



A small school, dreaming big

Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy New Year! It seems a bit late to be saying that, now that 2024 is in full swing and it has been a busy start to the term. I was so impressed with how well the pupils coped the first week back with the building work happening in Willow Class. The builders ended up replacing about two thirds of the floor, uncovering damp and rotten flooring. Ventilation panels, new carpets and hard flooring have been installed now, which the Diocese will help fund, thankfully, as they did with Oak Class a year ago! The joys of a 175 year old building! We are now back to "normal" and classes are feeling calm and productive.

You might want to ask them about the work we have done these past two weeks on learning how to be a **successful learner** -

PURPLE learning- what does a purple learner look like?

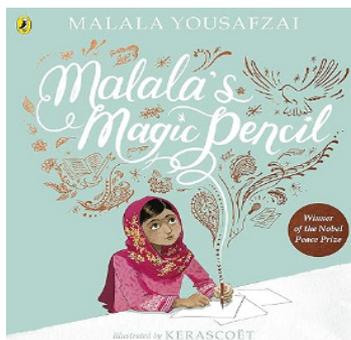
The pupils have been considering how they learn best and what they can do to be the best they can be in the classroom.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

Christian Values
Our Value this term is

❖ **COURAGE**

We explored Malala's story in our first COURAGE worship.





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CLASS NEWS



CHESTNUTS

The children have settled back into the routine of Chestnuts and the new starters are doing well, making new friends. The children have been learning about the number 6 and the 'M' sound. Some of the children have enjoyed going to Forest School and drinking hot chocolate to warm up!



WILLOW

We all enjoyed our first week in our new classroom (the Hall) whilst our floor was being fixed. We are now back in Willow Class and have a lovely new carpet and lino, with no holes to be seen in the floor! In Literacy, we have been reading the book, Goldilocks and the Three Bears as part of our Theme; **The Bear Necessities**. Last week, we made porridge and we enjoyed eating it! We then learnt how to write instructions and wrote the instructions for how we made the porridge. This week, we have been writing an apology letter from Goldilocks to the Three Bears. In Maths, we have been learning about measurement. We have been learning the term, shorter than and longer than, and we have been ordering different lengths. In Science, we have been learning what the different types of animals are called and talked about the different animals that live in forests in the UK. In Art, we have been learning to draw our favourite toys using different graded art pencils. We also followed instructions to draw a bear. In History, we talked about toys in the past.



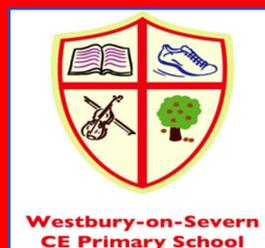
SYCAMORE

Since being back we have been fortunate to enjoy two cold but sunny outdoor learning sessions, we have been thinking about animals and their habitats. In Science, we have begun our unit all about light, with a good discussion about light sources. In French, we have been learning numbers to 50, this will help us to learn dates and birthdays later in the term. Ukulele lessons have begun and the children sounded great, we have learnt the notes C and D on our new instruments. In Geography, we are looking at rainforests, which links well with the Y2s guided reading lessons about the destruction of forests where Orangutans live. In PE, we enjoyed a good yoga session in the classroom. A busy start to the year!



OAK

Oak class have had a great first few weeks of our new term. We've started our new theme of **'Around the world in 80 lives'** by looking at some inspirational people (including Rosa Parks, Greta Thunberg) and have researched where they live and what life is like there. We've been using the book 'Around the world in 80 days' in our English and we've written recounts and adventure pieces as we travel with Phileas Fogg and Passepartout.



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Celebration Awards

Every Friday we celebrate pupil's effort, attitude and achievement during our Celebration Assembly. One child per year group is awarded a certificate and these are sent home. We list those pupils here fortnightly to further celebrate their success with the school community.

Reception: Lilly

Year One: Jackson

Year Two: Seb

Year Three: Rex

Year Four: Zach

Year Five: Olivia

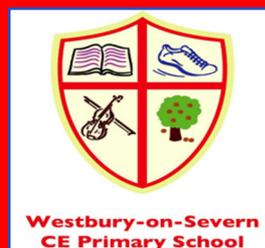
Year Six: Bertie

The Westbury Way Award

for a pupil who consistently demonstrates *The Westbury Way*

- Safe at all times
- Respectful to Everyone
- Ready to Learn

This week's award went to *Flora* in Year 6



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Staffing News

- Mr Dave Rush has been appointed as the full time Oak Class Teaching Assistant. Dave has had a variety of roles before working in education, most notably working for many years in the police force. Dave lives in Parkend with his son and has quickly become part of our Westbury family.
- After more than twenty years teaching Mrs Sian Landon has decided that now is the time to explore other professional opportunities. She will be leaving at Easter and we will all miss her terribly. We will update you on summer term staffing deployment once we have interviewed.

Dates for your diary:

24th January: Cross country running at Newent for KS2 runners 1-4pm

29th January: Storyteller Michael Harvey is in school all day to launch National Storytelling Week (Dream Big). Pupils will have workshops with Michael and all week work on writing their own stories.

6th Feb: Safer Internet Day

9th Feb: End of term

19th Feb: New term starts

23rd Feb- Baby and Toddler group in the hall 9.45am



If possible, please refrain from driving up the lane in front of school at the beginning and end of the school day.

This is a safety issue, since children are free range during these times, walking back and forth from school. Please also park with due respect for others when dropping and picking up children. Thank you!

Attendance update

Whole school from September 2023- **93%**

Whole School School Target - 96%



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OPAL playtimes have now begun! But this is just the beginning, we have grand plans for awesome playtimes.

The Trim Trail garden is now permanently open- wellies are required when it is muddy. We have a mud kitchen at the back which everyone is enjoying. We also have a "boom box" outside at lunchtimes with a Westbury playtime playlist full of everyone's favourite pop songs and a gymnastics area for handstands. We have a quiet area with dinosaurs and cars out on a table and the playground is open for sports and active play. Chalks are out for drawing on the path, walls and ground.

DONATIONS of *kitchen utensils, pots, pans, wooden spoons, baking trays* would be VERY welcome. Also *chalk, dinosaurs, cars or any "loose parts" such as tyres, carpet tiles*. Thanks!

Message from the Governing Board

The governors would like to welcome you back to the spring term and thank you for your patience with the building work on the floor that was required. We hope the disruption was kept to a minimum and we would like to thank the staff for all their hard work moving furniture during the holidays so we could start the year with all the children in school



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How can I get my child to eat healthier

if they won't try new things?



Our top 6 tips to tackle fussy eating at home

Peter Humbles, Family Nutritionist

Get **FREE** support to get your family healthier

Join programmes starting in January, or start online programmes now!

1. The big "why"? Why don't they try new things? Are there tastes or textures they love or hate?

2. Check your language. Aim for encouraging language and avoid labelling. Swap "my child doesn't eat vegetables" for "my child loves sweetcorn."

3. Lower anxiety at mealtimes. Phones away and focus on chatting. There's no need to pressure them to try new foods.

4. Exposure. Get them to pick out fruits and veg when you're out shopping and ask them to help chop them up.

5. Routine. Set mealtimes to build regular habits and aim for 2 healthy snacks per day between meals.

6. Make it fun! Make funny face pizzas and add some new toppings.



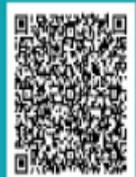
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Scan the code

...or click here
to find out more

Sign up today!





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Westbury Players

Rapunzel

A PANTOMIME
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
MARK LANDON

WESTBURY
PARISH HALL

PERFORMANCES - 2024:
SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY (INCLUDES MEAL)
SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY (MATINÉE - NO MEAL)
FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY (INCLUDES MEAL)
SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY (INCLUDES MEAL)

TICKETS:
MEAL NIGHT: £17.50
MATINÉE: £5
£3 CHILD UNDER 16
1 child free with every paying adult

Our own Mrs Roseblade is in this production! There are still tickets available for the matinee. Call 01452 76063