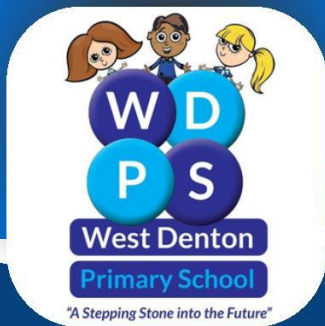




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9th October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week we have definitely felt the weather turn very autumnal. We have been able to access our amazing field but also needed coats on some days!

This week in focus:

- We have also had another visit out this week, with all of Year 2 having their day out at the **Washington Wetland Centre** – learning about a whole array of wildlife and conservation.
- Bookings are now open for our **Parent Consultation meetings** next week. Thank you to everyone who has booked through out Teachers to parents service. 68% of families have already signed up!
- Just a reminder that our **welcome meeting slideshows** are available on our website – please check these to find out information about your child's class. [West Denton Primary School - Welcome Meetings](#)
- We are updating our website all of the time – particularly with calendar dates – keep looking!

This week we are looking at *history* in focus.

At West Denton Primary School, we value a high-quality history curriculum that inspires curiosity and deepens pupils' understanding of the world. By exploring how societies, events and individuals have shaped the past, children develop a clearer understanding of the present and their place within it.

Our curriculum supports pupils in building secure knowledge, a strong sense of chronology and an understanding of key historical concepts as they progress through school. We encourage children to ask perceptive questions, think critically, analyse evidence and form balanced judgements. Through studying a wide range of societies and cultures, pupils develop an appreciation of diversity and a strong sense of identity and belonging.

History is taught in a cross-curricular way, enabling pupils to make meaningful links across subjects. Our West Denton values promote positive learning behaviours and help prepare pupils for the future, equipping them to understand change, reflect on the complexity of people's lives and engage thoughtfully with the world around them. Visit: [West Denton Primary School - History](#) to find out more.



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

Why was Grace Darling a hero?

Place	People	local	Being nearby.
Farne islands	Grace Darling	hero	Someone who does something amazing.
		determination	Deciding to do something and not giving up.
Empire	Civilisation	significant	Having meaning or importance.
Grace Darling painted by Thomas Brooks		chronological order	Ordering events in the time sequence in which they occurred.
		legacy	Something passed on from one generation to the next.

Key facts

- Grace Darling was born on 24th November 1815 in Bamburgh, Northumberland.
- William Darling, Grace's father was the main keeper of the Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands (a group of islands off the coast of Northumberland).
- Lighthouses are used to warn boats of dangerous areas and help them to navigate.
- On 7th September 1838, a massive storm wrecked a boat the (*SS Forfarshire*) about 3/4 of a mile from the Longstone Lighthouse.
- Grace and her father bravely set out on a rescue mission and managed to save nine people.
- Today, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) rescue people who come into difficulty while in the seas around the UK.

24 th November 1815	1826	7 th September 1838	1838	1842	1880
Grace Darling was born 	The Darlings move into Longstone Lighthouse 	The SS Forfarshire crashed 	Queen Victoria rewards Grace Darling 	Grace Darling dies 	Grace Darling: Her true story is published

Attendance

We are doing well with attendance this year and are aiming to keep as many classes in the green as possible. Every session missed makes such a difference. Remember each week, everyone who has been at school on time each day gets entered into a draw to win amazon vouchers! It could be you!

WEST DENTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



This week the attendance totals for each class are:

	Attendance up to 2 nd October	This year so far
Reception Poppy	92.6%	93.1%
Reception Tulip	98.9%	95.6%
Year 1 Sunflowers	96.4%	94.2%
Year ½ Daffodils	98.4%	97.5%
Year 2 Buttercups	99.3%	97.6%
Year 3 Daisies	93.8%	93.9%
Year ¾ Snowdrops	91.5%	94.1%
Year 4 Jasmine	96.2%	97.2%
Year 5 Bluebells	94.7%	97.9%
Year 5 Thistles	92.9%	95.7%
Year 6 Forget-me-nots	92.2%	94.7%
Whole School	94.8%	95.6%

Congratulations for **Reception Tulip** for achieving the highest attendance last week!

Dates for diaries:

- Tues 13th and Wed 14th Oct – Parent Consultation meetings with teachers
- Fri 16th - 9am LKS2 (Phase 2) Reading Biscuit awards and coffee morning for parents
- Fri 23rd – 9am UKS2 (Phase 3) Reading Biscuit awards and coffee morning for parents
- **26th – 30th October – school closed for half term**
- Mon 2nd November – return to school

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