



## A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been storytelling week at Westbury. The week began with a real live storyteller in school, regaling the pupils with his fabulous tales of mermaids, wise blind men, caves, oceans and danger. Following on from this each class are writing their own stories, populated with fairy tale characters in fantastical settings.

Next week we are marking Internet Safety day with a focus on digital wellbeing, which is a hot topic at the moment for both adults and children. Please see information all about this, with a link to follow, later in this newsletter.

Wellies at playtime are working well but please make sure your children have a coat to wear on cold days, thank you!

**Anna-Mai Armstrong**  
**Headteacher**

Christian Values  
Our Value this term is

❖ **COURAGE**

Worship Team acted out the Bible story of David and Goliath this week.





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### CLASS NEWS



#### CHESTNUTS

The children have been busy in Forest School, collecting lots of items for treasure hunts and making nature pictures with what they found. They have continued to learn more sounds in phonics - thank you for all the bits you are sending in from home, the children really enjoy showing their friends what they have brought in. The children have been very creative making their versions of the different breeds of dogs from Hairy Maclary and have started to learn how to describe each character.

#### WILLOW



In History, we had a special visitor! Mrs Sim's mum came into school to talk to us about the toys she had when she was little. She bought her teddy bear, Pixie, who is 77 years old! The children read out the questions they had written in Literacy and Lynn answered them. A lot of children brought toys into school that were from the past. They enjoyed sharing them with Lynn and the class. They talked about who they belonged to and how they were different from their toys. We also heard from parents/carers and grandparents from home about their favourite toys, via a short questionnaire. Thank you to everyone who filled them in and brought toys in - the children loved sharing them.

#### SYCAMORE



It has been a busy few weeks. We are enjoying learning our birthdays in French. With one outdoor learning session postponed due to the storm, the following week we made bird feeders. We have been learning about the layers of the rainforests and what lives in the rainforest in Geography. In Science, we have learnt about reflection and how reflective material can keep us safe in the dark. We have also learnt how to stay safe in the sunshine. In PE, with Miss Wills, we have been learning yoga. In English, we have learnt our skills in preparation for writing our own versions of Star in the Jar and this week we are enjoying storytelling week, especially the visit from Michael Harvey.

#### OAK



In our theme over the last few weeks we have looked at music from around the world, specifically Samba and Japanese music. We have sorted materials in science and explored how clothing will need to change around the world to keep people warm. In RE we have learnt about the beliefs of Muslims around the world, looking at 'The 5 pillars of Islam', Mosques and Islamic prayer. We have completed our 'Around the world in 80 days' unit in English with some exciting alternative endings, and after our inspiration from the story teller earlier in the week, we're planning our own traditional tale.



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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:** Finn, Hattie

**Year One:** Django Eliza

**Year Two:** Max KD, Gregory

**Year Three:** Eden, Alex

**Year Four:** Martha, Bethany

**Year Five:** Xanthe, Pearl

**Year Six:** Flora, Harry

## The Westbury Way Award

for a pupil who consistently demonstrates *The Westbury Way*

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

The awards went to *Wilf* and *Billy* these past 2 weeks.



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### Staffing News

We are interviewing two teachers on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Once we have appointed, we will inform you of the new staffing structure for the Summer Term.

#### Dates for your diary:

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Safer Internet Day

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb:** End of term

**19<sup>th</sup> Feb:** New term starts

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb-** Baby and Toddler group in the hall 9.45am

**7<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day- Details to follow!

**13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March:** Parents evenings

**20<sup>th</sup> March-** End of theme drop in- open Classrooms. ALL PARENTS and CARERS welcome 8.30- 9.15. Come and see your children's work at the end of term.

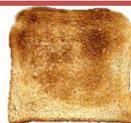
#### Attendance update

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

**Whole School Target - 96%**

*Pupils with attendance below 90% are classed as Persistent Absentees. Their attendance will be monitored by the Headteacher. If there are concerns, we will arrange a meeting with parents and carers to help improve their attendance.*

### TOAST



Please remember that the cost of toast per day is **20p** or **£1 a week**. We won't refuse anyone a slice if they are hungry, or have forgotten their money, but we are no longer making as much of a profit on our toast bar. (In the past, the profit from toast bar has paid for additional school resources to support pupils). Also, the cost of bread has risen (pardon the pun) and so if you can pay, please do. If it starts to be financially unaffordable, we will discontinue this service. Thank you.



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### Safer Internet Day

February 6<sup>th</sup>

For Safer Internet Day 2024, the **UK Safer Internet Centre** is organising celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Inspiring change? Making a difference, Managing Influence and Navigating Change Online**'. We are celebrating by putting children and young people's voices at the heart of the day and encouraging them to shape the online safety support they receive.

Children nowadays are what we call "**digital natives**" - they are comfortable with technology and it is at the heart of their lives. Our role as educators, parents and carers is to help them **navigate this world safely** so that it can contribute positively to their education and enhance their communication. Technology is changing rapidly and children may use platforms and apps we are not familiar with. It's advisable to be familiar with the platforms they are on yourself- TikTok, Snapchat

We will spend the afternoon of Tuesday Feb 6<sup>th</sup> discussing "**Digital wellbeing**" with pupils.



Effective time away from devices



Healthy and appropriate expression online



Positive influences, interactions, and encounters



Critical thinking around information and online harm

In the meantime, if you would like to read up about how to support your children being safe online please click on the link.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

# Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



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SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School																			
2024/25																			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				<b>OCTOBER</b>				<b>NOVEMBER</b>											
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tues		3	10	17	24		Tues		1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur		3	10	17	24	31	Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24	
<b>DECEMBER</b>				<b>JANUARY</b>				<b>FEBRUARY</b>											
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23		
<b>MARCH</b>				<b>APRIL</b>				<b>MAY</b>											
Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tues		4	11	18	25		Tues		1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur		6	13	20	27		Thur		3	10	17	24		Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25		
<b>JUNE</b>				<b>JULY</b>				<b>AUGUST</b>											
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tues		3	10	17	24		Tues		1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27
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Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	31	
<b>Term Time</b>							<b>Holidays</b>						<b>Christmas Bank Holidays</b>	25th December 2024					
<b>Bank Holiday</b>							<b>Inset</b>							26th December 2024					
<b>Term 1:</b>	Mon 2nd Sept –	Fri 25th Oct 2024	40 days	<b>Christmas Bank Holiday</b>	25th December 2024							<b>New Year Bank Holiday</b>	1st January 2025						
<b>Term 2:</b>	Mon 4th Nov –	Fri 20th Dec 2024	35 days	<b>Good Friday</b>	18th April 2025							<b>Easter Monday</b>	21st April 2025						
<b>Term 3:</b>	Mon 6th Jan –	Fri 14th Feb 2025	30 days	<b>Easter Monday</b>	21st April 2025							<b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>	5th May 2025						
<b>Term 4:</b>	Mon 24th Feb –	Fri 11th Apr 2025	35 days	<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>	26th May 2025							<b>Summer Bank Holiday</b>	25th August 2025						
<b>Term 5:</b>	Mon 28th April –	Fri 23rd May 2025	19 days																
<b>Term 6:</b>	Mon 2nd June –	Mon 21st July 2025	36 days																

\*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2024/25 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend). In 2024/25 school staff will attend **4 Inset days and 2 twilight Insets** (taken in lieu on 21.7.24)



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### Parents' Relationships Matter Gloucestershire



Next online  
group course  
starts March  
2024!

## Arguing better

oneplusone

Disagreements are a normal part of life, and most couples argue from time to time. The way you approach these conversations can make a big difference to you, your partner, and your children.

*Arguing better* is a free online course to help you manage difficult conversations, avoid conflict, and improve things for your whole family.

#### You will learn:

- Where stress comes from and how it can affect you.
- Ways to recognise stress and talk about it.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.

### Arguing Better Group Course

#### How do I access a group?

Groups take place in just two 90 min sessions (over two consecutive weeks) on Microsoft Teams. You will need access to Wi-Fi, a smart phone, laptop, or tablet. And its free!

#### Who is it for?

- Anyone with a parenting role for a child or young person
- Adoptive Parents
- Foster Parents
- Guardians/family members with parenting role

Parents are welcome to attend alone, with a partner, friend, or family member.

#### How do I book on to the next group?

For more information about future *Arguing Better* group dates or to book on contact:

The Family Information Service.

Email: [Familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk)



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**FOREST SPORTS EDUCATION**  
WHERE OPPORTUNITY MEETS POTENTIAL  
prostars

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Ashfield Park, RoW

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Primrose Hill, Lydney

St White's, Cinderford  
Cinderford, Gloucestershire

Finlay Community School  
Finlay, Gloucester

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**AGES 5-11**

# ACTIVITY camp

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