

WESTLEIGH FAMILY START WELL CENTRE

Westleigh Start Well Family Centre would like to extend a warm welcome to all our members, partners and those linked to the schools in the Trust

My name is Claire Maudsley; I am the Early Years Worker and have over 19 years of experience working with Children, Young People and their families. My role is to deliver projects by providing play and early learning opportunities and modelling good parenting strategies within sessions to improve school readiness for the children within the Start Well footprint. My vision links with one of the Local Authority's key ambition of the Deal: **Confident People** and the Acorns Trust and Start Well Mission statement: **Sowing the seeds not just for a Sure Start but for a brighter future.**



I would like to introduce you to one of my sessions **Crafty Little Creations**. **Crafty Little Creations** supports children to grow in confidence, talk about their ideas, make choices, and develop social skills by helping children to manage their own feelings and behaviour. Feedback from parents who have already accessed my session are: "I take my little man every week and he absolutely loves it. The sessions are fantastic", "Sessions have helped my child develop social skills & interaction with other children", "Good for mother & child to go out & bond & learn & mix with other children & parents. Some mums have post natal depression so these groups are good to support them to combat it."

Contact us on 01942 777705 or call in to collect one of our activity timetables

Westleigh Start Well Family Centre, Westleigh Lane,
Leigh WN7 5NJ

Acorn Trust Newsletter



Spring 2017

Welcome to our second Trust newsletter. We've had a very exciting term and I hope you enjoy reading about what's been taking place in the life of the Trust. As a Trust we believe in helping children achieve well academically but never at the expense of a broad and balanced curriculum, or supporting them in becoming great citizens. We hope the newsletter gives you a flavour of the life of the Trust.

National Funding Formula

There has been much in the press recently regarding the proposed new national funding formula. As a Trust we are fully in support of a national funding formula that ensures schools across the country receive a fair share. The concern that has arisen for ourselves and for many others is that there is not enough money being given to support education. The research is showing that this, alongside increases in pension contributions, national insurance and inflation pay increase are leaving schools with a significantly decrease in their budget. I would encourage parents to complete any questionnaires relating to school funding in order to support the schools. I would also encourage you to write to your MP, the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister to highlight concerns regarding the funding arrangements. I would like to finish by saying as a Trust no matter what our level of funding we will do everything possible to ensure children receive a high quality education and have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that excites them and makes them want to learn.

Collaborative Teaching

We are passionate about excellent teaching and learning throughout the Trust and continually strive to be even better. As a Trust we have been working collaboratively across the schools to create a joint understanding of what helps children learn best and what makes an excellent teacher. In February we had a joint development session and it was great to see this collective responsibility of all staff (teachers and teaching assistants) and governors to ensure we support everyone within school to be the very best they can be. It's exciting to see where this work will develop as we start to look at how we can use expertise across the Trust for everyone's benefit. We believe we are stronger together.



Wishing you a
Happy Easter
from all at the
Acorn Trust

Please see the website www.acorntrust.org.uk
for further information

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary



Spring Term

It has been a very exciting term at Bedford. A lot of work has been explored as a Trust and both schools have been further strengthening our links through support, working together and developing practice that benefits our Acorn Trust Family. The school led Education Sunday about faith around the world which was a great success due to all the hard work of pupils, staff and church members. Classes shared work on their theme through power point and teachers and pupils read readings and prayers in chapel. A number of pupils and families attended and we have received a lot of thanks and positive feedback in regards to this.



Reflection areas.

This term we have focused on developing our Christian ethos within our classroom practice so that each class focuses on one Christian Value for the year allowing them to explore in depth: what it means and looks like in our world and school. Each class has been introduced to their value and are developing their class reflection areas this term. This is something as a whole school we are greatly excited about!



Forest Schools.

Year 3 and Year 4 have been excitedly attending the forest school programme and have thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of outdoor activities. The activities there focus on: promoting hands on tasks that promote and build self-esteem, resilience and social skills.



Whole School art Project

Bedford Cross Art project was undertaken in Spring term focusing on the Christian Values that we promote in school as a theme. The cross has taken pride of place in the hall as a central focus for our worship display. The artist Wendy Moore worked on the cross with a number of pupils from each class. This piece has been commented on by numerous visitors to school. We have requested the opportunity for Wendy Moore to visit school again to work on a smaller crosses for each class: focused on their Christian Class Value which would then be displayed in their class reflection space.



Trips and visitors.

As always there has been a number of trips and visitors to school this term. These include "move with Peppa" sessions for our two year old provision, reception had a visitor from the Helen O'Grady drama school, Year 2 trip to Clitheroe Castle and a Year 3 trip to Manchester Museum. These trips and visitors create experiences outside the classroom which enrich the curriculum for our pupils.



Westleigh Methodist Primary



Church Links

Being a Methodist school we work closely with Hindley Green Methodist Church and every month the Pastoral team take a small group of children to spend time at the church. Our school Chaplain, Reverend Jones, prepares an exciting activity for the children to complete, one of which is a special treasure hunt, which the children love to talk about!



We Love Books!

There are so many reasons why we love reading at Westleigh Methodist. To continue developing reading and writing further in school, we have launched My Book Blog. This is our new and exciting interactive website that will grow the children's love of reading. We have created our own staff and pupil Manikin Challenge, please have a look on our website under 'School Life, then 'Curriculum News' – if you scroll down to the bottom you will see how much we love reading!

World Book Day was such an exciting way to enjoy books. We dressed up as our favourite book characters and talked about our most memorable authors. This links with our Mad Science Day where we will be investigating science through our favourite traditional tales. Watch out for our weekly newsletter to find out more... (this can be found on 'Our Schools App' and on the school website).



Parent Forum

Parent Forum continues to meet every term and we are very grateful to the staff, governors and parents that work tirelessly to help plan and host a variety of fund raising events in school. The latest plans are to hold an Easter disco, this was a great achievement last year and we look forward to repeated success this year.

School is fortunate to have a group of parents that regularly support classes with out of school visits to enrich the curriculum. Parents also continue to come into school on a weekly basis to listen to children read. We are thankful for all the support we receive and look forward to continuing to build positive relationships with the wider community.

30 hours free childcare: early implementation programme

Our Nursery setting was approached by the Local Authority at the beginning of January to join the early implementation pilot for "30 hours free childcare". This is a Government led programme that offers working parents an additional 15 hours free childcare above the current universal 15 hours. Wigan has been involved in delivering this programme as a pilot since September 2016. The uptake was highly successful with many parents benefiting from greater flexibility and children having increased access to our high quality learning environment. The full roll out is due in September 2017 so please remember to check eligibility if you are intending to apply for a place next academic year. This will also be available at our Bedford Hall Nursery.

