



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 16th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Happy New Year to all of our families. I do hope the year has started well for you. On the first day back, lots of the children made very aspirational and inspiring new year's resolutions.

As you may have heard, poor Miss Wills is at home with a broken leg and fractured ankle. She fell at home on her stairs on the weekend. She had recently announced her pregnancy so this comes at a difficult time. The baby, however, is fine and Miss Wills must now rest for many weeks. In the interim, Miss George and Miss Eccles will be teaching the class- with an occasional supply teacher. We are very grateful to them for increasing their hours to help out and provide continuity for Sycamore class.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

WORSHIP

Our value this term is **PERSEVERANCE**



During our first Worship of the year we explored the true story of a boy called Musharaf Asghar, who, at school, had a terrible stammer and suffered bullying. We learnt that, with the help of a teacher, he found a way to speak and made lifelong friends. We talked about how we can persevere through difficulty, especially if we have someone encouraging and supporting us.

We talked about who that might be in our lives- parents, friends, teachers.



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Class News



CHESTNUTS

Welcome back to everyone and to our new starters! The children have settled back into the routine after the Christmas break. They have been very creative doing lots of painting and sticking. The children have enjoyed our focus story - "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle - lots of talk about the different shapes and colours of food as well as the days of the week. A busy start to the term.



WILLOW

Willow Class have had an excellent start to the term. We have been busy looking at the books '**The Odd Egg**' as we begin our new topic 'Dinosaurs, sticks and stones'. In Maths, Year 1 have been developing their place value skills, exploring number facts to 10. Reception children have been busy subitising 1 digit numbers to 6. In History, the children have had great fun exploring fossils and learning about the famous palaeontologist Mary Anning. We have observed artefacts closely and explored how difficult it is to maintain fossil remains by carefully trying to dissect chocolate chips from a cookie! In PE, the children have been working on their target skills and perfecting their throwing skills. In Science, the children have started their new unit Animals including humans - Year 1 have been identifying different carnivore, herbivore and omnivores.



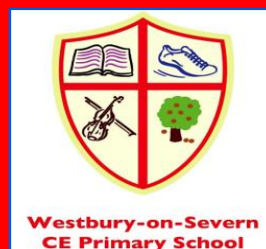
SYCAMORE

Miss George and Mrs Eccles are enjoying spending more time in Sycamore Class. In history, we have been learning about "The Stone Age". We ordered events on a timeline to help us understand when it was, compared to now. In English we are reading a story related to our Stone Age topic, called **The First Drawing**. It tells the story of an imaginative child, living thirty thousand years ago, who sees the shapes of animals in clouds, in rocks or on the walls and shares his thoughts with his family. In Science we tested how different surfaces affected the speed and distance travelled by toy cars. In RE, our new topic is "What make some places sacred to believers?" In Maths Y3 and Y2 have been working hard doing subtraction, learning some different methods to subtract.



OAK

Oak class have started their new theme all about Westbury-on-Severn. We've compared maps of the village from the late 1800s and today. In Geography we've learnt about the counties in the UK and how we can talk about them. In English we're exploring the traditional tales from the Brothers Grimm and how found out that they end happily ever after but can be quite dark! In Maths we've been looking at formal written method - Year 4 addition and Year 5 multiplication. The Year 6s have been adding mixed number fractions. In French we are learning how to describe the weather- "**Il y a des nuages**" - has been the weather this week!



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Celebration Awards

Every *Friday* we celebrate pupils' achievements during our Celebration Assembly.

This year our Awards and Certificates as follows:

Weekly Academic Excellence Award -per class

Termly Westbury Way Award- whole school

Termly Purple Learner Award- per class

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: Caspar and Evie

Willow Class Purple Learner of the Term- Marnie

Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Awards: Leah and Layla

Willow Class Purple Learner of the Term- Billy

Oak Class Academic Excellence Awards: Olive and Koen

Willow Class Purple Learner of the Term- Ollie

The Westbury Way Award for Term 2: BETHANY HARRIS

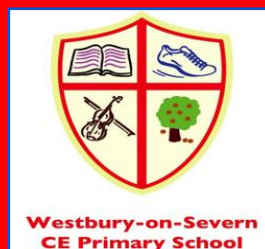
Attendance update

Sept 1st – December 10th 2024 = 96.4%



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

Whole School Target - 98%



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th January: Y1 Parents phonics meeting in Willow- all Y1 parents invited to attend 3.15 start, crèche provided.

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

11th February: Internet Safety Day

13th February: Last day of term 3

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

24th March – 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

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)

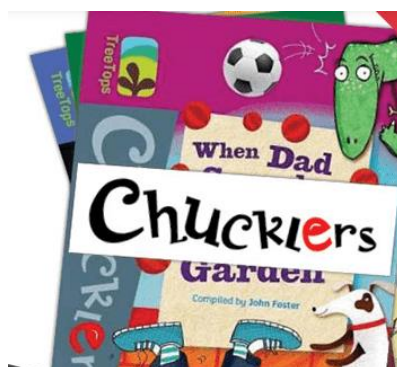
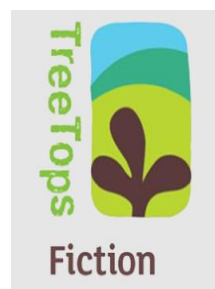
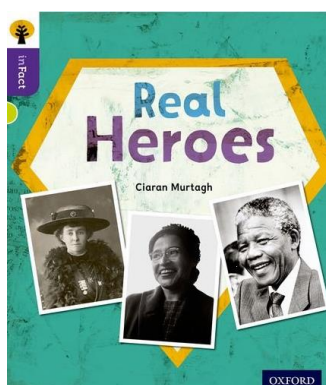
18th July- Last day of term, farewell Year 6



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MISSING! Oxford Home levelled reading books - URGENT



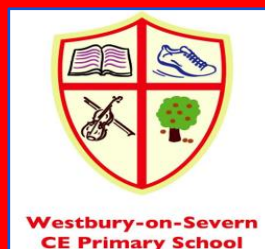
In 2022 we invested in a wonderful new reading scheme for Sycamore and Oak Class. They are up to date reading books as above, with levels appropriate for your child's reading age, right up to Y6 and children borrow these to read both in school and at home. Willow Class take home **BIG CAT** phonics reading

books. Many books are not being returned. 😞

Please could you have a look at home and return any school reading books

ASAP!

THANK YOU



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Is your child a TT Rock Star?

The Year 4 Multiplication test is looming and there is a big focus in both Sycamore and Oak this term on learning our times tables by heart. A great way to support this at home is by ensuring your child spends time playing on the computer- on TT ROCK stars. Pupils can play each other or challenge a teacher or just practice a times table that they want to improve on.

Every child has a log in- if your child has lost theirs please ask their class teacher.

We also have a school leaderboard- a Y6 is currently at the top....! Can you knock them off the top spot?



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MOVIE NIGHT

Every Friday at Wraparound Club
3.10pm until 5.30pm



Bring Pyjamas!

Build a den!

Make popcorn!

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

If you have any questions please email Jamie on
J.Knight@progressive-sports.co.uk