

A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 16th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fabulous Dream Big week, celebrating the school's 175th anniversary. Every class has explored a different aspect of history- music, art and technology through the years, learning about how life has changed since 1848. We have learnt about which parts of the school are the original building and which parts are new and have had the benefit of hearing from ex pupils first-hand with Mrs Kift and Mrs Morris Green sharing their memories. I have learnt so much about this school's rich and interesting heritage.

It's not over yet! Tomorrow we open up our school hall to the community, to showcase many photos and plans from days gone by- many without dates, so we hope some of you might be able to help us.

An **ENORMOUS** thanks to Mrs Landon, without whom none of this would have been possible. She has been working on this project for weeks and we are truly grateful for her dedication and hard work.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

Christian Values
Our Value this term is
❖ **COMPASSION**



In Worship on Monday we spoke about the significance of the Poppy in remembering those who died in war.



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CLASS NEWS



CHESTNUTS

The children have started the foundations for phonics program, their first letter/sound was "s" and this week they have been focusing on "a". Please feel free to send your child in with something that starts with the focus letter/sound of the week. The children have also enjoyed painting their hands red to make poppies for our poppy garland for our classroom to celebrate Remembrance Day. This week the children have been learning all about the number 2.



WILLOW

We have had a great few weeks in Willow Class since coming back from half term. We have started our theme '**Blast Off**' with the Julie Donaldson book *The Smeds and the Smoos*. The children have described the characters and the settings of the book. Next week we will continue this book by creating our own planet. In Science, we had an alien, called Eld, who visited the Forest School area. He needed our help as his rocket had exploded! We had to name the materials that were found there. This week we have loved learning all about what Westbury School used to look like. The Y1 children wrote questions for Mrs Kift and Mrs Morris-Green and we asked them the questions. The Reception children came up with their questions to ask them. In Maths we have been looking at the number 6 with the Y1 children, creating addition and subtraction statements. This week we have been creating artwork from across the 175 years of the school. We learnt about the first moon landing in History and will look in more detail about Neil Armstrong in the coming weeks.



SYCAMORE

We have been enjoying travelling back in time and learning about how science and technology has developed through the last 175 years. The children got into the role play of Victorian school, chanting times tables and making Victorian toys. It has been an interesting week learning about our school's history and how it has changed. In English, we have been learning writing skills including prepositions, adverbs and compound sentences. Our maths is focussing on addition in Y2 and times tables in Y3. We have started outdoor learning on Tuesdays, and created owl inspired artwork and string telephones.



OAK

Over the last few weeks, Oak class have continued their look at royal history by exploring how significant Kings and Queens have used portraits. We created self-portraits based on paintings of Elizabeth I, that show things we are proud of and things we enjoy. We have started a new unit in English exploring the poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. We've studied some of the ways repetition is used for effect and language to describe the night the poem is set. During our Dream Big week, we've looked into the history of music and have listened to, performed and written our own songs based on popular music of 1848, 1948 and 1978.



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Celebration Awards

Every Friday we celebrate pupil's effort, attitude and achievement during our Celebration Assembly. One child per year group is awarded a certificate. We will list those pupils here fortnightly to further celebrate their success with the school community.

Reception: **Evie**

Year One: **Ellis**

Year Two: **Max P**

Year Three: **Eden**

Year Four: **Freddie**

Year Five: **Jamie**

Year Six: **Barney**

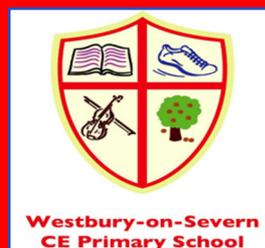
We introduced a new award this week

The Westbury Way Award

for a pupil who consistently demonstrates *The Westbury Way*

- Safe at all times
- Respectful to Everyone
- Ready to Learn

This week's award went to **Ayrton** in Reception.



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Staffing News

- We have appointed a TA to replace Mrs Henry in Sycamore Class who will be starting with us in December. More details once everything has been finalised.
- Sadly, Mrs Hankinson is unable to stay as TA for Oak Class and will be leaving on 24th November. We are sorry to see her leave so soon. She sends this message to pupils and parents:

"I'm sad to be leaving Westbury-on-Severn school without meeting many of you. I have been here a very short time but an opportunity has presented itself which I would like to move onto. I wish you all well in the future."

We are now advertising again for a TA for Oak Class (see our website and <https://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolvacancies/details.aspx?ID=30113&p age=0>) but in the interim will employ an agency TA to ensure that pupils continue to get support in class.

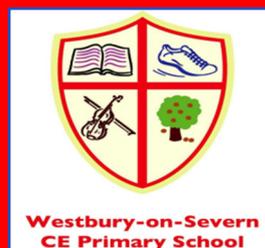
- Mrs Cox now works Friday mornings, until 11am.

FAMILY FORUM



We are pleased to announce that we now have four parents who are willing to be part of our Family Forum- one for Willow, one for Sycamore and two for Oak. We will update you with further information once we have put arrangements in place.

Thanks to the parents who volunteered their time.



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Dates for your diary:

Friday 17th November from 3.45pm, 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 Friends 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.



19th November (Sunday)- Family Service at the church led by Rev Sarah Hobbs.

24th November- Parent and Toddler session in the hall.

7th December- Christmas Jumper Day in aid of *Children in Need*.

12th December- Whole school trip to Cheltenham Everyman Theatre to see Mother Goose.

13th December- Christmas lunch in school

14th December- Nativity performances at 1.30pm and 5pm.

17th December (Sunday) Family Christmas Service at Northwood Green Church 10am.

20th December- Term Ends.



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Attendance update

School Target - **96%**

From start of term- 10th Nov - **92.3%**

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



HIGH ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL GETS YOUR CHILD'S LIFE OFF TO A **FLYING START!**



INCREASING ATTENDANCE BY JUST 5% CAN **DOUBLE** THE CHANCES OF GAINING GOOD QUALIFICATIONS



MISSING TWO DAYS A MONTH MEANS A CHILD MISSES **10%** OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

GOOD ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Writing + **MATHS SKILLS**



THERE ARE **175** DAYS A YEAR NOT SPENT IN SCHOOL

PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHOPPING, HOLIDAYS AND APPOINTMENTS!

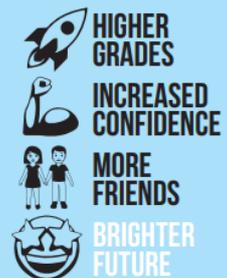


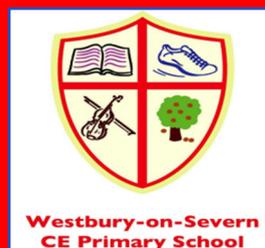
100s OF SUBJECTS | **1000s** OF CLASSES
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



TURNING UP JUST **5 MINUTES LATE** EVERY DAY ADDS UP TO **OVER 3 DAYS LOST** IN THE YEAR!

MORE SCHOOL =





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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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Notices and Requests

SPORTS KIT

Would you like to sponsor the school's sports kit?

The children of Westbury School need new sports kits for competitions. We are looking into purchasing some new team shirts for when we go to Football, Netball and other sports competitions. If you are interested in sponsoring the shirts and having your business name on the shirts, please give your details to Mrs Cox and she will pass them on to Miss Wills. *Thank you!*

Bark Chippings needed!

Would you have any bark chippings to spare so that we can cover the muddier parts of the trim trail garden with them. This means children can play out there without getting so muddy. Please contact the office if you have any you can deliver. *Thanks!*

Spare wellies, coats, play dinosaurs?

We are having welly storage cupboards built at the moment, so that children can wear wellies outside on wetter days. They are not ready yet- we will let you know when this starts. However, if you have any spare wellies or coats that you could donate, we would appreciate it. Also, if you have any dinosaurs that your children do not play with anymore, this will be a lovely addition for our playtimes. **Thanks!**

“Wearable tech” concerns

Some children are coming into school wearing smartwatches. We are happy for children to use these to tell the time but we have safeguarding and data concerns with any camera usage/messaging within these watches. Please ensure that your child is not using their watch for anything other than telling the time. If we discover that any filming or photographs have been taken or messages sent, we will confiscate the watch and return it at the end of the day. If this happens, you will be informed and we will discuss if your child can continue wearing their device whilst at school. Thank you!



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Years 5/6 Football Team



On Tuesday 14th November our UKS2 footballers competed against other Forest of Dean schools at Dene Magna.

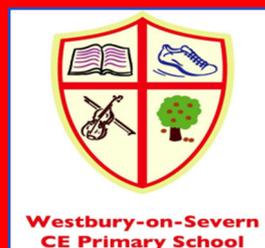
They won their first game 2-0, drew in their second game 1-1 and won their third game 2-1. To get through to the next round they needed to score 13 goals in the last game and they managed to score 7 goals! We finished joint 1st in points but lost out on goal difference.

We are super proud of their positive sporting attitudes, team work and perseverance.

Big thanks to Miss Wills who arranged the match, transported them with Mrs Armstrong's help, and encouraged them from the sidelines.

Next week, it's the girls team (although one girl played on Tuesday too) so we wish them the best of Westbury luck! (and no rain please...)





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CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Main

Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing and Sausage

Vegetarian Option

Cheddar, Spinach and Cranberry Puff Pastry Roll

Sides

Peas, Carrots, Chef's Gravy and Cranberry Sauce

Desserts

Chocolate Frosted Christmas Sponge

£2.54 per child, please order for your child/ren with Anna Cox in the office.



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Friends of Westbury School Presents

Christmas Jumper Swap & Sale

Swap a Christmas Jumper or buy one
(Suggested donations of £1, all proceeds go
to our school fund)

**Location: Christmas Craft Fayre
2nd December
Westbury Parish Hall**

You can bring your swaps on the
day, or hand to a member of our
committee before

Thank you for your continued support