



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 11th April 2024

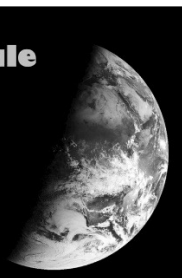
Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to Term 5! We hope you had a lovely Easter holiday. We had a lovely Easter service at the church in the last week of term, it was great to see so many families. We also had a good turnout for our End of Theme Drop in, thank you to everyone who came along. There is information in this newsletter about our new improved OPAL playtimes and also some safeguarding information about an online game that your child may be accessing that is of concern. We welcomed Mrs Zoe Walls to the Westbury Family this week. She is teaching Willow 2.5 days and Sycamore every Wednesday.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

Christian Values Our Value this term is **FRIENDSHIP**

We explored this saying of Jesus's in our first Worship of the term and how it related to our friendships.

The Platinum Rule
Do unto others
as they would
like to have you
do unto them.





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CLASS NEWS



CHESTNUTS

Welcome back everyone and also to our new starters and parents/carers. This week the children have started the new Theme of **Animals**, they have all made owl masks to accompany our focus book 'Owl Babies'. A gentle reminder - please could you make sure that the children have their Forest School gear in school for every session they attend - if it is easier they can keep it here in their locker all the time.



WILLOW

In Willow Class, this term we are learning all about **Castles**. We are looking forward to designing and creating castles in DT/art and reading our story "Iggy Peck, Architect". We have already had great fun making towers and designing our very own tower. In Maths we are recognising numbers to 20 and continuing our learning focussing on shape, space and measure. We are very lucky to have music lessons this term from Gloucestershire music. In science we are grouping everyday materials and learning all about materials and their properties. Our PE lessons are all about athletics this term, the children will be busy working on their stamina for running.



SYCAMORE

Welcome back to school. It has been lovely teaching Sycamore Class this week. We have started looking at our theme of **The Romans**. We thought about what we already know about the Romans and then posed questions about what we want to find out. We looked at a timeline in History and where the Romans fit in. In Geography we have started our topic looking at Italy and what it is like now. The children enjoyed their first trip swimming and all did very well. We have started our writing unit based on the book Escape from Pompeii. In Maths the Year 2s have continued their fractions unit looking at thirds and Year 3s are learning column addition.



OAK

Our new theme in Oak class this term is '**Amazing me!**'. We are starting our theme by looking at how humans change as they age in science, recognising our emotions in PSHE and starting a project on self-portraits in our Art. In English we have started our new unit on the book 'Robot Girl' by Malorie Blackman.



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Celebration Awards

Every Friday we celebrate pupil's effort, attitude and achievement 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 would like to invite all parents and carers to our weekly Celebration assembly, which is held at 1pm every Friday.

Just turn up and you will be very welcome.

Reception: Caspar, Evie

Year One: Django, Mckenzie

Year Two: Beren, Gregory

Year Three: Rex, Harrison

Year Four: Freddie, Jack

Year Five: Poppy, Jamie

Year Six: Adam, Heidi

The Westbury Way Award

for a pupil who consistently demonstrates ***The Westbury Way***

- Safe at all times
 - Respectful to Everyone
 - Ready to Learn
- The recent awards went to ***Freddie and Jimmy***



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Dates for your diary:

- 17th April:** School Photographer in for class photos and Y6 leavers photos.
- 24th April:** YR and Y6 to see the School Nurse- weight and heights.
- 13th May:** SATS week for Y6 begins
- 17th June:** Cycling Proficiency week for Y6 begins
- 24th June:** Dene Magna transition week for Y6s
- 4th and 5th July:** School Production performances at the Parish Hall
- 8th July:** Sports Week begins- a week of exciting Physical activities
- 10th July:** Chestnuts Sports morning
- 11th July:** Whole school Sports morning followed by Parent Picnic
- 18th July:** End of theme Open Classrooms/Drop in- All Parents/Carers welcome.

Attendance update

Whole school from September 2023- **92.4%**

Whole School Target - 96%

Message from Polly Woodman

Here is the link for the fundraising for my marathon. Absolutely no pressure for anyone to donate though!

<https://events.stroke.org.uk/fundraisers/PhilsMemoryMarathon/london-marathon-2024>

Thank you!





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OPAL PLAYTIMES in action



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The OPAL working party (Miss Wills, Jen Sigournay, Helen Cracknell, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Betteridge) spent a few days over Easter improving the play areas for the pupils. We have opened up part of **Forest School** for playtimes and created a sandpit from a tractor tyre, we have opened the entrance from the Trim trail to the Forest school by way of a slide, we have introduced "*Noodle Combat*" (noodle and noodle only!), we built an arbour donated by SEVERN VALLEY Woodworks and improved the recent mud kitchen, adding a den area. We also have created a wobble track using *wiggle cars* that zoom downhill and built a stage. There is now a **quiet zone**, for reading, drawing and LEGO play and a water wall, where pupils can create a waterfall using drainpipes fixed to the fence. There is more to come!





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We have some information about a game called Poppy Playtime that some children may be playing at home.



Online safety experts have been alerted to a video game, being described by some users as an “introduction to horror.” Videos, versions of the game, and associated material are becoming increasingly popular on YouTube, Roblox, and other platforms used by young children.

Poppy Playtime features frightening images and themes that are paired with child-friendly items. This may be especially upsetting to children who have not yet developed the resilience to deal with disturbing content.

There are multiple risks that can arise from children and young people being exposed to frightening content before they are prepared.

If you suspect or know your child is playing this game, please follow this link for guidance:

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/12/03/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>



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MAY HALF TERM *Holiday Club*



VENUES

- Primrose Hill, Lydney
- St White's, Cinderford
- Ashfield Park, Ross
- Finlay School, Glos
- Picklenash, Newent

28TH - 31ST MAY
8:30am - 4:30pm
From £22.50 per day

Packed full of popular and seasonally themed sports, games and craft activities

Prostars.ipalbookings.com
Info@prostars-fse.com



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Food Stories – The Earth Beneath our Feet, with Lizzie Godden

(Part of the Wye Valley River Festival Creative Community Day)

Saturday 27th April 2024

Workshop 1: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Workshop 2: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

(at Artspace Cinderford)

Cost: FREE

Join us in the Artspace studio for our Creative Community workshop exploring 'Food Stories' with the Wye Valley River Festival, where we will be exploring a fun range of print media, drawing and textile crafts inspired by your favourite meals and recipes. These sessions are free for all. NB children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.