



‘West Park Welcomes The World!’

**A History Project about West Park Primary School
Autumn term 2017**

To mark the 50th anniversary of West Park Primary School being located in Devon Road, pupils in Years 5 and 6 are participating in an exciting project exploring the history of the school.

Children will not only learn about the wider historical contexts which have shaped the school’s community over the years, but they will also:

- conduct research at the City Archives into the history of the school and the history of Whitmore Reans
- help to construct and update a website about the project
- conduct recorded interviews with ex pupils and ex staff
- learn about what ‘sanctuary’ means and begin the process of becoming a School of Sanctuary
- hear first-hand the stories of refugees and asylum seekers who have come to live in Wolverhampton and Whitmore Reans
- devise a performance all about the school’s history, based on the stories they gather, to perform to the wider community
- work with performance artists, learning new skills in puppetry, music and theatre
- work with a film-maker, learning skills in film-making techniques
- document their learning about the school’s history
- celebrate the current school community as well as honouring those preceding it, out of which it was born
- deposit the recorded oral histories and digital documentation produced during the project at Wolverhampton City Archives

The idea for the project was sparked when former pupil Mike Edwards (front left in the photograph) visited the school in order to organise a reunion of the class of 1968. At the time, nearly 50 years ago, the school became the focus of national media attention as controversial MP Enoch Powell described Mike’s class as having only one white child in it.

This cross-generational project will ultimately be a celebration of the diverse neighbourhood of Whitmore Reans which has nourished the school for over half a century and continues to provide abundant and valued learning opportunities for the whole school community.

