



Ostend Place, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 2QY | 01782 973790 | office@westlands.staffs.sch.uk



ACADEMY PHOTOGRAPHERS - FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER

We will be welcoming Academy Photographers into school to take individual and sibling photographs of all children on Friday 7th November. They will be in school from 8am to take pictures with any siblings that do not currently attend Westlands or Little Stars Pre-School.

NATIVITY! THE MUSICAL

On Wednesday 3rd December, we will be taking the whole school to see a performance of Nativity! The Musical at the Regent Theatre. We are asking for a parental contribution of £20 per child for this trip. Every child in school will be taken to the theatre if they wish to go, but please contribute if you can, to enable us to continue doing things like this in the future.

Thank you to all parents who have made a contribution so far.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your circumstances have recently changed and you are entitled to Universal Credit or Income Support (or similar benefits) you may be entitled to free school meals. It is quick and easy to apply online at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx>.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get free school meals, however we would encourage you to apply for free school meals if you think you might be eligible, as this attracts additional funding to support your child's learning. There is also extra support available for school trips, clubs and music lessons if your child is eligible for free school meals

PAYMENTS IN SCHOOL

We now use SchoolGrid for all payments for school dinners and Key Stage 2 tuck shop. **We continue to use ParentPay for all other payments** (trips, clubs, music lessons etc.)

VALUABLES IN SCHOOL

We would recommend that children do not bring expensive water bottles, bags, earrings, watches or any other items of high value into school. Staff work hard to help the children look after their things and children are regularly reminded to put things away in bags and trays. However, classrooms are busy places and things can get misplaced or broken despite the best efforts of staff. We cannot take responsibility for any valuables lost or broken at school.

MEDICINE

Children **should not** have any form of medication with them in the classroom, other than inhalers. Any medication - paracetamol, ibuprofen, antibiotics or hay fever medication should be brought to the school office, where it remains for the school day. All medicine requires that a 'Request to Administer Medicine' form is completed (available from the school office).

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

We will be monitoring absence more closely this academic year.

Holidays during term-time cannot be approved, and we would ask parents to take holidays during the 13 weeks of school holiday. Any holiday taken in school time will be classed as 'unauthorised absence' and may be subject to Local Authority fines. The first penalty is £80 per child, per parent. If there is a second unauthorised absence of 5 days or more within 3 years of the first penalty notice being issued, the fine is £160 per parent, per child. After that, every new offence within the 3-year period will be prosecuted under S444.1 of the Education Act 1996. At this point, the maximum fine is £1,000 per parent, per child.

We also ask parents to make appointments for the doctors, dentists etc. outside of school time wherever possible. If you have an unavoidable appointment during school hours, please contact the office to inform of your child's absence. We will also need to see evidence of appointments where children are taken out of school.

Letters will be coming out to children with below 90% attendance. At this point in the term, 4 days off is enough to take attendance below 90%, and we do understand that children get ill, the letters are really just to highlight the importance of your child's attendance at school.

Thank you as always for your support in continued good attendance at school.

FOOD BANK REFERRALS

We are able to issue vouchers for Newcastle food banks, through The Trussell Trust. If this is something you feel may be helpful to you, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

We may need to ask for additional information about your household to claim the voucher, but all information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

PACKED LUNCHES

Can we encourage parents to send in healthy choices in their children's lunchboxes? We don't have a problem with treats to complement a healthy lunch, but multiple chocolate bars, crisps and sweets can lead to very distracted children in the afternoons!

Can we also remind parents that the children's water bottles should only contain water.

TERM DATES 2026-27

Term dates for next academic year are attached.

DATES FOR 2025-26

November

5-6	Open days for Reception 2026 admission
7	Academy photos in school for individual and sibling photos (family photos from 8am).
11	PTFA Meeting, 6pm
14	Year 3 at the World Museum, Liverpool
18	Year 2 at the Brampton Museum
19	Bag2School Collection
26	Flu Spray
27 th Nov	Book Fair, every day after school until 2 nd Dec

DATES FOR 2025-26 cont.

December

2	Governors meeting (Teaching & Learning Committee)
3	Whole school trip to see Nativity! The Musical at the Regent Theatre
8	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance
9	Reception and Little Stars Christmas Performance
12	PTFA Christmas Market Christmas Jumper Day
16	KS1 Christmas Parties
17	Christmas Dinner KS2 Christmas Parties
18	Year 4 at Blists Hill Victorian Town
19	Singing Club perform at home time School closes for Christmas holiday

January

5	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
6	Children back in school
7	Meeting in school for Year 5 parents (Standon Bowers residential trip), 3:30pm
26	NCMP Team in school to do height and weight checks for Year 6 and Reception

February

3	Full Governors meeting
11	PTFA Disco
16-20	Half Term

March

2-6	Year 5 at Standon Bowers all week
5	World Book Day
16	Swimming pool on site for 2 weeks
17	Governors meeting (Teaching & Learning Committee)
27	PTFA Easter Breakfast
30	School closes for Easter holiday

April

13	Children and staff back in school
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May

11	Year 6 SATS week
19	Full Governors meeting
25-29	Half Term

June

1	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
2	Children back in school
11	Summer Fair (Reserve day of 18 th)
16	Governors meeting (Finance Committee)
18	Year 3 Ukulele Concert at Victoria Hall
25	Reception and Year 6 class photos, plus Year 6 leavers photos

July

18	School closes for Summer holiday
20	INSET day (staff only)

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2026/2027

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
INSET Day	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
School opens for pupils	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026
INSET Day	Monday 2 nd November 2026
School closes for pupils	Friday 18 th December 2026

Spring Term 2027

School opens for pupils and staff	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027
INSET Day	Monday 22 nd February 2027
School closes for pupils and staff	Friday 22 nd March 2027

Summer Term 2027

School opens for pupils and staff	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day	Monday 3 rd May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027
INSET Day	Monday 7 th June 2027
School closes for pupils and staff	Wednesday 21 st July 2027