



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 30th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thankfully the weather has calmed a bit and the children are continuing to have happy, muddy, fun playtimes. On Monday, the winds were very strong but we did get outside for lunchtime play, giving children the option to play indoors if they preferred.

We are very much looking forward to our Storytelling week next week. On Monday we are having a professional Storyteller come into school and lead workshops with every class. Then the pupils will follow a 3-day Storytelling programme, devised by the National Literacy Trust with the theme "Reimagine Your World".

On Friday next week, we are competing in a Times Tables Rock Stars UK WIDE competition so get practising at home! Wouldn't it be great if we WON!?

#smallschooldreamingbig

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

WORSHIP

Our value this term is **PERSEVERANCE-**
a Purple learning skill





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Class News



CHESTNUTS

The children have had lots of fun over the last couple of days playing in Forest School, they have been coming out of the area completely covered in mud. As they said "We are mud monsters"! Our focus book has been "**Brown Bear, Brown bear what do you see?**" - the majority of the children have now learnt the story by heart and have thoroughly enjoyed joining in when the story is read. This week they made binoculars to see what animals they could find in the outside EYFS area and Forest School. We have had a few new starters and children extending their hours over the last couple of weeks, and we are pleased to announce that we are *open on Tuesdays* again, so if you wish to change to or add a few extra hours on a Tuesday, please let Mrs Trigg know.



WILLOW

Willow Class have been busy looking at the book '**Dinosaurs and all that rubbish**'. In Maths, Year 1 have been developing their place value skills, exploring number facts for numbers 11- 15. Reception children have been practising their counting skills and exploring taller and shorter objects. In History, the children have had great fun creating salt dough fossils and exploring how fossils were formed. They discussed what it would be like to be a palaeontologist like Mary Anning. In Science, the children have started their new unit Animals including humans - Year 1 have been classifying animals into different groups whilst reception have been exploring animals on the land, in the sea and in the sky.



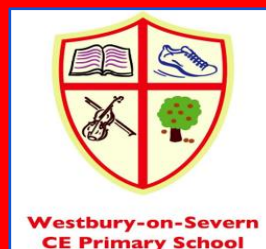
SYCAMORE

In History, we have been looking at Stone Age artefacts and learning how archaeologists study different artefacts. In Science we have continued our learning about forces. We have been finding out about how the different poles on magnets repel and attract. In English, we have considered how our lives are the same and different as in the Stone Age and used drama to help us imagine what life was like then. In Maths, the Y3s have been continuing to practise subtraction methods with 3 digit numbers and Y2s have begun a new topic about multiplication and division. Y2s have also learnt about turning left and right, using the words "clockwise" and "anticlockwise". This would be great to continue practising with the children at home.



OAK

Oak class thoroughly enjoyed their History walk around the village last week; we took time to really look around the village for evidence of its rich historical past. We found old jail cells still attached to the 'Old Station', memorial benches, work house walls, old entrances to school, historic graffiti and markings and much more. We used our knowledge of the village in our Geography where we created sketch maps of Westbury high street. This started with large maps made from Lego and Knex, and then we drew these in our Geography books ready to add to later in the theme. We have completed our English unit on the 'Grimm tales' and have started reading '**The Mermaid of Zennor**' - we've just written letters in character using present perfect tense.



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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.

Willow Class Academic Excellence Awards: Finn and Ellie
Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Awards: Seb and Max P
Oak Class Academic Excellence Awards: Harrison and Violet

Attendance update

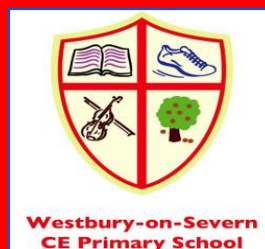
Sept 1st – January 29th 2025 = **96.5%**



We have maintained above the national attendance levels all term, so far- brilliant news!

Whole School Target - 98%

Please note that from September 2024 new attendance regulations mean that Headteachers are required to inform the Local Authority of **any unauthorised absences totalling 5 full days** (10 sessions) – this can include Late after the register closes- if these absences fall within 10 weeks of each other. Each parent of each child will be issued with a fixed Penalty Notice and the fines have increased. Exceptional circumstances rarely apply to a term time holiday. If circumstances are exceptional, we may require evidence. This high focus on attendance from the Department of Education is due to the poor school attendance UK wide rates since Covid. **If your child's attendance falls below 90% (persistent absentee) we may contact you for an attendance meeting.**



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Dates for your diary

3rd February: National Storytelling Week- we are inviting a Storyteller in to tell the school stories and work with each class.

11th February: Safer Internet Day

13th February: Last day of term 3

14th February: INSET DAY for staff training-**school closed** for pupils.

24th February: – Term 4 starts

6th March - World Book Day

25th March- Life Education Tent visiting- PSHE focus for each year group

27th March- Mother's Day service in school 9.15

1st and 2nd April- Parents Evenings

2nd April- Scholastic Book Fair visiting

7th- 11th April- Residential for Y5/6

11th April- INSET day for staff, **school closed** to pupils

28th April- Term 5 starts

29th April- Swimming starts for Y2,3,4,5

5th May- Bank holiday- school closed

12th May- 15th May- SATs week for Y6

16th May- OPAL play afternoon with parents, carers, family members and siblings 1.35-3pm

23rd May- Term ends

2nd June- Term 6 starts

11th June- Year 6 Leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral

13th June- Father's Day Service in school 9.15

26th June- Parent and Carer drop in to see pupils' work 8.30-9.15am

7th- 11th July- Dream Big ACTIVE week- PE kit all week- daily sports/active lessons

9th July- Sports morning on the field (weather permitting)

18th July- Last day of term, farewell Year 6



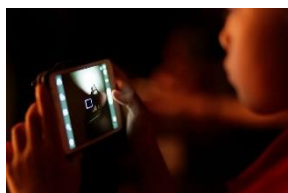
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Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on 11th February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**'. Each class will be spending time considering this question.

Tips for parents from the Safer Internet Centre UK



- **Talk about their online experiences**

Help give your child the language to explain what they're experiencing online by starting conversations about the internet and technology as early as possible. Talking regularly about what they love doing online, as well as any worries they may have, will help establish this habit and mean they're more likely to come to you for help as they get older.

- **Make use of settings, especially relating to online purchases**

[Parental controls and other safety settings](#) can help protect your child from online harms, including scams. To avoid any nasty surprises on your bank statement, make sure in-app purchases or new downloads require a passcode, and don't set card details to autofill on devices your child has access to.

- **Explain that not everything online is true**

If your child is too young to understand what fraud is, you can still lay the groundwork to help them stay safe online as they grow. Start simple and talk about the difference between real and make believe. Help them recognise that not everything online is true and that some things they see or hear could be stories, jokes or tricks.



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STREET DANCE CLASSES



Come down to westbury on severn village hall to learn some new moves!



Wednesdays 4:30-5:30

Learn from someone with lots of experience in the dancing industry, competing in various international level

Hour sessions for £7 ✨ competitions!

Ages 4-12 ✨

Venue- westbury on severn parish hall

All abilities ✨

*Contact-
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