

WKS since 1924

Our NEWS

The
West Kirby
School & College
Newsletter



AUTUMN 2023

Rainbow Flag Award • Space Race
Book Reviews • Bakery Champions
Attachment & Trauma Gold Award • Duke of Edinburgh
and much much more...



WEST KIRBY
SCHOOL &
COLLEGE

Changing Children's Lives



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new-look newsletter.
Following suggestions from a pupil, we have decided to give it a face lift.

Additionally, this edition has a new author, Miss Molly Jones. Miss Jones works as a Teaching Assistant in our primary department, she is an accomplished writer and English specialist. Miss Jones has thoroughly enjoyed being our guest writer for this publication. She says, 'I knew I'd enjoy it, but I didn't anticipate the amount of enjoyment I've had so far.' During this term Miss Jones has interviewed staff and pupils about events at school. One exciting achievement is the School receiving the Rainbow Flag Award - look out for that article. Previously our Marketing Manager, Mrs Rachel Kelleher (who organises community events) has produced our newsletter. Mrs Kelleher has always done a fantastic job, but has become busy with additional community events of late. This newsletter has been designed for us by design company, Lemondrop Creative. We hope you enjoy it.

100 years of School! We are excited to tell you that WKS was registered as a school in 1924, meaning that next year will be the centenary of our School (it was previously open for 55 years as a hospice). We are therefore planning some wonderful events to commemorate 1924-2024. Details to follow.

Any feedback on this new format gratefully received.

Kind regards, Miss Thomas



WEST KIRBY
SCHOOL &
COLLEGE

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Sensitive Schools Award...



We are Gold

We are proud to announce that we have achieved the Gold Level Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Schools Award (ATSSA). We are the first school on the Wirral, and one of five in the North West to achieve this.

Presented by Dr. Jennifer Nock, the award recognises us as being a *"beacon of best practice"* for those facing adversity.

Our Principal Miss Thomas, shared her pride over attaining the Gold Level award. *"This is a milestone moment for our school. Achieving the ATSSA Gold Level Award means so much to our staff who all work so hard to make this happen - this truly is a team effort. Our school is wholeheartedly dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming and compassionate environment where all children and young people can heal and flourish"*.

Accreditor Dr. Jennifer Nock highlighted that, *"What really shone throughout is how an attachment and trauma-sensitive approach is increasingly interwoven into WKS' strategy, policy, and practice..."*

...It is not a 'tick box' of things to do, but a rich tapestry which is organic and dynamic, responding to the needs of the whole school population. We are delighted to award Gold Level status to the school."

As a school we endeavour to keep developing our practices to remain informed and able to deliver a trauma informed response for all pupils.



More information can be found here...

www.wkrs.co.uk/attachmentandtraumasensitiveschoolsawards

PROUDLY ACHIEVED



September 2023

Miss Killey...

Wave The Rainbow Flag for WKS...

We are really proud to say that we have been certified as a Rainbow Flag School. Miss Killey, our school LGBT champion, Mr Macdonald, and Jude our Pupil LGBT Ambassador, submitted lots of evidence over the last year to achieve this. The award proves that as a school we are inclusive towards our LGBT+ community.

Miss Killey updated us about the award and LGBT+ activities in school.

"The Rainbow Flag Award focuses on positive LGBT+ inclusion and visibility, both as a whole organisation and in the community, as well as developing strategies to effectively challenge and combat LGBT-phobic bullying."

The events that supported our award success were:

Attending New Brighton Pride. We were the only education-based organisation at the event.

Simon James Green visited our school. He is a published author and writer of a number LGBT+ bestsellers.

We marked Rainbow Laces Day, celebrating LGBT+ inclusion in sport. We watched Liverpool Ladies FC play Man City Ladies FC at Tranmere Rovers and had the Welsh Wheelchair World Cup team to visit in school.

LGBT+ History Month

Liverpool Film Company visited and created PRIDE themed films.

Our local bookshop offered pupils the chance to pick their own LGBTQI+ book.



The School Bakery...



Good Things Come To Those Who Bake

We Won! We are thrilled that The School Bakery has won the NASS Innovation Award. The School Bakery has been a landmark of West Kirby School since its completion in 2023 and this award recognises 'new, adaptive, or innovative practice' that can further improve the lives of young people. Run by Food Technology teacher Miss Meegan and our School Chef Jonathan, it has gone from strength-to-strength.

Miss Meegan commented "The School Bakery team is delighted to receive the Innovation Award. The pupils have worked so hard on their barista and bread making and they are working together as a team producing high quality products with great customer service. It's amazing to see their hard work has paid off."

A springboard for pupils, The School Bakery as a Life-Skills Enterprise, has been vital in providing a safe-space for practical development, and the opportunity to gain accredited

qualifications. Working with Miss Meegan, local baristas and businesses, the Post-16 students who run The School Bakery have been able to gain the expertise to serve the public, as well as gaining transferable skills which they can use both inside School and beyond.

The School Bakery has become an ingrained part of local life, becoming a community hub for church members and friends of the charity, as well as former students, who often come back to visit the School in a more informal setting.

Come and visit us!

Open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 10:30am - 12:30pm, during term-time. We serve fresh coffee, bread and sweet treats to sit or take out. Our staff will give you a warm welcome.

The
School Bakery
.....

AT WEST KIRBY SCHOOL
AND COLLEGE

Here To Represent

Pupil Empowerment supports the personal development of all pupils here at School. We do this through our Pupil Ambassadors and Pupil Voice.

Pupil Ambassadors

The time has come where we announce our new Pupil Ambassadors for the year ahead. Ambassadors are a highly crucial part of the holistic development of WKS, helping contribute to key elements of the school eco-system.

After submitting their applications, we can reveal the Pupil Ambassadors for the 23/24 school year. They will each work with a staff Ambassador Lead.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store for our successful applicants. We hope you will join us in offering your congratulations to those elected.

PUPIL AMBASSADORS

Animal Care - Oliver

Anti-Bullying - Thomas

Charity - Katie

Environmental - Matthew

LGBTQ+ - Jude

Music - Breandan

Sports - Ryan

Well-Being - Corey

Primary Animal Care - Oscar

Primary Sports - Albie



Thomas



Albie



Corey



Katie



Matthew



Oliver



Oscar



Jude



Ryan

Your Voice Can Change The World

Pupil Voice is run by Mrs Brown. We spoke to her for an update after this term's meeting.

"Pupil Voice is a big part of our school community, offering pupils the opportunity to discuss what is important to them. In recent years, the School has increasingly involved pupils in decision-making and Pupil Voice has been invaluable in this.

At the Autumn-Term meeting, it was wonderful to see a number of reps returning, but also to see new faces amongst the group. The meeting was a huge success with discussions ranging from the charities the school will support this year, to the re-launch of the WKS Pledges.

As always, the reps conducted themselves in an impeccable fashion, with many demonstrating a maturity beyond their years. What a positive start to the year."



Residential Update

.....

Hello to everyone and welcome to the Residential Provision news.

It's been a wonderful half term for our residents. Here's a snapshot of what they have been up to.

Life-Skills in the Community

All young people at the house are enrolled on the Towards Independence ASDAN course. This term we have been working on The Environment module. This has involved improving the environment by:

- *Making hanging baskets for the house and litter picking*
- *Recycling through sorting waste into appropriate bins and visiting the recycling centre*
- *Energy-saving, undertaking key work sessions on saving water and keeping warm*
- *Using the countryside or park, showing how to follow the countryside code and identifying plants and animals that are found in the countryside.*

Wellbeing Activities

This term we have been on lots of fun activities, out and about in the community. We have been go-carting in Gravity Max, climbing in Tag Active, Activity for All and The Climbing Hut. We enjoyed swimming in Northgate Arena as well as a trip to Ninja Warrior. We also liked going for meals out, walks along the beach and visits to the park.

Developing our Independence

We have been practicing our independence skills by shopping for provisions for the house, choosing our own meals, cooking and cleaning. We've made tie dye t-shirts, carved pumpkins and other crafts. We like to play the Xbox together and always enjoy a social meal at the table. It's a lot of fun at Greasby Hall Farm and we love seeing the residents flourish outside the classroom.



Career Pathways...



Meet Ruth

.....
If you or your child would like to talk about career guidance, please contact Mrs Shallcross at hshallcross@wkrs.co.uk
.....

Where Will You Go Next?

It's been a term of change for pupils at West Kirby School. Here's an update from Mrs Shallcross, Career Pathways Lead.

This last term, we saw our transitioning Year 11s and Post 16s settle into their new destinations. They are thriving at college or their employment. We want to wish them all well for their future.

West Kirby School waved goodbye to Amy, Harry, Lily, James, Peter, Max,

Thom and Ben. Transition from WKS would not have been possible without the co-operation and support of the parents and the colleges - Wirral Met College, Hilbre High School, Chester International School.

Meet The College

We hosted the yearly Meet The College Even, joined by nine Further and Higher Education colleges and training providers. Meeting staff from colleges and considering future opportunities is a great way for our

pupils to consider their adult and career pathways options.

Career Connect

Finally, Barry Thomas from Career Connect retired. Barry has supported our pupils over the last five years offering independent career advice and guidance. We wish him well in his retirement. We would like to welcome Ruth Evans from Career Connect. Ruth will be available on a Monday to provide career advice.

Martin Luther King Had a Dream, It's Our Job to Bring It To Life

Every year in the month of October, communities around the UK celebrate Black History Month, and WKS is no exception.

This year we have had a number of assemblies and visitors into School to celebrate Black History Month, the theme of which being 'Celebrating our Sisters'. These events help promote and explain to pupils the contributions made to society daily by black creators and also explore the inequalities faced by those in the community.

Our events consisted primarily of assemblies, focused learning, and exciting visitors. These were: Eva Wong Nava, children's author; and Anyika

Onuora, Bronze medalist and Olympic athlete. Through their inspirational discussions of channelling adversity into success, this opened up a myriad of discussion throughout both primary and secondary classes about Black History. We were very fortunate to have such influential figures visit us and share their experiences.



Arty Update

This term the Art Department has been very busy gaining accolades and going on trips. We spoke with Mrs Davies to find out what they've been up to.

We Are Staying Golden

We're proud to announce that after a two year re-accreditation process, we have been awarded our Artsmark Gold Award for the third time. The award recognises the importance and value that we place on cultural education in the arts and our continuing efforts in keeping pupils at the forefront of what is happening in artistic communities. It proves that we not only deliver an exciting curriculum but a host of extracurricular activities around the arts.

"Well done on navigating the considerable challenges of rebooting the curriculum and learning post-pandemic. Clearly not an easy undertaking for any setting, but in your case there are additional complexities due to the specialised needs of your learners". Artsmark 2023.

Documenting History, Preserving Culture

Pupils studying Music, Art and Photography visited the Manchester Hip Hop Archive, which displays history, heritage and global influence of the arts in many mediums. All pupils had the opportunity to work with nationally recognised DJ's and artists, creating music and artwork.

Artist Visit

Local Artist and Illustrator Gillian Searles came into school to share her knowledge and skills in writing books, working with pupils on creating characters and stories. We are hoping to get pupil's work from the workshop published into a graphic novel, so watch this space.



Art Residential 2023

Pupils recently enjoyed a weekend of art workshops at the Conway Centre, Anglesey, with the purpose of producing some of their GCSE coursework. The results were fantastic with Serena and Katie producing celestial clocks and study boards, and Bella producing a series of landscapes. All had a great time, making friends from other schools and even joining another school's disco.

Thank you to Mrs Davies and the team for providing such enriching opportunities for our pupils.



Outstanding Achievement

And the winner is...

English Department and Reading Team
West Kirby School and College

Believe You Can and You're Halfway There

In exciting news, our English Department and Reading Team have been awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Renaissance Learning Awards.

The award highlighted that *"It's truly inspiring how they've fostered an inclusive culture across the school."* Out of hundreds of nominees, to win the Outstanding Achievement Award is a huge feat, as the awards encompassed all schools, trusts and school groups in the UK, Ireland, Europe & World-Wide.

A special mention also to Mrs Abernethy and Mr Mather, who were nominated as Runners-Up for the Extraordinary Edtech Award, which notes how schools use technology to help address a specific issue or engage with those who have unique needs.

As always we are so proud of all the work our staff do, and it is fantastic that it is getting recognised on such a platform.

Well done team.

Book reviews

We have a lot of passionate readers here at WKS. A couple of pupils have given us some book reviews, have you read any of these novels?

Name: Rory

Book: Dead Man's Map

Author: M Peshke

★★★★☆

"I really like the illustrations because they help to imagine what is going on. I would recommend this book to other children to read because it is an adventure book that is full of action."

Name : Katie P

Book: Shakespeare: the world as a stage

Author: Bill Bryson

★★★★☆

"I really enjoyed this book. It had lots of interesting facts. I would definitely recommend this book, It is well written and is a great book for anyone interested in Shakespeare"

Name: Lucas

Book: Captain Underpants and the Big Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy Part 2: Revenge of the Ridiculous Robo-Boogers

Author: Dav Pilkey

★★★★★

"I really like this book because it has tons of pictures and loads of fun action in it. Children who like other Captain Underpants books, Dog Man or Diary of a Wimpy Kid will really like this book I think"

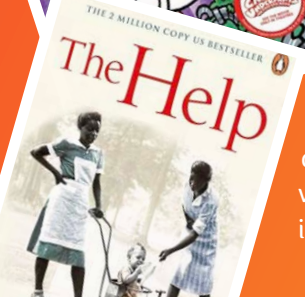
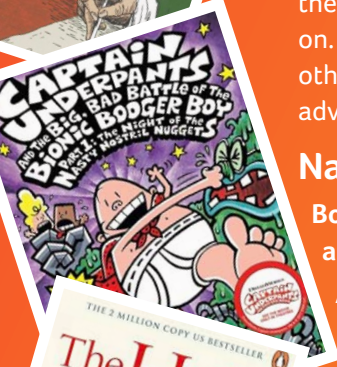
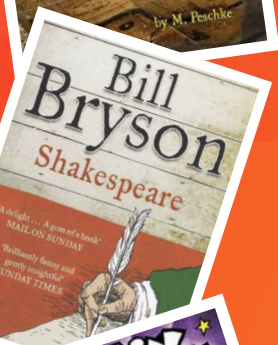
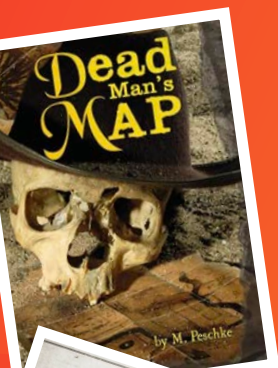
Name: Jude

Book: The Help

Author: Kathryn Stockett

★★★★★

"This book was a joy to read and is perfect for anyone remotely interested in the civil rights movement. 10/10!"





Stretching our (Book) Spines

.....
 Mrs Abernethy shared that all involved had an amazing morning during a Post 16 visit to Waterstones Liverpool this term.
 "All of our students had the opportunity to select a book of their choice to read during the school day and what a fantastic shop to visit".



The more that you read, the more things you will know

.....

At West Kirby School we promote a love of reading for all of our students. With a well-stocked library, a knowledgeable librarian, prizes up for grabs, events, opportunities to expand their palette in the Books and Biccies club and daily independent reading.

Did you know?

One of the less well known advantages of reading is that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations. In fact, reading for pleasure is associated with better sleeping patterns. Adults who read for just 30 minutes a week are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction.

Did you know?

You can support your child's reading habits by:

- Building some quiet time into the day to encourage your child to read for 10 minutes.
- Talk about what they have read.

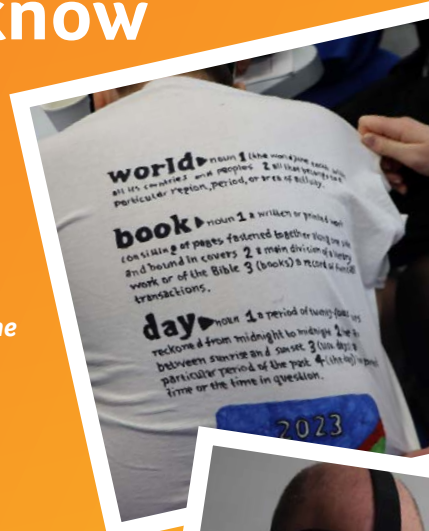
- Choosing fun books with a high interest level to hook them into reading.
- Reading together. Take it in turns or ask them to read the characters' parts/words.
- Modelling how to read by reading yourself.

Did you know?

The many reasons why we prioritise reading at West Kirby School:

- Taking 20 minutes a day can boost mental health.
- Reading each day improves academic progress.
- Reading 20 minutes before bedtime can alleviate insomnia.
- Reading improves our empathy towards others.
- By reading 20 minutes a day, you can potentially expose yourself to 1.8 million words in a year.

If you would like some suggestions of books to read with your child please contact their English teacher, or the librarian.



Charities Update...



Every Little Helps

It's been another busy term for our Charities team run by Mrs Clemenson and newly elected Pupil Ambassador Katie.

Here's the latest updates:

Our pupils nominate and vote each year which charities to fundraise for. Thank you to Mrs Clemenson for organising the ballot and voting.

The nominated charities for 2023/34 are:

- **International: Save the Children**
- **National: Guide Dogs**
- **Local: Martin Gallier Project**

It is wonderful to see how our pupils are thinking of others in difficult or challenging situations. We thank you for your support in this.

Our non-uniform fundraising days this year are for Heart4Refugees in June, during Refugee Week, and the WUTH Elf Run in December, which will be held on Christmas Jumper Day.

Morocco Earthquake

Many lives have been lost during the terrible earthquake in Morocco in September, including that of the former Deputy Head and Vice Principal Dave Barden of WKS. He was on a solo-cycling tour in Morocco to raise funds for the Red Cross. The Staff Lottery Fund have donated £500 to his Just Giving Page in aid of the Red Cross.

Be
RESPECTFUL

Our Values

Be
KIND

Our Values



'Make a Noise About Bullying'

Kindness is one of our key School values and we promote this year-round. One of the ways we do this is through Anti-Bullying week run by Mr Brown and Pupil Anti-Bullying Ambassador Thomas.



Mr Brown

The aim of Anti-Bullying Week is to raise awareness, recognise the impact of bullying on individuals, and recognise the importance of preventing it. This year's theme was 'Make a Noise'.

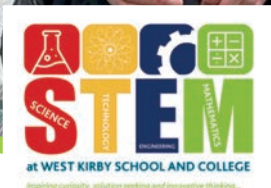
Kicking off the week in style, pupils and staff dug out their odd socks in aid of the WKS annual Odd Socks Day quiz. Well done to our winners. The quiz, alongside numerous assemblies and jam-packed videos, showcased our support for Anti-Bullying Week and was the catalyst for discussion on what we can do to support the cause.

Over the year we will also be working towards the Anti-Bullying Quality Mark. We look forward to updating you about our progress.

We are lucky to have a nurturing, respectful and supportive school community and Anti-Bullying Week continues to be of huge importance to us.

If you or your child have any concerns about bullying, or you wish to know more about Anti-Bullying Week and its goals, you can find more information at www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/





One Small Step for Man, A Giant Leap for WKS...

During the summer term, a group of students from across the school explored how humankind has creatively ventured into space. The team worked with Mr Macdonald, Hi-Impact Staff and even had online support from a Berkerley Astrophysics Professor.

Mr Macdonald, ICT Teacher, shared the balloon launch project experience with us.

“As part of our mission we made our own space food, using dehydration, looked at the effect of gravity, pressure and vacuums using household items, and used predictive software to find out where our balloon would land. We then embarked upon an epic journey to the depths of Wales to launch our very own WKS & C-Space Project balloon. As with many of our school events, it was a smashing success. Not only did we successfully chase down and retrieve our balloon from a golf course in Manchester, our

balloon broke the Hi-Impact high altitude record of all time. Always aim high and oh the places you’ll go”.

Please enjoy the images detailing our adventures through space including the moment that our exploratory craft exploded in space in order to safely parachute our experiments back down to Earth.



You are, Uniquely You

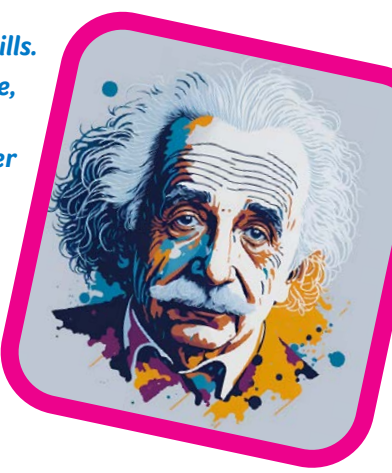
In October 2023, we celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week. We learned about individual journeys with Dyslexia and the impact Dyslexics have within our world.

Mrs Abernethy shared with us the ways we as a School celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week: “Our assembly illustrated how having Dyslexia can bring its challenges but it also shapes us and makes us unique. We looked at many accomplished Dyslexics within society such as Keira Knightly, Jamie Oliver, Albert Einstein, Agatha Christie and Steve Jobs, which highlight that having Dyslexia does not need to hinder aspirations”.

A big thank you to Mrs Abernethy who joined the Parent Carer Coffee Morning as our guest speaker to talk about Dyslexia. It was very well received and promoted lots of discussion in the group.

Some common indications of dyslexia are:

- *Difficulty with processing and remembering information.*
- *Impaired ability to organise yourself.*
- *Difficulty with reading and writing skills.*
- *Letters may move around on the page, become blurry or run off the page.*
- *Some may find it difficult to remember their left from right.*
- *Memorising sequences.*
- *Having to remember lots of instructions may become overwhelming.*
- *Forgetting words or needing time to remember a word.*



Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

This term Mr Musgrave and Mr Quayle have taken our pupils to events run by Pentathlon School Games. The competitions, attended by SEN hubs and SEND schools, are a fantastic way of promoting inclusivity in sport.

The School team have played in the following tournaments:

- *Boccia, representing our school brilliantly.*
- *Girls football, which we were proud to win.*
- *Boys football, winning two of our matches.*
- *Ten-Pin bowling, showing amazing teamwork.*
- *Wheelchair basketball, where we were able to take pupils who had not been to a competition before.*

What a fabulous way to show teamwork and respect and what wonderful ambassadors you are for the school. Congratulations to all.

We have also been able to put on lots of extracurricular activities this term, with after-school clubs in girls fitness, dodgeball, and football for both girls and boys. They have been a real success with great attendance. A brilliant way to keep fit, build friendships and find a new passion.



Appealing to our senses

We prioritise mental-health and wellbeing of staff and pupils. Staff wellbeing lead Mrs Draycott shared with us how we promote this as a school.

Each week pupils can take part in Friday Wellbeing with a range of activities. Both off-site and on-site, there are options to suit everyone, from art, to horse riding and bike rides.

Looking after our staff

Each term we have a staff-wellbeing afternoon where staff are offered a variety of activities to choose from including yoga, golf, local walks, horse-riding, reading in the school library or using the school gym.

Yoga is also held twice-weekly during term-time on Monday evenings and Friday mornings. They are a big hit with staff.

The catering team also provide us with a cooked breakfast on the last Friday morning of the term. Staff are queuing down the corridor at 8am and there is always a lovely family atmosphere. What a brilliant way to see off the term.

All of this ties in with the School's tireless work on Mental-Health Awareness, which we prioritise throughout the year.

“ Yoga is a great way to start and end the week...
...Yoga is a time when I feel totally relaxed and completely re-energised... **”**



Duke of Edinburgh...



Our Diligent Explorers take on the Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is offered to students in Year 10, 11 and Post 16. As West Kirby School is a licensed hub, Duke of Edinburgh is delivered by our own experienced and dedicated staff.

We are full-steam ahead this autumn term after a highly successful summer expedition season. The aim of the expedition in the summer was to explore the environmental impact of visitors to the countryside. To meet this aim, the pupils collected rubbish along their route. I am pleased to say that all of the team have been signed off for their silver expeditions.

Pupils have also been gathering evidence and completing write ups ahead of getting assessor reports to complete Volunteer, Skill and Physical sections. Most of the pupils are just one section off completing Silver.

The Gold Award

This year, our staff team is very excited to have the opportunity after a number of years, to offer the Gold Level Award. As with Bronze and Silver there is a Physical, Volunteer and Skill section to complete. The Gold includes two 4-day expeditions, practice and assessment. In addition, there is a 5-day Residential section.

A huge congratulations are in order to Harry who passed his Bronze at the end of last term and to Alfie for passing his Silver.

Keep up the hard work you're doing a great job.

From your Duke of Edinburgh Staff Team:

Mrs Draycott, Miss Killey, Mr Scullion, Mr Evans and Mr Cox.

Thank you

to everyone who continues to support our pupils. Please follow us on X to keep up with our adventures.

[@WestKirbySchool](#)
[#wksdofe](#)





Summer School...



A Summer of Fun

To support their transition into Year 7, new and existing pupils were invited to our Summer School. Week one was for those joining us from Year 6 Navigators, to meet some of their new teaching staff. During week two, our Year 7s who were new to the School, came to join them for a second week of activities. Mrs Brown told us all about it.

"The first day was a "getting to know you" day, centring around craft activities including mug design and tie-dye t-shirt making. Pupils also created pizzas for lunch, with some delicious results.

During the first week, pupils spent days on and off-site including a muddy day at Manley-Mere and a School barbecue. The second week was spent on-site with staff and pupils getting to know our new intake. A big thank you to the wheelchair rugby team that came in and delivered an all-day session. I'm not quite sure who enjoyed it the most, staff or pupils".

Here is what our new, and current, pupils had to say about Summer School:

GRACE: "It was really funny when Mr Gill got me with a muddy hand print after managing to stay the cleanest."

SOPHIE: "It was really good to be in the school before it started. I loved making pancakes."

EVIE: "Summer school was ok, I have some funny memories from it. I got to make friends."

RUBY: "My favourite day was going to Manley Mere. It was fun."



Attendance...

Attend Today, and Achieve Tomorrow

As always, having your child in School is our priority and attendance is monitored closely by our Safeguarding Team.

Naturally, there will be times where your child physically cannot attend School. However, day trips, holidays or similar reasons are considered unauthorised.

As part of our Attendance Policy, if attendance drops a referral is made to our School Attendance Officer. If a formal agreement cannot be reached, then the School can issue prosecutions and penalty notices.

Over the year, 1 day missed a week will lead to nearly 40 days of lost education. For those who struggle to come to School we offer a wide range of incentives including vouchers and trips out. These also apply to those with improving attendance. Each term, pupils with 95% or more attendance are entered into a draw where they get the chance to win a bigger prize, with past winners receiving an iPad.

Did you Know?
.....
1 day off a week
= only 85%



Homework...

FINDING A BALANCE

We are currently reviewing our homework policy at WKS, focusing on how to best support the learning and progress of all of our students. Currently, in KS3,4 and Post-16, we focus homework on one subject per-week on a rotational basis, giving students a week to complete the tasks. In Primary, our students receive a variety of tasks linked to the topic of each half-term which they can complete at home. They also take a reading book each weekend.

Thank you for feedback to the recent survey to gain your views. This has provided us with valuable information to develop the way we deliver homework. We look forward to updating you.

Supporting GCSE Revision...

Did you know our students have free access to GCSE Pod - an online revision resource. Speak to our Teachers to find out more.

www.gcsepod.com



Our Parent Trustee

Mrs. Annie Grady has decided to step down from her role on the School Board as Parent Trustee. We thank Annie for all her contributions over her time as Trustee and wish her all the good fortune on her departure.

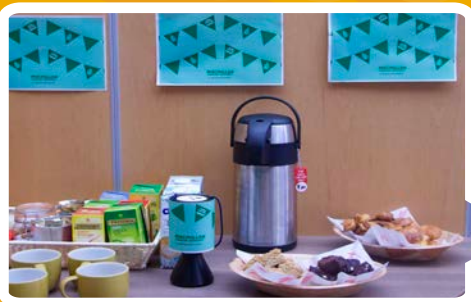
With Annie's departure will come a new face to the School Board. We welcome our new Parent Trustee, Peter Merity. He comes to us with a wealth of financial, charitable and leadership experience.

Schools and professionals SEND training

A big thank you to all the local school staff and family support professionals who have joined our training this term with Dr Ze'ev Levita, Clinical Psychologist. It's great to hear you've found it so worthwhile.

"Fantastic, thank you!"

"Very enjoyable and informative sessions"



Parent Carer Coffee Morning

It was good to see so many of our Parents and Carers along to our Autumn term coffee mornings. The 'Welcome Coffee Morning' a chance for our new parents to find out more about how the school works and whole school morning gave the opportunity for parents to meet others and hear about dyslexia from Mrs Abernethy.

SEND Team update

Annual Reviews are now in full swing, and if you haven't already heard from us, we will be in touch. Please feed back information so we can understand how to best support your child, as it's really important for your child to attend. Where possible encourage your child to come along and share their views. Parent and Pupil guides to the Annual Review are available, please get in touch if you would like copies.

For advice and support around the Annual Review process, get in touch at reviewadmin@wkrs.co.uk



So Long, Farewell

This term we said goodbye to one of our beloved members of staff, Hannah. Throughout her years working as our School Receptionist, Hannah was always the first person you saw when arriving and the last before you left. A kind-hearted woman and a friend to all. *"Hannah, staff and pupils adored you. We wish you all the best in your retirement."*



Best in Britain...

We would like to give a special mention to ex-pupil Nathanael, who has just been crowned 2023 winner on Channel 4's 'Handmade: Britain's Best Woodworker'.

We are so proud of your achievements and you are a real inspiration to everyone here at School.

nathanaelgriffiths.com



SENsitive Classrooms Webinar Series

STARTING JANUARY 2024

Led by SEN specialist school practitioners, this series of SEND related webinars aims to give a better understanding of the children you work with and provide strategies to help and support in the classroom and beyond. A blend of theory, personal experience and practical strategies, with the opportunity to ask questions.

For schools & professionals

FREE



EduLink - new School App!

This term we introduced our new school App. This is now our central means of communication with parents and carers. We were delighted to see the positive uptake and hope you have found it beneficial.

***If you need any assistance with this please contact Mrs Kelleher
rkelleher@wkrs.co.uk***



100 Years of Changing Children's Lives

An exhibition celebrating our centenary year

Fri 1 March - Sat 9 March 2024

West Kirby United Reformed Church

www.wkrs.co.uk/100years



National Autistic Society
Autism Specialist Award 2023



2022-2025



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2021-2024



Artsmark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England



**WEST KIRBY
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COLLEGE**

Changing Children's Lives

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