



## A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year, I hope your children are coming home and reporting the same to you. The new Reception children walked in confidently on their first day and have settled quickly and happily. The weather is unseasonably warm so please make sure children have suncream on before school, hats to wear plus a water bottle with their name on it to bring in to stay cooler.

By the end of the week, all themes sheets & knowledge organisers will have gone home so please check bookbags for these. They are also on the class pages on our website. This empowers you, as a parent, to know what your child is learning, the knowledge organiser highlights the specific facts/content that the class will learn this term. I hope you find these useful.

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

Christian Values  
Our Value this term is

❖ **HOPE**

At the start of every term we explore the value of Hope -  
what are our hopes for this term?





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### CLASS NEWS



#### CHESTNUTS

The new preschool children are settling in well, they have enjoyed investigating all the new toys and making new friends. We have visited the Forest School area and are looking forward to starting our sessions next week.



#### WILLOW

Welcome to Willow Class. We have had a lovely first few days in class, exploring the different areas of the classroom and getting to know each other. The receptions have settled in well and have enjoyed their start to school life. We are looking forward to the year ahead and all the exciting themes we have. Our first theme is Amazing Animals! We are focusing on safari animals and will be going on an exciting trip which you will receive a letter about shortly.



#### SYCAMORE

It has been a super week welcoming the children back to school. They have settled into the new routines and been showing kindness to each other as they do so. We have begun our theme "Funnybones" by looking at ourselves. We created self-portraits and wrote about ourselves. We have started our maths lessons and we are all learning about place value. All in all, a great start to the school year!



#### OAK

Welcome to (and welcome back to) the new Oak class! The children have settled in incredibly well and we have already started our new theme of 'Off with their heads!'. We're all looking forward to exploring our history theme this term exploring British royal history. We're already getting stuck into our new English book of '**How to train your dragon**' by Cressida Cowell and the children are using their clay dragon eyes as writing inspiration over the unit. New worship team and house captains are in place and we're ready for the academic year!



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### Attendance update

**School Target - 96%**

**Last year's whole school attendance overall for the academic year was 92.7%.**

(Even if absence is authorised it contributes to the absence data.) The data on absence is clear- the pupils who are in school more often do better academically. 2 pupils at Westbury last year had 100% attendance, which is very impressive.

"The data shows that in 2019, [primary school](#) children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard." **D of E**

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**Any changes** to family circumstances (phone numbers, new addresses or pick up/travel arrangements) please let Anna Cox know in the office so we can update our records.

#### PARENT NEEDED!

We are looking for a parent who would like to be involved in our upcoming OPAL work, developing playtimes. <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/the-opal-primary-programme/> It would mean being available occasionally to come into school during the day for meetings and planning. The aim of the working party is to explore ways to make playtime more enjoyable and active. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Armstrong.



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### SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

If anyone completed the Summer Reading Challenge, we would like to celebrate this in our Friday Celebration Assembly with the rest of the school. Pupils can come and see me and I will make sure we mention it, either this week or next week.



Thank  
You

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped tidy up **Forest School**, installing a mud kitchen, shelter and storage box, as well as fixing the swing and clearing the ground. It looks wonderful and the children will benefit hugely from your support.

#### **FOODBANK donations:**

We need a few more donations to fill the box we have in our entrance area. If you have any non-perishable items you can spare, please send them in ASAP.

Thank you!



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We are offering 1:1 piano lessons this year, delivered by *Ms Fiona Crawley*, a very experienced teacher and musician and will take place at the school on **Tuesday afternoons**.

These lessons are available to children in **Years 2-6**.

Lessons will be 20 minutes long and there will be ten per term.

The cost per term is £100 and this is payable in advance please, either by cash or online.

It is advisable for students to have access to a piano or electric keyboard at home; progress is much faster. However, this is not a necessity and students may still take lessons without an instrument at home. **Please email Fiona directly for questions, queries and bookings**

**[fiona.crawley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fiona.crawley@yahoo.co.uk)**

## CRICKET LAST TERM



During the month of June I have had the pleasure of taking three separate teams (Yr 5 & 6 boys, Yr 5 & 6 girls and Yr 3 & 4 mixed) to attend Dynamo's Cricket matches around the Forest of Dean. The teams each came with a variety of experience from those who play regularly to those who had never held a cricket bat and bowled before. We had mixed success in our matches but it was fantastic to watch the children improve their cricketing skills, their

communication and team working skills, as well as them all

having lots of fun representing their school, which they did brilliantly. Well done to all those who took part!

A big thank you also to those parents/grandparents who offered their support with transport and watched to cheer on the teams.

*Mrs Kift*



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### Governors

Welcome back to all staff, pupils and parents.

We hope you all had a lovely summer break and are ready for the new school year.

With best wishes from all the governors.

Below are the winners for the July and August 2023 200 Club draw

1st Prize - Val Hoskins 96

2nd Prize - Frances Down 60

3rd Prize - Polly Woodman 197

4th Prize - Andrew Trigg 94

Jackpot - Sam Worgan 135

1st Prize - Sam Worgan 135

2nd Prize - Andrew Trigg 40

3rd Prize - Polly Woodman 155

4th Prize - Frances Down 62

Jackpot - Anna Cox 42

### Staffing News

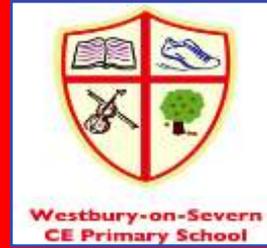
Unfortunately, we are having to say good bye to two teaching assistants, Mrs Henry and Mrs Crompton. Mrs Crompton is leaving on 3rd October due to family circumstances. Mrs Henry, has been offered an exciting opportunity elsewhere and will be leaving us on Friday 22nd September. She would like to give thanks to all the staff and parents for their kindness and support over the years and to the children for making her role so enjoyable and rewarding. We are sorry to see them go but we wish them all the best for the future.

This means that we are advertising for two teaching assistant positions

<https://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolvacancies/>. Mr Bruce is continuing teaching

Fridays until we find a permanent replacement so there are 3 adverts out for staff currently.

We will update you on our progress with recruitment.



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*Willow and Chestnut Class are looking for.....*

- *A wooden playhouse for our EYFS outside area.*
- *Puzzles with fewer than 50 pieces*

If you, or someone you know, has one you would like to donate please let one of the EYFS team know. (Mrs Sim, Miss Wills, Mrs Trigg, Mrs Bettridge, Mrs Morris Green)  
Thanks!

### **Dates for your diary:**

Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> Sept- After school clubs start.

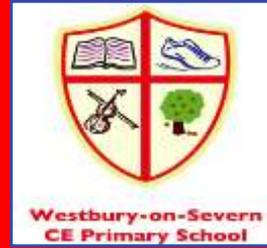
Flu immunisations **3<sup>rd</sup> October**- you will receive paperwork on this next week.

**25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October**- Parents' evenings.

**26<sup>th</sup> October**- last day of term (*27<sup>th</sup> October is an INSET day*)

Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November will be the school's **175<sup>th</sup> anniversary** celebrations- watch this space for our exciting plans for a History "Dream Big" week.

Our new wraparound afterschool club has started and is taking bookings. It is run separately from the afterschool clubs run by staff. It is a Progressive Sports enterprise, please see details below.



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**WRAPAROUND CARE AT**

**WESTBURY ON SEVERN C OF E**

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DELIVERED BY PROGRESSIVE SPORTS**

**TREMENDOUS TUESDAYS (GOLF CLUB) 3.10PM UNTIL 4.30PM**

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS (TENNIS CLUB) 3.10PM UNTIL 4.30PM**

**FANTASTIC FRIDAYS (DODGEBALL CLUB) 3.10PM UNTIL 4.30PM**

**ARTS AND CRAFTS, MOVIE TIME AND MUCH MUCH MORE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE!**

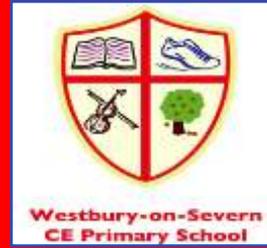
**Book your child's place online now:**  
**PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS-NORTH-**  
**GLOS.CLASSFORKIDS.IO**

**Prices:**  
£5 per session, or  
£40 per half term  
(individual days)

**WRAPAROUND CARE CAN ONLY BE BOOKED ONLINE OR BY CONTACTING THE PROGRESSIVE SPORTS OFFICE ON:**

**EMAIL - INFO@PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS.CO.UK**

**TELEPHONE - 01889 343120**



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### How to Book

Booking your child's place in our wraparound care is quick and easy:

1. Visit our website at [www.progressive-sports.co.uk](http://www.progressive-sports.co.uk) and navigate to the "Wraparound Care" section.
2. Choose your preferred location and select the days and times that suit your needs.
3. Fill in the necessary registration information, including emergency contact details.
4. Complete the payment process securely through our online booking system and select whether its an ad-hoc booking or contract booking.
5. Receive a confirmation email with all the details.

### Payment Options

When paying for your child's fees you have a number of options on how to pay. We accept the following methods of payment:

- Card Payments or Bacs
- Government Tax Free Childcare Scheme
- Childcare Vouchers

When paying via Government Tax Free Scheme please search for 'Progressive Sports @ Picknalls'

If you wish to make payment via Childcare Vouchers, please use the codes below.

Voucher Provider	Account Details
Computer Voucher Services	Search for Progressive Sports, under postcode WS7 3XH
Edenred Childcare Vouchers	P20588543
Employers for Childcare	Search for Progressive Sports, under postcode WS15 1UZ
Fideliti	Search for Progressive Sports, under postcode WS15 1UZ
Kiddivouchers	Search for Progressive Sports, under postcode WS7 3XH
Sodexo	819137
Co-op Flexible Benefits	85013789
Busy Bees Benefits	bbb036



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## ENGAGE JUNIORS

(Ages 5 - 10)

Starts Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

4:00pm – 5:15pm (at Artspace Cinderford)

Develop your skills as a circus performer and learn tricks of the trade. Play circus games with others and see what circus skill your favourite is. Diablo, flower stix, rola bola, stilts, the list goes on.

Cost: Block of 6 £30. Individual class £5. Concessions available

Contact [circus@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:circus@artspacecinderford.org) for more details.



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Stage 7 of this year's Men's Tour of Britain Cycle Race is taking place in Gloucestershire this **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**.

If you want to watch the race live, the action starts in Tewkesbury at 11am and finishes in **Gloucester Docks at approximately 3:15pm** with the route going through both the Cotswold and Stroud Districts. For details of the route and timings, please follow this link <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-seven/>. Get out there and cheer the riders on!

From 12pm, there will be an exciting finish event in Gloucester docks including a BMX display, Stunt cyclists, Smoothie bikes, Cycle Scalextric, balance bikes, mini racing bikes, a circus bike workshop, a watt bike challenge, live music and more.