

A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 9th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's a jam packed newsletter this week, taking us through to half term. Lots has been happening, as you can see. Willow Class were out yesterday on their school trip to "All Things Wild" and had a beautiful day for it. We are sure that they were inspired and had a good experience.

We will soon be launching our new school website; we are just tweaking aspects of how it looks. We hope to update it with new photographs and make it more user friendly. All feedback is welcome as to what you might like on our website, since it is very much a resource for Parents and Carers. The School Council has recently ordered some new playground equipment for playtimes- watch this space.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

Christian Values Our Value this term is ❖ PERSEVERANCE

We held a Prayer Space for Lent last week in the hall, led by Jonathan Kear. Some of the stations were linked to the value of Perseverance. The children reflected deeply and participated very well in all classes.



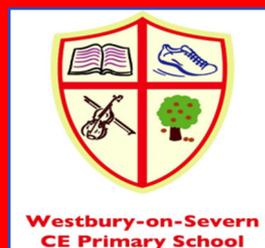
Perseverance



For you / Perseverance



Fixer upper



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CLASS NEWS



CHESTNUTS

This week in Chestnuts the children have been busy learning some new PE skills - they have been learning how to do Star Jumps, marching with our legs and arms and balancing on one foot (which was very tricky). These will help the children to develop their coordination skills. They have also been doing lots of mark making and letter recognition for the letters of their names. Our letter and sound for the week has been 'C'.



WILLOW

In English we have been writing instructions on how to wash a woolly mammoth based on the book of the same name. In Maths the Year 1s have been comparing two digit numbers and finding one more and one less. In Mastering Number they have been looking at number bonds to 10. Reception children have continued their Maths journey by looking at 5 and a bit for numbers up to 10. In computing we talked about what animation is and the children have created their own mini animation of a dinosaur. They look great! Yesterday we had a wonderful time at All Things Wild. The children all behaved very well. We went on a journey through time back to the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods learning about all the dinosaurs from the different periods. We then looked at different fossils and had a go at digging for them.



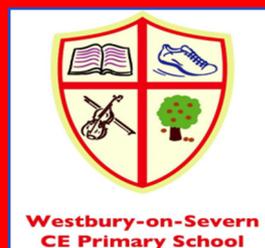
SYCAMORE

What a wonderful couple of weeks in Sycamore Class. We have been exploring the mysteries of Skara Brae and Stonehenge in our history lessons. As scientists, we have been investigating magnetic force and are creating a fridge magnet. In English, we have reached the end of our unit on Stone Age Boy and writing our own narratives in the style of the story. We are continuing to subtract, multiply and learn about shape and money in maths. We have had the laptops out to practice our times tables on Times Tables Rock Stars, we've got a few Rock Legends in our midst!



OAK

Oak class have continued to explore scientific and religious explanations of creation. Over the last few weeks we've thought about what questions religion and science can answer and if you can be both a scientist and religious. We've explored famous scientists whose faith is important to them and have learnt about how they feel religion has helped them. In English, we have started a new unit where we're discussing climate change. We've looked at some weather phenomena and how we can report on this - creating empathy using the passive voice and sharing detail with modifying adjectives.



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Attendance update School Target



96%+

Whole School Sept 2022- Feb 2023= **93%**

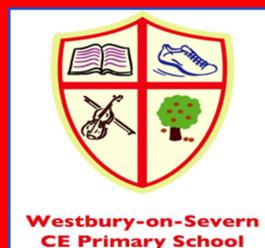
If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with **school work**. In a busy school day, it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep **friendships**; a vital part of growing up.

A message from Mrs Landon- our History Subject Leader

Our school will be celebrating its **175th anniversary** at the beginning of the next academic year. Plans to mark the occasion are in the early stages, but I would love to hear from past pupils about their memories of their time at school, and also if anyone is happy to share photos they may have of the school. Please feel free to share this with other members of the community, I'd love to hear from them!

Please contact Mrs Landon on s.landon@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk if you have anything to offer. Thank you.

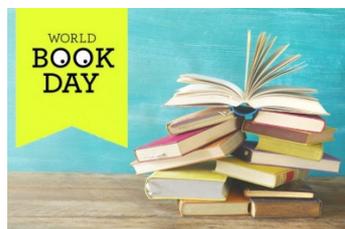


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Mrs. Roseblade would like to remind parents of Oak Class children of the meeting on Wednesday 15th February at 6pm in school when she will be giving information about the upcoming PGL trip.



We have timetabled **WORLD BOOK DAY** for Tuesday 14th March. We will be inviting an author in to work with each class, asking everyone to dress up as a book character and other book related excitement for the day.

More details nearer the time.

GOVERNORS 200 CLUB

Below are the winners for the January 200 Club draw-

1st Prize - Cindy Morris-Green

2nd Prize - Sue Matthews

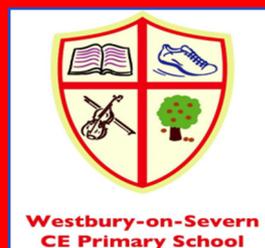
3rd Prize - Simon Phelps

4th Prize - Margaret Swinley

Jackpot - Frances Down

Congratulations to all winners.

If you would like to participate in the next draw, please contact [Jen Sigournay](mailto:Jen.Sigournay@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk)- Parent Governor.



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Afghan Aid

You may have seen the photograph of the girl in the mountains of Afghanistan that was sent to us before Christmas. The Times newspaper run an article on these two remarkable photographs. Here is the article:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/christmas-appeal-jumper-highlights- plight-afghan-girls-sllhpqqch>

We held a Whole school worship on this on Monday and would like to fundraise for Afghan Aid in response to this photograph, linking us to a community in war-torn Afghanistan, all the more poignant since girls in Afghanistan are being denied an education. We believe that the cardigan was donated through our clothes bank, Recycle with Michael.

On Friday 17th February we ask everyone to either wear a school cardigan over their home clothes, or a cardigan type top (maybe zipped or buttoned). We ask for parents to send a donation, if they can, to

<https://www.afghanaid.org.uk/donate/>





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Safeguarding Updates

As you may know, we are developing a Trauma informed approach to behaviour. When a child is angry, dysregulated or struggling, we try to deal with this using the PACE strategy. We are finding it is very useful:

P **Playfulness**

- Playfulness in interactions can diffuse conflict and promote connection e.g. Maintaining a relaxed 'lightness' and can involve making a joke (though this has to be done carefully)

A **Acceptance**

- Accepting needs and emotions that drive behaviour (not necessarily the behaviour) without judgement

C **Curiosity**

- Being curious to where a behaviour has come from (in your head or out loud..)

E **Empathy**

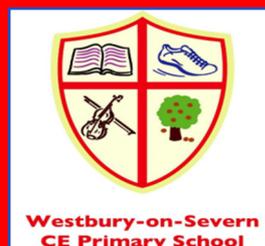
- Really connecting with how they are feeling and showing compassion

P.A.C.E is an approach developed by Dr Dan Hughes aimed at supporting recovery from developmental trauma. However, it can be a useful attitude to adopt with anyone who is emotionally dysregulated

Illustrated by *Julia King*

Tuesday 14th February is **SAFER INTERNET DAY** in school and each class will be learning how to keep themselves safe online. The theme this year is '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'

You may want to talk to your child that afternoon about what they have learnt. Here is a link to the safer internet website <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>



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**FREE
HALF-TERM
CREATIVE
WORKSHOPS**

AGES 7 - 12 YRS

At Cinderford Artspace, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside St, Cinderford, GL14 2NL

- Collage Portraits with Misia Kielt**
Monday 20th February 10:30am – 12:30pm
Use a range of recycled materials to create a colourful portrait of yourself, a friend or even your pet! Explore how to use cut and torn papers to create texture, pattern and contrast within your work.
- Circus Skills! With Rhys Williams**
Tuesday 21st February 10:30am – 12:30pm
Whether Circus is new to you have lots of experience come and have a go at a range of different skills, including Juggling, plate spinning and hula hoop to name a few. Ever wanted to be high off the ground? We can also introduce you to 'Aerial' where you can learn how to do tricks on Trapeze.
- Pixel Mosaics With Rhys Williams**
Tuesday 21st February 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Love classic computer games? Come along and create some pixel art! Using mosaic and a range of paper 'tiles' you will create your own character and/or world based on your favourite computer games. The mosaic technique can be used to create images or characters that look pixilated or 'blocky' like in retro computer games...
- Graffiti Name Boards With Kate Fellows**
Wednesday 22nd February 10:30am – 12:30pm
Create your own graffiti inspired name board using paint, pens and stencils. Explore different graffiti text styles and ways to decorate your board to express your own individual style!
- Crazy Animal Circus Creatures With Kate Fellows**
Wednesday 22nd February 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Yes, you read that right...Crazy animal circus creatures! Come and create your own fantastic circus creatures using fabric and pipe cleaners, what animal and circus skill will you choose?



To book, or for more information call 01594 825111 or email dan@artspacecinderford.org

