



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 16th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is not a long term but it is certainly a busy one.

It was great to see so many families come to our World Book Day breakfast- nearly everything was eaten and drunk!

Don't forget we have an End of Theme drop in on Friday 24th in the morning 8.30-9am for Parents and Carers to come into school and look at all the wonderful work your children have been doing this term. Later that same day, we have an Easter Service in the church at 2.15- we hope you can make both, if at all possible. Our Mother's Day celebration is tomorrow in school at 2.30. The children will give a message to their mothers (and/or other female Carers in their lives) and the Friends of Westbury will serve up all mums a lovely surprise. We hope to see you soon at any or all of these occasions.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

Christian Values Our Value this term is ❖ JUSTICE (for dormice!)

We have started using Picture News for our Monday Worship and last week we considered the plight of the dormouse, who is now close to being an endangered species.



If you would like to explore this issue further at home with your child (ren) here is the link:

<https://www.messengernewspapers.co.uk/news/national/23313594.hazel-dormice-classified-endangered-new-research-suggests/>



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CHESTNUTS

Chestnuts have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and were very excited when we collected worms for the wormery which we have in our classroom. They have also brought in pictures with people that are special to them - they have taken turns in telling their peers why the people are special.



WILLOW

In Willow Class, we have been learning about wheels, axles and chassis. We learnt how to attach wheels and axles to the chassis. Then, we designed our Police car and started making them. We had two parent visitors to our class, to link with our theme, '**People who help us**'. One brought a guide dog in and talked about how she helps to train him and the other was a nurse. She showed the children how to put a bandage on and how to hear their hearts beating. In R.E. the children have learnt about the Easter story. They painted pictures of Jesus on the cross.



SYCAMORE

Sycamore have been busy these last few weeks. We have moved into the Iron Age and learnt about hill forts, we continued this in Outdoor Learning too. We have made a template for our sewing and begun to stitch material together to create our pouches. We have continued learning our times tables in Y2 and fractions in Y3. During French, we have been counting and in PSHE we discussed what we can do when we feel angry. Our key question in RE this term is '**Why does Easter matter to Christians?**' This began with a recap of what we know about the Easter story. Looking forward to sharing our recorder skills with you next week in our concert.



OAK

Oak class has been exploring a community action project run by the Diocese. We've been working towards getting our 'Archbishops' **Young Leaders Award**'. We're looked at various community projects around the world, and last week designed a project to help support our local community -look out for more on this to come soon. In English we have been sharing the story '**Owl moon**' and we've looked in depth at the characters and their relationships and how language choice has manipulated this.



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Attendance update

School Target - 96%

Whole School Sept 2022- March 2023= 93%

GOVERNORS 200 CLUB

Each year we sell numbers for our 200 club, if your number is picked out at the monthly draws you will win a cash prize. There are five chances to win each month.

Any money made from the club is then put to good use within the school.

If you would like to join the 200 Club please email:

j.sigournay@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk

We will also have a stand with information at the upcoming Parent evenings.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mother's Day Service in school: Friday 17th March 2.30pm (in hall)

Sycamore Recorder concert in school: Wednesday 22nd 11am (in hall)

Easter Service in church: Friday 24th March 2.15pm

**End of theme Drop in for all Parents and Carers: Friday 24th 8.30- 9am
(in school)**

Parents evenings 22nd and 23rd March – Please contact Mrs Cox in the office on 01452 760303 if you have yet to book a slot.



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WORLD BOOK DAY



This was such a fun and inspiring day. Thank you to everyone who attended our Bookish Breakfast and donated a book for the Book Swap. A big Thank you to NGK for explaining how he became an author and donating a free book to every child in school. We hope your children enjoyed the day as much as we did. Fab costumes everyone!

Parents have been asking about reading books to their children at bedtime. Please follow this link which gives ideas of which books to read to your child at what age. Hearing an adult read aloud is a relaxing and enriching experience for a child and advisable for as long as possible. Even when children can read for themselves, it is still a joyful activity to share.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/>

Following on from our Safer Internet Day, during which we discovered many children enjoy gaming online, here is some advice from NSPCC on how to ensure your child is safe online when gaming.



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Understanding online games

Online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that they play safely.

Things to consider if your child games online:

- ◆ age ratings of games they play
- ◆ messaging and contact functions on the games
- ◆ in-game purchases
- ◆ trolling, griefing and scams
- ◆ how to report problems
- ◆ where they can get further support.



Also, if you have more than one child in your home, be aware that games suitable for one child to play or watch, may not be suitable for another.



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Talk to your child regularly

Talk to your child about staying safe online, take an interest in the games they're playing and see if you can play them together and agree which ones are appropriate.

If you're going to set limits on the amount of time a child can spend playing games, make sure these are clear and that you agree them together. You could try agreeing the number of rounds your child plays instead of a length of time.

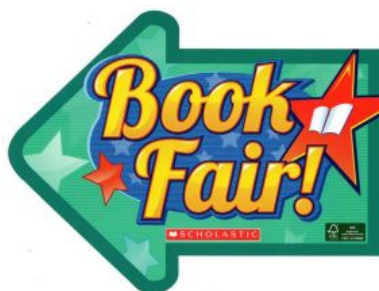
Take time to play games with your children so that you can understand the features. You can find out if there is anything concerning you need to be aware of, or safety features or parental controls which should be enabled.

- Ask why they like playing the game?
- Discuss who they're playing with. Do they know everyone on their contact or friends list? Explain that conversations should only be about the game, and if someone starts asking them other questions or suggests they speak using another app they should tell you or an adult they trust.
- Talk to them about what they're sharing. Use examples that are easy for them to understand, such as "You shouldn't give your number or any other personal information to somebody you don't know on the street. Is somebody online you don't know any different?"
- Discuss in-game purchases with your child. These can be really enticing, it's important to discuss that small amounts of money can add up very quickly. If you do allow your child to purchase items within the game discuss limits or set up their device so that purchases are turned off.



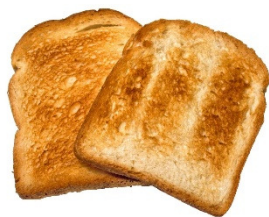
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We are holding a **Scholastic Book Fair** in school during Parents Evenings. A percentage of all book purchases in school will be donated to building up the school library so please have a browse when you visit and consider purchasing a book for your children.

TOAST BAR



Unfortunately, we are currently not covering our costs with Toast Bar, due to the huge drop in donations towards funding it. As a Church school, and as a Kind school, we won't let anyone go hungry, regardless if they have paid, but, since we made paying non-mandatory, payments have dwindled. Alongside this, the cost of bread, butter and electricity have risen, leaving us in deficit. A slice of toast mid-morning is a great boost for children and we would like to continue. Please pay if you are able to- either 20p daily or a £1 a week. You can pay for a term if you like- please talk to Anna in the office.

However, ***if we do not cover our costs, toast bar will cease.***

Thanks for your understanding.



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The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

HAF will be returning this spring for children and young people in Reception to Year 11 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

To watch our latest HAF video to get a taste of what you can expect this spring go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtQws6bsetU>

Between 3-14 April,

HAF eligible families will be able to access up to 4 days of free, fun activities in their district. To find out what days your district is delivering HAF, you can follow your HAF district lead on social media.

What will be available at HAF this spring?

- Family days out
- Football, basketball, cricket and more
- Forest skills
- Gymnastics
- Music production
- Sensory play
- Delicious food
- And more!



Scan here to visit our HAF website for more information.

Bookings open 16 March- Make sure you're HAF ready!

Sign up to our HAF booking system at: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/register-for-our-childrens-activities-booking-system/>



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**H&M
START**

GET TOGETHER!!

REFRESHMENTS

COFFEE & CAKE

SOCIALISING

THURSDAY 23RD MARCH 2023

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LOCATION:

MITCHELDEAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

5 OLD DEAN RD

MITCHELDEAN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

GL17 0BQ

RSVP

CHLOE@HOMESTARTNWGLOS.ORG.UK OR 07584 472025