



The Westleigh Word

Issue 5 Summer 2023

One More Step Along the World They Go...

by Westleigh Word's

Neili, Hunter and Poppy

Another busy year has passed at Westleigh Methodist Primary School and it is once again time to wish our Year 6 pupils a fond farewell.

As we approach the end of the year, the Ethos Committee would like to shine a light on our year 6 students. We would like to thank the Year 6 pupils for all of the fond memories that we have shared over the years and wish them good luck as they take the next steps in their incredible life journey. We understand that they may be feeling tearful and nervous about moving on and would like to remind them of Joshua 1-9 when God says, 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. DO not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go,'

What is more, the Ethos Team would like to remind Year 6 pupils that they will always remain a part of the Westleigh family. God has created their path and we will all be walking that path with them wherever it may lead.



Left to Right—Oscar, Bobby and Leo in their Year 6 leavers sweaters.



Love Each Other As I have Loved You John 15:12

By Jack, William, Milo and James

An exciting new role has been introduced at Westleigh Methodist Primary School to promote a more spiritual approach to life on the playground.

The school have introduced the role of the child Chaplain. To fulfil this role, applicants needed to be trustworthy, helpful, generous,

peaceful and kind. Several members of the Ethos Team applied to become Chaplains and four children were successful in their applications. These were Neili and Gabrielle (Y5) and James and Alexis (Y4). The Chaplains plan to create a safe environment in the playground reflection area at lunchtime. They will welcome any child who may need some support or just a calm and quiet place to relax. They hope to offer a variety of spiritual and wellbeing activities each day such as; guided meditation, stress toys, bubbles, colourings, talking cards, prayer group and cuddles with the Worry Bear. The Chaplains are really looking forward to taking on this new responsibility.

We spoke to Honey, Y4, who explained, 'I visited the reflection area last week, It was fun, I liked playing with the fidgets. I could talk about how I felt and the Chaplains helped make me feel better. They were very kind to me.'



**Our Chaplains in the
reflection area during
lunchtime**



A Time to Pray Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

By Jack, Marcus, Zara and Bobby

This year, the Ethos Team have worked hard to create meaningful prayer space activities for each class.

The Ethos Committee understand the importance of finding time during the day to look after your wellbeing. They decided to create unique prayer space activity packs for each class to use in their reflection areas. A prayer space is a designated area in each classroom where children are given the opportunity to spend time

completing spiritual activities, praying or reflecting on any feelings or thoughts they might have so that they can process their feelings and regulate their emotions.

The prayer space activities are linked to each class' Christian Value. The Christian Values are love, teamwork, thankfulness, generosity, peace, forgiveness, equality and justice. All children learn about each of these values as they progress through school. By understanding how to demonstrate these values in their daily lives, children learn to be respectful, resilient, responsible and build positive relationships.

Mirror, Window and Door

By Kyla and Mia

The Ethos Committee continue to strive to develop faith and spirituality in school. Next year they plan to introduce the children to the significant Christian reference of the Mirror, window and door

Christians believe in a metaphor about a mirror, window and door. They promote this because it helps encourage spiritual growth. The school will be introducing this next year to support children in their spiritual development. Here is the metaphor explained.

The mirror represents looking into yourself and thinking about opportunities to reflect on your experiences. We also learn about life by exploring our own insights and those of others.

The window, represents looking out into the future, talking about how amazing it is to be a part of the world and learning about life in all its fullness. To wonder about life and how things make you feel.

The door represents moving into the world, on a new path or way and going into a new situation, to do something creative to develop and apply your ideas.



Kyla and Mia standing at the mirror, window and door that is located in the school corridor.

Doing All We Can

By Alexis, Libby-Kate and Rhys

During Refugee week, the school were visited by an ambassador from All We Can who discussed what the charity are doing to help those in need.

All we can is a Methodist international development and relief organisation that helps people fulfil their full potential. The charity work closely with vulnerable and excluded communities. In the class workshops, children learned that it is so much more important to work alongside people who are living in poverty rather than giving 'one off' donations. This is because it is vitally important to listen to what communities need the most and to figure out ways of achieving goals

together so that the changes are long-term and sustainable within these communities.

The founder of the Methodist church, John Wesley, once said, 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can as long as you ever can.' and here at Westleigh, we strive to do all the good we can, every day.

For more information about **All We Can** visit <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/>



A final prayer for the year written by Kyla (Y3)

Dear God,

We thank you for everything you give us and the adoration we treasure. Help us to be compassionate to everyone we meet. Help us to make the right choices and create a noble team who work together harmoniously. Demonstrating respect, responsibility, resilience while building positive relationships.

Amen



"With God, all things are possible"

Matthew 19:26