



## A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems like every fortnight this newsletter grows- there is so much going on! This week's is 11 pages long so take your time! I hope the information is useful. This term is coming to a close. We have been particularly impressed with how well the new Reception children have coped with being full time from day one. We end this term with Parents evenings next week and an INSET day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

Oak Class have their trip on Monday and I'm sure they will have an incredible time, I can't wait to see the photos and hear about the day.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the church last Friday and I hope you all enjoyed the service and had a chance to meet Father David. Thanks to your generosity with donations to the Foodbank, it was very well received.

**Anna-Mai Armstrong**  
Headteacher

Christian Values  
Our Value this term is

❖ **GENEROSITY**

In Picture news this week we discussed the story of Sycamore Gap and why it was a significant place for some people. We reflected on places that were special to us.





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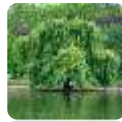
### CLASS NEWS



#### CHESTNUTS

In Chestnuts the children have been focusing on the numbers "1" and "2" and sorting objects into the correct amount piles. They have also been learning to sing "Baa, baa black sheep" as the focus nursery rhyme. The children have also started to make their own versions of some of the traditional tales we have been focusing on this half term.

As the weather is now turning colder, please could parents/carers make sure their child comes into preschool with warmer clothes to go out into forest school and welly boots as the forest school area is becoming muddy with the wet weather.



#### WILLOW

In Willow Class, we have been listening to the story, 'The Lion Inside'. We have started writing our own story with two different animals to the book! In Maths, we have finished our 2D shape unit and have learnt how to sort 2D shapes. We are going to be looking at 3D shapes next. The Year 1's have also been looking at the addition and subtraction symbols and have been writing statements using these. In Science, we observed different animals from Africa and discussed how they were similar and different. We labelled some of their body parts. We also learnt about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and sorted African animals into these three groups.

In art, we finished our Milk bottle Elmers by adding their ears and eyes. In Music, we listened to different parts of the Carnival of the Animals and tried to guess which animal was being depicted. We then had a go at using the instruments to sound like elephants, mice and other animals.



#### SYCAMORE

This term the children have been learning about Mary Seacole in history and been creating timelines and comparing life in the 1800s to now, they have found her very interesting. We have explored lighting effects in computing and created some wonderful art inspired by the Day of the Dead celebrations. We have completed our Funnybone stories with alternative endings and are now writing letters. The Y2s have begun addition in maths, whilst the Y3s have nearly finished place value. We have been learning about the importance of exercise and nutrition for our bodies and love singing our colour song in French!



#### OAK

Oak class have been really engaged in their new unit in English where we have been using our historical knowledge of the Battle of Hastings. We have written recounts from various perspectives of Saxons, Normans and even King Harold himself. We will end our unit with a recount of the actual battle itself. We will end our unit of Science this term with an investigation into how we could have helped the Kings men to save Humpty Dumpty.



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### Staffing News

We have appointed a teacher for Oak Class called Sally Smith. She is a very experienced teacher who currently works part of the week at Forest View Primary School. She will be teaching Oak Class on Fridays to job share with Mrs Roseblade.

### FAMILY FORUM



*If you would like to be a family advocate for your child's year group, or are just interested and want to know what it involves, please contact Mrs Armstrong on [head@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk) or talk to Jen Sigournay, Chair of Governors.*

**Update:** We have had nobody come forward regarding this initiative so far. If you might be interested please contact as above, but if we continue to get no interest we will cancel this proposal.

### Dates for your diary:

**23<sup>rd</sup> October-** Oak Class's trip to Berkeley Castle.

**25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October-** Parents' evenings. Please check your emails for your appointment request form. If your child is on a My Plan + or EHCP there is no need to make an appointment.

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

**8<sup>th</sup> November-** Tempest Individual Photos in school

**17<sup>th</sup> November-** 4-6pm celebrating the school's 175 year anniversary- See message below.

**24<sup>th</sup> November-** Parent and Toddler session in the hall.

**12<sup>th</sup> December-** Whole school trip to Cheltenham Everyman Theatre to see Mother Goose.

**15<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas service at the church 9.15am, all welcome



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### Westbury-on-Severn CE Primary School 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Our 175th anniversary is quickly approaching. During the week from **November 13th**, as a school we will be taking part in another **Dream Big week**, which will celebrate our school and history during the last 175 years. We will begin the week with a **Victorian Day**, where the children can come to school dressed in Victorian clothing for the day and experience Victorian teaching!

Throughout the week each class will be studying an aspect of history from 1848- the present day which will be shared with the school on Friday.

Also, on **Friday 17th November from 4pm**, there will be a display in the school hall to celebrate the 175 years. We are fortunate as a school to have a large selection of photos, maps and artefacts that we will be sharing with our families and community. Thank you to those who have offered to let us borrow items to add to this display, it is very much appreciated, and also members of the community who have shared stories about their time here at Westbury.

This is a community event, so please bring along any family members, if they have a connection to school or not, we may have a photo of them of their time here at Westbury! The PTA have kindly offered to serve tea and cake, so come along, we'd love to see you there! We are very excited about this special week in the life of the school.

***Mrs Landon (History Subject Leader)***







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### Attendance update

School Target - **96%**

From start of term- 13<sup>th</sup> October - **94.7%**

**Is my child too ill for school?** It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. [https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

 <p>Capture a portion of Screen</p> <p><b>HIGH ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL GETS YOUR CHILD'S LIFE OFF TO A FLYING START!</b></p>	 <p><b>INCREASING ATTENDANCE BY JUST 5% CAN DOUBLE THE CHANCES OF GAINING GOOD QUALIFICATIONS</b></p>	 <p><b>MISSING TWO DAYS A MONTH MEANS A CHILD MISSES 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR</b></p>	<p><b>GOOD ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL</b></p>  <p><b>Improves reading</b></p> <p>Writing + MATHS SKILLS</p>
 <p><b>THERE ARE 176 DAYS A YEAR NOT SPENT IN SCHOOL</b></p> <p>PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHOPPING, HOLIDAYS AND APPOINTMENTS!</p>	 <p><b>100s OF SUBJECTS   1000s OF CLASSES</b></p> <p><b>ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES</b></p>	 <p><b>TURNING UP JUST 5 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY ADDS UP TO OVER 3 DAYS LOST IN THE YEAR!</b></p>	<p><b>MORE SCHOOL =</b></p>  <p>HIGHER GRADES</p>  <p>INCREASED CONFIDENCE</p>  <p>MORE FRIENDS</p>  <p>BRIGHTER FUTURE</p>



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### Governing Board updates



I have been invited to write a few words to introduce myself as a new foundation governor of the school. I have recently become the parish priest for Westbury, Flaxley and Blaisdon. I have taken on this role alongside my responsibilities for Mitcheldean and Abenhall where I have been the parish priest for the past 12 years, I live in Mitcheldean. I have already been into school to introduce myself to the children and hope to meet you over the coming weeks and months.

**Fr David**



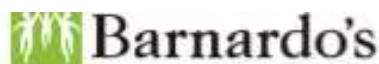
I have lived in Rodley for over twenty years and I am a private tutor and educational author specialising in Verbal Reasoning. I have been a Westbury PCC member for many years and currently I am Chair of the Church Friends. I have been a Westbury School Governor for the last seven years and have found it to be very rewarding to be part of this busy and vibrant school; a true Westbury Family.

**Frances Down**



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### UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

#### River Children & Family Centre /Severnbanks School

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 -**  
(Excluding 31st October)  
**9.30am – 11.30am**

The group is based on an approach developed in Solihull that has been helpful to parents and has shown that children's behaviour tends to improve.

We will explore topics which include:

- Tuning into children
- Parenting styles
- Temper Tantrums
- Behavioural difficulties
- Exploring feelings
- Communication
- Sleep Patterns
- Having fun together

The group is completely **free of charge** and places will be filled on a first come first served basis and will run on a Tuesday morning at **River Children & Family Centre for 10 weeks** (excluding October half term).

Please note: There is no childcare provision for this course.

For further details call River Children & Family Centre on **01594 842589** or Severnbanks School **01594 842789**  
Or to book directly contact Family Information Service on **01452 427362** [Familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**River Children & Family Centre, Naas Lane, Lydney, Glos GL15 5AU**



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More information on this FREE course below....

### **Solihull Parenting programme October 2023 River CFC**

#### **What is the programme?**

This programme focuses on the parent/child relationship by promoting reflection on why things go well and sometimes they don't.

Explore pressures you're under as a parent or carer and how your life story has impacted your parenting journey.

- Tuning into children
- Exploring feelings
- Parenting styles
- Communication – what is being communicated through behaviour
- Temper tantrums and what might be meant by them
- Sleep patterns
- Behavioural difficulties
- Having Fun together

Who should attend?

Any parent or carer with a child 0-11 years of age

#### **Aims and Objectives**

To promote understanding of children's behaviour within context of development

To increase confidence and self-esteem for parent/carers and child/ren

To give parents/carers a strategy for repair when things go wrong

To promote reflective, sensitive and positive parenting

#### **12 places remaining**

Dates and Times

Course Starts: 17th October 2023

Last Booking: 13th October 2023

*See poster above for contact details if you are interested.*





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### Friends of Westbury

Through our PTA membership package the Friends have access to '**Parentkind**' **FREE** parenting webinars and, as a parent of the school, that means you do too! If you would like to join any of the upcoming webinars all you need to do is go to the website below and book your place.

You will need the school's postcode to register which is **GL14 1PA**. Places do book up so register in advance.

#### Upcoming webinars are:

**Demystifying Maths for Parents: Key Stage 1**

**Inspiring Reading - Developing the habit and love of reading**

**Motivation Matters: How to talk so kids will listen**

**Demystifying Maths for Parents: Key Stage 2**

**A Nutritionist's Guide to Fussy Eaters**

**Conflict Styles and Difficult Conversations**

**Developing your Child's Thinking Ability**

**Time Management for Parent's Juggling Work and Family Life**

Further information and a link to register can be found online at <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars>



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### TEAMS4U SHOEBOX APPEAL

As usual we will be taking part in the Teams4U shoebox appeal that we support each year. Before the end of term we will be sending home an information leaflet with instructions for filling the boxes if you are able to. Unfortunately, we have not been given shoeboxes to fill, so please can you provide one for your items. Christmas will undoubtedly be very hard for those children living in the worst poverty. With your help, we can bring some joy into their lives. If you are able to help again this year, the shoeboxes will need to be back in school on **Tuesday 7th November**. We are hoping that each family might be able to create one shoebox, but there is no pressure to do so. Thank you again for your support with this worthwhile project.

### Information from the Library



**The Library**

**Halloween Costume Swap**



**25 September - 9 October**  
**DONATE** a costume to any library (thank you!)

**9 October - 1 November**  
**SWAP** an old costume for a new one!

- Accessories, whole and part costumes accepted
- Donations will be accepted throughout the swap
- You can still take a costume home if you don't have one to swap
- Discover swaps across all county libraries
- Both adult and child costumes welcome



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



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		Autumn/Winter Menu 2023/24				
		Monday (MFM)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK ONE 6 NOVEMBER 27 NOVEMBER 18 DECEMBER 22 JANUARY 19 FEBRUARY 11 MARCH	Option 1	MACARONI CHEESE	BQ CHICKEN WITH RICE	ROAST CHICKEN with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	PASTA BOLOGNAISE with GARLIC BREAD	FISHINGERS with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	VEGETABLE CURRY AND RICE	VEGAN MEATBALLS IN A TOMATO SAUCE WITH PASTA	VEGETABLE ROAST with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	SHERHERDESS PIE	VEGAN SAUSAGES with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 3 Jkt Pot	BEANS	CHEESE	TUNA	CHEESE	BEANS
WEEK TWO 13 NOVEMBER 4 DECEMBER 8 JANUARY 29 JANUARY 26 FEBRUARY 18 MARCH	Option 1	VEGETABLE PASTA with Tomato sauce and rice	PORK SAUSAGE with mash potato and gravy	ROAST TURKEY with Roast Potatoes & STUFFING /Gravy	CHICKEN WRAP with CUCUMBER DIP & RICE	FISHINGERS with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	SPINACH AND CHEESE WHIRL with CUCUMBER DIP AND WEDGES	VEGETABLE WRAPS WITH RICE	VEGAN SAUSAGES with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	BQ QUORN with RICE	CHEESE and TOMATO FLAN with Chips
	Option 3 JKT POT	BEANS	CHEESE	TUNA	CHEESE	BEANS
WEEK THREE 20 NOVEMBER 11 DECEMBER 15 JANUARY 5 FEBRUARY 4 MARCH	Option 1	CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA with potato wedges	CHICKEN AND BROCCOLI PASTA	ROAST GAMMON with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	COTTAGE PIE	FISHINGERS with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	TOMATO & VEGETABLE PASTA	LENTIL & SWEET POTATO CURRY AND RICE	VEGAN QUORN with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	VEGAN BURGER & WEDGES (NO BUN)	CHEESE and RED PEPPER FRITTATA with Chips
	Option 3 Jkt Pot	BEANS	CHEESE	TUNA	CHEESE	BEANS
Dessert		FRUIT FLAPJACK	LEMON ICED CAKE	FRUIT JELLY AND MANDARINS	EYES PUDDING and custard	CHOCOLATE ORANGE COOKIE
		CAULIFLOWER AND PEAS	CARROTS & GREEN BEANS	CABBAGE AND SWEDE	CARROTS & CAULIFLOWER	PEAS & BAKED BEANS
		VANILLA SHORTBREAD	CHOCOLATE SPONGE with Chocolate sauce	STRAWBERRY JELLY	FLAPJACK	FRUITY SHORTBREAD