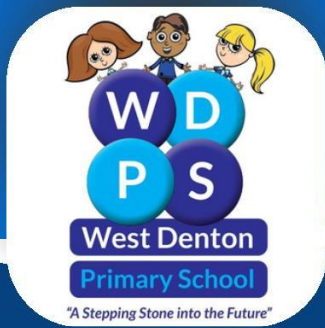




0191 267 4211

www.westdenton.newcastle.sch.uk

admin@westdenton.newcastle.sch.uk

Hillhead Road, West Denton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE5 1DN



2nd October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week we have had some visitors looking around school who commented positively on many parts of school life. The children's workbooks were praised, showing the huge efforts everyone is making to help all the children learn and make progress. The atmosphere around school was very purposeful and they were delighted with how inclusive we were.

This week in focus:

- We have also had a visit out this week, with all of Year 1 having a great day out at the **Washington Wetland Centre** – learning about a whole array of wildlife and conservation.
- The children also enjoyed looking their best yesterday and posing for photographs. We hope you like them!
- Our **welcome meeting slideshows** are now available on our website – please check these to find out information about your child's class. [West Denton Primary School - Welcome Meetings](#)
- Thank you to everyone who got involved with our **Treasure Hunt** on Monday – it was great to see so many families taking prizes. There were lots of children who found all of the 'Treasure' they received their prizes today in school.
- Thank you to everyone who supported the **Macmillan Coffee** morning last Friday by attending, donating or buying cakes at the end of the day = we have raised £204.10 for this worthwhile cause.

This week we are looking at science in focus.

At West Denton Primary School, we know that a high-quality science education is the key to understanding the world around us via the disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Our children are taught to use science to explain how the world works, predict how things will behave and analyse causes – essential skills if they are to discover truth within an age of information. Science at West Denton allows children simultaneously to interpret their present and to create their own future. For more information about our science curriculum including some of our knowledge organisers, visit: [West Denton Primary School - Science](#)



ONE (Owl North East) Trust is an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England with company number **14895735**.
The company's registered office is Throckley Primary School, Hexham Road, Throckley, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 9DY



Significant Scientist



Liam Dutton

Liam Dutton is a Welsh meteorologist, broadcaster, and author best known as the weather presenter for Channel 4 News. He previously worked for the BBC and is respected for making complex weather information easy to understand.



Physics



Chemistry



Biology



seasons

Four different times during the year with different types of weather: spring, summer, autumn and winter.

weather

Weather is what the sky and the air outside are like: such as cold, cloudy, wet, snowy, hot, sunny and which way the wind blows and how strong it is.

daylight

The amount of light during the day, which changes with the seasons.

day

There are 7 days in a week.

month

There are 12 months in a year.

Key Knowledge

- The weather changes throughout the year. It is hotter in summer and colder in winter.
- There are four seasons in the year – spring, summer, autumn and winter.
- There are 7 days in a week.
- There are 12 months in a year.
- Daylight hours change throughout the year: there is more light during the day in summer and less in winter.
- In autumn, the leaves on trees turn red, yellow, orange and brown because they lose their green colour.
- In winter, some trees lose their leaves completely.
- We need to wear a coat when it is cold, raining or snowing.
- We need to wear a hat, sunglasses and sun cream when it is hot or sunny.



Attendance

Attendance remains our TOP priority this year. We are working hard to achieve an attendance figure as close to 96% as possible. We have been monitoring attendance over the month of September and will be sharing figures with parents / carers to monitor and offer support. At this stage 90% attendance means over 2 days (well over 10 hours) of lost learning which can really make a difference to achievement and progress.



This week the attendance totals for each class are:

	Attendance up to 25 th Sept	This year so far
Reception Poppy	96.8%	93.3%
Reception Tulip	96.7%	94.6%
Year 1 Sunflowers	90.5%	93.6%
Year ½ Daffodils	96.4%	97.2%
Year 2 Buttercups	97.3%	97.1%
Year 3 Daisies	92.9%	94%
Year ¾ Snowdrops	94.2%	94.9%
Year 4 Jasmine	96.2%	97.5%
Year 5 Bluebells	97.4%	98.8%
Year 5 Thistles	93.3%	96.5%
Year 6 Forget-me-nots	98.8%	95.5%
Whole School	95.4%	95.8%

Congratulations for **Year 6 Forget-me-nots** for achieving the highest attendance last week!

Dates for diaries:

- Thurs 8th October - All of Year 2 visit to Washington Wetland Centre
- Tues 13th and Wed 14th Oct – Parent Consultation meetings with teachers
- Fri 16th - 9am LKS2 (Phase 2) Reading Biscuit awards
- Fri 23rd – 9am UKS2 (Phase 3) Reading Biscuit awards

Forthcoming dates can be found on our website home page: [West Denton Primary School - Home](#)
Or on the Calendar page: [West Denton Primary School - School Events](#)

Have a lovely weekend

Gavin Johnston – Head Teacher

Please see below message from Joanne Lockey or Chair of Governors:

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are proud of the positive and supportive community we have at our school and are grateful for the respect and kindness shown by most of our families every day.

Unfortunately, there have been a small number of recent incidents involving swearing and inappropriate language on the school grounds. As a school community, we all want the school environment to remain welcoming and respectful for everyone, especially our children.

Children learn from the example set by the adults around them, so we are asking all parents and carers to be mindful of their language and behaviour while on the school site, so we can maintain a safe, welcoming and respectful environment, treating staff, children and one another with courtesy and respect. We understand that concerns and frustrations can arise from time to time, but these should always be addressed appropriately.

Our staff work hard to support every child and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Likewise, every member of our school community should feel safe and comfortable when on school premises.

While we hope this reminder is enough, the school will take action where necessary to protect staff, pupils and families. This may include restricting access to the school site for individuals whose behaviour falls below the standards expected.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a positive environment for everyone.

Joanne Lockey – Chair of Governors