

West Vale Academy News



WEST VALE
ACADEMY

Endless opportunities

Happy Christmas to all of our fantastic families! What a busy half term it has been for all of our children, families and staff at West Vale! We have had a busy half term in Reception with our very successful open days and evenings, including our Saturday crafts event. We have loved meeting new families and we had a lovely visit from the children of Water's Edge Day Nursery who came to spend the morning with our Reception children. Superb learning has taken place in all year groups this half term and we have seen some fantastic curriculum work. Hawking class have been impressing us with their ukulele skills. They are now able to play a number of chords and have even learnt to play their first song! We have some budding musicians in Hawking class and staff have loved to see that some children have even purchased their own ukulele, so that they can practice at home. Ennis- Hill class have done some amazing art and DT work. In Art the children created a layered landscape, focussing on foreground, middleground and background in order to create the illusion of depth. In D&T the children created their own working torch using electrical circuits. They had to create a switch to turn the torch on and off. Finally, Luther- King had a truly amazing time at Ingleborough Hall. The children loved caving, tree climbing and geocaching and we hope that they have made memories to last a life time! A huge thank you to Miss Vincent and Mrs Akroyd who gave up their time to take the children on their adventure!



Fantastic Festivities!



We have had some fantastic Christmas opportunities and events over the past half term to get our children into the Christmas spirit! This year the children took part in an annual reindeer run to support Overgate Hospice. The children had a brilliant afternoon and what a brilliant charity to support.

Our school council visited 'Newbank Garden Centre' to choose our school Christmas tree. The children loved selecting the tree and I am sure that they picked the biggest tree available- it only just fit in the school hall. Thank you to Mrs Lynch for organising this and to New Bank Garden Centre for our magnificent tree.

Thank you for all the children who entered our design a bauble competition, there were some amazing entries! Well done to Isabella, Harris, Alanis and Lacey-Rae, who were our competition winners. The children dressed the tree with their hand made baubles and it looked magnificent, ready for the Christmas Fayre.

Our Christmas Fayre was a festive extravaganza! It was an evening of fun, festivities that were thoroughly enjoyed by children, families and staff. Finally, we have ended the half term with Attenborough's amazing nativity performance of 'A King is Born'. The children and staff have worked very hard to ensure that it was a performance to be remembered by all and it really was! A huge thank you to Mrs Midgley, Mrs Clarke and the Reception team who have worked so hard to put together such a brilliant performance. The rest of school performed in our Christmas Cracker performance where the children amazed us with their brilliant vocals. Finally, Santa paid the children a visit to drop off a Christmas treat. What a brilliant way to end such a great half term!



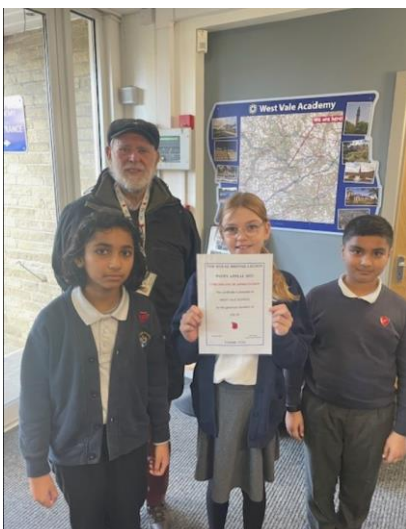
A time for giving....



At West Vale Academy we value altruism and are keen to work with the local community. Over the course of the half term, we raised money for the British Legion through the poppy appeal. Our older members of the choir attended visits at Eagle and Woodfield Grange Care Home, the residents loved the children's singing and the carers commented about how wonderful the children were and how fantastic their behaviour was! A huge well done to all of our children who attended.



To support our families over the Christmas period Mrs Burgin has worked with some local charities, including 'Focus 4 Hope' and 'Calderdale Lighthouse' to ensure that all of our families have as much support as needed over the festive period. They have provided some fantastic Christmas gifts and food parcels to ensure that Christmas is enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to Mrs Burgin who has worked extremely hard to make this possible.



Fun for Families

Wow, what a busy half term it has been with parent events! Families had so much fun at our Diwali family art and craft sessions. It was wonderful to see so many parents in school, enjoying these activities with their children. We enjoyed hearing stories about some of our families celebrating Diwali and it was a brilliant opportunity for the children to gain a deeper understanding of different faiths and beliefs.

This half term we have also enjoyed Luther- King's curriculum showcase event. The children talked through their learning throughout the half term and shared with parents and carers everything that they had learnt. The children even shared some hilarious confessions from their recent residential to Ingleborough Hall that got everyone laughing!

We have also welcomed families to our nativity performances, Christmas Cracker Carol event and Carols Around the Tree, which were all very well attended and got us all into the Christmas spirit. Thank you for all your continued support in making this term such a success. We are looking forward to our upcoming events in the Spring term!

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/>



Did you know?

We upload monthly updates for parents and carers about keeping your child safe online to our website. The December 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/>

West Vale Academy News PTFA Festivities



A huge thank you to our fantastic PTFA who organised an amazingly festive Christmas Fayre and Christmas raffle for our families and community- even Santa popped by to meet the children! What a fantastic evening it was and it couldn't have been made possible without the amazing support of our brilliant PTFA. We raised an amazing £700 to go towards supporting school and our children. The PTFA also ran their famous Christmas shop, which the children always love. All the children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the shop and picking out presents for their loved ones because that is what Christmas is all about. This year the PTFA have generously paid for the presents that Santa delivered on the last day of term. We would like to thank the PTFA for their continued support and are looking forward to the upcoming events in the New Year. Please look out for the PTFA newsletter for more information. If you are interested in supporting our PTFA and becoming a volunteer, we are always looking for new members so please speak to PTFA members Tammy or Louise to find out more information.



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!

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Important Dates

Monday 8th January

- Start of Spring term

Thursday 11th January

- SEND coffee morning- guest speaker Leanne Muir ADHD support
- Maths workshop for parents

Thursday 8th February

- Ennis- Hill Curriculum Showcase

Friday 9th February

- Close for February half term

Have a look on our school website for all the term dates for academic year 2023- 2024 and 2024-2025

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



