



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 24th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful Harvest festival in church last week. I hope you agree that the children performed beautifully, with smiles on their faces! We had a fantastic amount of donations for the Food bank, both in church and school so THANK YOU. I hope that all of you who attended enjoyed the service.

This has been a very long term but I have been continuously impressed how the children have conducted themselves, despite being tired. We are still teaching right up until the last day of term but we are aware of how tired they are. If you want your child to take their wellies home, please bring a bag in for them on Friday. I hope that you have a lovely, restful and enjoyable break with your families and friends and we will see you all back at school on Monday 4th November.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

WORSHIP

DREAM BIG Worship from Olive and Bethany



We were wow-ed last week with a Dream Big Worship planned by Olive and Bethany entirely independently all about **Space**.

All children can volunteer to deliver a "Dream Big" worship on a topic that they feel strongly about- they sign up for this in a book outside my office.

In the past we have had Dream Big Worships on:

- **Endangered Animals**
- **Kings and Queens in History**
 - **The Suffragettes**
 - **Women and Sport**



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Class News



CHESTNUTS The children have been working on learning actions to new nursery rhymes and subitising up to 3 objects. They have also been learning about **Autumn** and have enjoyed all the creative activities that supported this. I hope everyone has a lovely half term and looking forward to seeing you all back the week commencing November 4th.



WILLOW Willow Class have had a fantastic term. In Phonics, we have learnt lots of new sounds. To help us remember these over the holidays, please go over all of the sounds we have learnt so far - you can find these in your child's phonics home folders. In English, we have begun to explore our new text '**Cave Baby**' by Julia Donaldson. We've enjoyed reading the story and looking at the naughty things cave baby gets up to. This is linked to our PSHE learning about why rules are important. In Maths, the children in Year 1 have been learning to add and subtract 1 from a number to 20 and the Reception children have been practising counting to 5 and showing numbers using their fingers. In Art, we have continued to develop our skills in creating a self-portrait. In Science, we have been identifying body parts and using our senses. All of the staff in Willow Class wish you a restful, enjoyable half term.



SYCAMORE

Sycamore Class have started a new book in English called "**Dear Earth**". They were very keen to see the new book and have enjoyed reading the first half. So far we have thought about where we'd like to go if we were explorers and have shown the places on a world map on our class display. We have also done some research and answered questions about some of the animals that are in the book. In History we have been debating who we think was most to blame for the gunpowder plot. In Maths the Year 2s have started their unit on addition and subtraction and the Year 3s have been comparing 3 digit numbers.



OAK

The children have completed their English work on the book '**Hidden figures**' and we've written memoirs from Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughn and Christine Darden. These women fought for the rights of women - especially African American women - during their time working at NASA. Their contributions helped man get to the moon. We've looked at the layers of the Earth in Geography, and have studied the phases of the moon in Science. We've also learnt the terms **rotation** and **revolution** when talking about our planet's movements to create day, night, seasons and years.



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Celebration Awards

Every *Friday* we celebrate pupils' achievements during our Celebration Assembly.

If your child achieves something spectacular out of school, they are welcome to bring in medals, trophies or certificates on a Friday and we will share their success with the whole school.

We will be awarding whole term PURPLE LEARNER awards for each class on Friday 25th and a whole school Westbury Way Award to one pupil. We will report on the winners of these awards in the next newsletter.

Willow Class Academic Excellence Awards: Olive and Evie

Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Awards: Finley and Reuben

Oak Class Academic Excellence Awards: Bethany and Nia

Xanthe was also awarded her Pen License last week for consistently good handwriting.

Attendance update

Sept 1st – 21st Oct 2024 = 96.8%

Whole School Target - 98%

Our attendance is currently 1% **above** the National percentage!





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Dates for your diary

4th November: First Day of Term 2

7th November: Individual School photos

11th November: *Anti Bullying week* starts- "Choose Respect" is the theme

12th November: Deadline for Shoebox appeal

13th November: World Kindness Day – our Kindness Ambassadors will lead Worship

18th November: Children in Need day- wear something spotty and give what you can.

29th November: Baby and Toddler Group in the school hall. 10am-11.30am.

10th December: Parent & Carer morning drop in to see pupils' work this term, 8.30-9.15am.

11th December: Willow and Chestnut Class Nativity show "**On a Starry Night**" at 2.15pm- all welcome. The whole school will watch a Dress rehearsal earlier in the week

11th December: Guitar concert, 9.30am in the school hall for Oak children, all welcome.

12th December: Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children

13th December: Pantomime Workshop for the whole school

18th December: Christmas lunch for everyone in the hall.

SHOEBOX APPEAL

<https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/>

If you would like to make up a shoebox for this appeal then please bring a filled shoebox in by 12th November.

We are sending home leaflets with every child today with information in them about what to fill your box with- there are different causes.

This year the shoeboxes will be going to **Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.**

Please drop your shoebox off at the school office when it is ready.



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Maths Focus Day



We dressed as ROCK STARS for the day and spent the day working hard on improving our times tables. In Willow, they worked hard on their quick recall of number facts. Sycamore and Oak have a log in to TT rock stars, the platform we use to practise being AWESOME at times tables. We can also challenge a teacher on there- why not try this half term break?





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Farewell Mrs Cox!

We are saying Good Bye to Anna Cox on Friday 25th October, after an extraordinary 27 years of service to the school. Her impact cannot be underestimated and she has dedicated most of her working life to managing the school finances, and running everything smoothly on a day to day basis in the office. From all of the staff, pupils and governors we extend a heartfelt thanks to Mrs Cox and wish her well for the next chapter of her life.





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2025 ADMISSIONS OPENS 4 NOVEMBER!



Was your child born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021?

Children born between these dates can start school in the school year starting from 1 September 2025.

Gloucestershire County Council co-ordinates the admission of children to primary or infant school, therefore please ensure you submit a school application to us by the closing date, **15 January 2025**.

Don't be late!

Applications must be submitted by 15 January 2025

Apply online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Key Dates

November 2024 - You should receive a letter advising how to apply
15 January 2025 - Deadline for applications
16 April 2025 - Allocation Day (find out which school your child has been offered)



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WESTBURY ON SEVERN YOUTH PROJECT

presents;



Theme this year –

'It's an Education'

Annual show

8th and 9th November 6.30 pm

Westbury Parish hall

£8 Adults £4 Children

Evening of fun and food

Price includes evening full of entertainment from the members

and a posh pack lunch and pud

Contact; Nicola.p.atkinson@gmail.com

Or 07972761345 for tickets



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Your trash is our treasure...



If you are having a clear out, please think of our Early Years classrooms. We are seeking items to help the children learn through play and exploration. The style of items we are looking for are pictured below. If you happen to have any of these items we would be really grateful if you could spare them for our learning environment. You can hand them to any member of staff in Willows or Chestnut class. Thank you! 😊



We are always on the lookout for:

cake tins buttons bottle tops small world play
loose parts bowls, jugs and containers sieves and whisks
roleplay costumes items to use in our home kitchens
baby dolls and newborn clothes craft supplies
age appropriate games and jigsaws