-quality education.

We will be holding an open craft morning on **Saturday 11th November 10.00am-1.00pm**, where we will be inviting prospective families to spend the morning in school, speak to staff, tour the school and complete craft activities. Our open evenings are on **14th November and 16th November at 5.00pm** for parents to find out more information about the school. Please call the school to find out more information.

[westvaleacademy.org.uk](https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/) / 01422 372804



