



Westminster pupils Lily Elding, 10, Jessica Hillier, 10, Hajar Faroukh, 10, Oliver Greenwood, 10, Tilly Steadman, 10 and Michael Hill, 11

# Playtime goes green at school

By **Tim Gavell**  
tim.gavell@pimedia.co.uk  
@The\_Gazette

A Blackpool school where children have had to play on concrete and asphalt for generations, now has its own safe green play space.

Westminster Academy, formerly Claremont Primary, has been granted a disused plot at the neighbouring park to let the children get back to nature.

Headteacher Roger Farley said, "It has been the custom for so long to walk the youngsters down to the Claremont Park and fields, but due to thoughtless dog owners and

some anti-social behaviour in the area, it became increasingly difficult.

"School had been asking Blackpool Council for a number of years to allow them to adopt some small part of Claremont Park and playing fields so that children would have a safe and clear "green space" to play on.

John Topping, Community Relations and Estates Lead for The Fylde Coast Academy Trust said: "When the school joined our FCAT fam-

ily I was quite shocked to see how an elevated area of Claremont Park that butted up to the school fence could be so overgrown and neglected."



He said they eventually managed to persuade Blackpool Council to release a 32m by 23m rectangle of this unmaintained grassed area.

He said: "It is now safeguarded by a high fence and ready for all the youngsters to explore nature, play small group games and enjoy

quiet-times sat around the trees during break and lunch times. As part of the project, Westminster Primary and FCAT has agreed to oversee and maintain the whole elevated area of the park near the school taking responsibility for the regular grass cutting and tree pruning.

"I would like to thank the local ward councillors who supported our vision to improve life opportunities and school experiences for the present and future generations of local children".

The school is working with Jenna Cains from Lancashire Wildlife Trust on the Nature Friendly Schools project to create an outdoor classroom.



At Claremont Park Liliana Duncan, 5, Joshua Griffiths, 11, Amelia Stanton-Rainbow, 7, William Bett, 10, Ashton Jarman-Smith, 6 and Bonnie Purcell, 11



Pupils with John Topping from FCAT and headteacher Roger Farley, also inset above

## Rapid response cars going all electric

The North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) is set to replace its rapid response vehicle fleet (RRV) with 47 electric cars following a successful pilot.

Fylde coast residents may have seen some of the electric BMW i3's, inset, being trialled and now NWAS is replacing its fleet with the £35,000 electric cars.

A spokesman for NWAS said: "Looking after our environment is a priority for

the trust which is why we've introduced electric rapid response vehicles.

"After a successful pilot, we are now working to replace our rapid response vehicle fleet with 47 BMW i3 vehicles.

"This will not only provide cost savings for the trust but will also have a huge impact on our carbon footprint, reducing the carbon contribution from our RRVs by 90 per cent."



## House fire remains under investigation

A house fire in Wrea Green last week is still under investigation.

Fire engines from Wesham and St Annes were called on Friday to reports of a building on fire at Brynning Lane shortly before gam.

Firefighters were at the scene for around 90 minutes. No injuries were reported.

A Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service spokesman confirmed that investigators are still looking into the cause of the fire.

### RE UPHOLSTERY & REPAIR SERVICE



Before spending money on buying new, SEE WHAT MASTERCRAFT CAN DO FOR YOU

### GIVE YOUR FURNITURE A NEW LEASE OF LIFE



- Recover all types of Sofas, Chairs, Dining Furniture
- Bespoke Furniture Design
- Cushions Refilled, Spring, Frame Repairs
- Largest Stockist of Foam on the Fylde
- No job too big or small
- Business and Domestic work undertaken
- Free Quote, Collect & Deliver

**45 years**  
experience  
catering for  
all aspects of  
upholstery

Call Today  
**01253 403484**

39 Bloomfield Rd, Blackpool, FY1 6JL  
www.mastercraftupholstery.com

