



Westhead Lathom St James'

Church of England

Primary School

Classroom Teacher Information Pack

Situated in the semi-rural village of Westhead, on the outskirts of Ormskirk, Westhead Lathom St James' is a small school with a big heart. An exciting, rich and creative curriculum nurtures children aged 3 to 11 to reach their full potential across all areas of learning and development.

Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Colleague

I am delighted that you are interested in the position of Classroom Teacher (Y3/4) at Westhead Lathom St James' C of E Primary School, at the heart of the community of Westhead. As you read about our school, I trust that you will be encouraged to discover more through a visit to gain a real understanding of how we operate and how the school's values underpin daily practice at St James'. As a governing body, we are immensely proud of everything the school has achieved and continues to achieve with its current amazing team. All staff at our school are valued extremely highly as we recognise the tremendous contribution they make to secure the very best Quality of Education for every child in our care. As a school committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of our staff, we now seek to further strengthen our team with an outstanding Year 3/4 Classroom Teacher with dedication to both the school and the local community. We are blessed with truly lovely children in our school and our staff ensure that they flourish through opportunity, support and guidance to be the very best they can be. We are fully aware that in the current educational climate this is no mean feat with daily challenges to be faced!

Ofsted have judged our school to be outstanding in all areas! This is a fantastic accolade to the hard work of our pupils, staff and parents, and I assure you that this will not lead to any complacency as we constantly seek to develop in all areas. Our children are particularly proud of their successes and their efforts in all areas and actively put into practice what they have learnt. They are totally committed to the wider life of the school with performances and sporting activities being a real highlight of life at St James'.

Parents, the local community and the Church are extremely supportive of the school and partnership working is highly valued. Our children have the benefit of an extremely supportive PTA and are blessed with frequent visits from the Church Ministry Team and visits to the Church. We are looking for a highly skilled teaching professional who is both inspirational and passionate about providing the best learning opportunities and personal development for all within a Christian school environment and with total commitment to supporting the Christian Distinctiveness that is central to everything that we aim to achieve together. If you feel ready to share our journey of continuing excellence, we would be delighted to receive your application. You are most welcome and very much encouraged to make an informal visit to the school. Please contact Tracy Comerford, Office Manager, who will be delighted to help.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Livesley
Chair of Governors

Our Vision and Values

A welcoming place that **engages each child.**

Our school provides a secure, caring, stimulating and challenging indoor and outdoor environment that promotes a love of learning. Our children, parents, families, staff, governors and community work together to enable each child to become a happy, healthy, well-balanced individual in preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The ethos of the school is based on the Christian ideals of wisdom, dignity, hope and community. We are committed to working in partnership with all of those involved in our children's development to lead our children towards tolerance, understanding, justice, and sensitivity to the needs of others and appreciation of the world around them.

Here at Westhead Lathom St James' CE School we strive for:

'A curriculum that is challenging, inspiring and engaging; in which all pupils flourish spiritually, creatively and academically to become confident young people.'

'With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.' Ephesians 3:20

Our Values

Our Christian values of Wisdom, Dignity, Hope and Community underpin all that we do at St James'. Our collective worship sessions cover themes related to each of our four core values for example: thankfulness, generosity, peace, respect etc and our pupils are encouraged to live out these values in their daily lives. Our Christian Values bears are used to celebrate those who have demonstrated our values each week.

Our Aims

- Provide a broad and challenging curriculum and a stimulating learning environment that extends outside the classroom;
- Develop enquiring minds and spirituality through curiosity, awe and wonder of the world;
- Teach, demonstrate and praise Christian Values;
- Value the power of prayer;
- Teach with innovative and investigative approaches to learning;

- Provide an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits;
- Plan a rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources;
- Encourage children to achieve their highest standards in all areas of the curriculum and to seek excellence within an ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed;
- Teach children to work independently, collaboratively and become highly motivated lifelong learners;
- Include opportunities for creative thinking in problem solving settings, developing divergent thinking, adaptability and flexibility in preparation for the many changes ahead in life, including the rapid progress in technology;
- Build partnerships between the school, home and community;
- Strive for continuous improvement in all that we do;
- Continually self-evaluate and continue to improve upon current practice;
- Work collaboratively towards common goals;
- Place self-esteem and a positive and inclusive approach to behaviour as high priorities thus ensuring that individuals respect and value themselves, others and the environment and is motivated to do their best in school and beyond in order to become a fulfilled adult who gives to the community.

We are proud of:

- **Our school:** is a half form entry primary school in Westhead, Lancashire. We are located close to the town of Ormskirk and our pupils come from Westhead village and the surrounding areas of Ormskirk and Skelmersdale. The school benefits from wonderful children, enthusiastic and dedicated staff, close links with our families and parish community and a friendly and open outlook.

Our children: we have 99 children on roll aged between 3 and 11. We encourage our children to develop a caring and helpful attitude through taking part in Playground Leader and Prefect opportunities. The School Council meets regularly and provides a forum for pupil participation in the running of the school.

- **Our Staff:** we have a highly committed group of teachers who are well trained, keep their training up-to-date and have a wide variety of teaching experience. This team is supported by a team of exceptional and dedicated teaching assistants and support staff. All staff work very closely with parents and carers to ensure that there is strong and effective communication with home. The staff run a number of lunchtime and after school clubs, giving the children every opportunity to express themselves in a creative or sporting way.
- **Our Home-School Partnership:** we are fortunate to benefit from excellent relationships between school and family and these form the basis for an extremely supportive and creative learning environment. A number of parents and grandparents help out in classes with activities such as reading, and extra-curricular activities such as clubs. The Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) organises fund-raising and social events throughout the year and has recently worked extremely hard to provide funds to subsidise educational visits.
- **Our Community and Parish:** the school is a central part of the local community and Parish of St. James'. Our relationship with the Church is extremely important to us and is a vital element of our identity. We have strong links with other schools in the area through shared activities and events and our membership of SHARES.
- **Our Governors:** The school benefits from a very active and supportive governing body, which draws membership from many different professions and walks of life to provide both challenge and support to the leadership team.

Your Application

When making your application, please bear in mind the Person Specification and Job Description which we have provided. At shortlisting, we will be looking for evidence in each application of the positive impact that an applicant has had in their previous involvement with children.

Your letter to accompany your application should be no more than two sides of A4 when typed (11 size font). Please send your completed application form and letter to:

*Miss Helen Clark,
Westhead Lathom St James' Church of England Primary School,
School Lane,
Westhead
L40 6HL*

head@wlsj.lancs.sch.uk

Visits to school: Monday 10th March 9:00am or Tuesday 11th March 3:30pm. Please contact Tracy Comerford, Office Manager to book on a tour on 01695 574078.

Closing date for applications: Friday 21st March 2025 at 9:00am

Shortlisting: Friday 21st March 2025

Interviews: Wednesday 26th March 2025- lesson observations and Friday 28th March 2025 formal interview.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. There will be a need for the successful applicant to undertake a criminal record check via the DBS.

References, one of which should be from your current Headteacher/Chair of Governors. Both references will be sought as soon as applicants have been shortlisted. All applications will of course be treated in the strictest confidence.