

A small school, dreaming big

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully festive and busy few weeks we have had. It was a joy to watch the Nativity Show "Prickly Hay" twice in one day, my face ached from smiling. Great to see such confidence in the youngest children- I hope parents and carers enjoyed it. Thanks to the Friends of Westbury for free tea and mince pies! Similarly, the Christmas Church service was wonderfully seasonal, with each class contributing. Thanks to Worship Team for reading the Bible story of Jesus' birth with such clarity. It was great to see so many families in church.

On Monday this week, Father Christmas took time out from his busy schedule to visit the children of Westbury, with a gift for each child! He also read each class the wonderful poem, "The Night before Christmas". There was much excitement. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas this year and looking forward to everyone returning, bright eyed and bushy tailed in 2024!

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

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

Classes have been exploring the story of Christmas and Jesus's birth these past weeks and what the birth of Jesus means to Christians.

We have explored in Worship how compassion is similar to Kindness and Empathy .



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CLASS NEWS

CHESTNUTS



The children have worked really hard learning their words to the songs for the Nativity, which was really good on both performances. The children have been recapping their numbers 0-5 and SATPIN for their phonics this week, ready for starting our next sections in both areas in the New Year. Both Mrs Betty and myself would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



WILLOW

Willow Class have been busy practising for their Nativity. They performed **Prickly Hay** to the whole school, parents and carers, brilliantly! In DT, we have been making moving space pictures.

The children have gone through the process of experimenting with levers and sliders, designing their moving pictures, painting their backgrounds in the style of Peter Thorpe to then making their final product - a space themed moving picture! In Science, the children investigated which size bottle made a rocket mouse go the highest. The children had a wonderful time sending their mouse up into the air and thinking about why the largest bottle made it go the highest. In R.E we have been learning all about the Christmas story and why Christians celebrate it along with other Christmas traditions. In English we have started looking at the story, Astro Girl. We have been writing about who our heroes are. In Maths, we have been learning about half turns and whole turns and moving along a straight line. The Y1s have also been working with the numbers up to 100, ordering them and finding one more and one less.



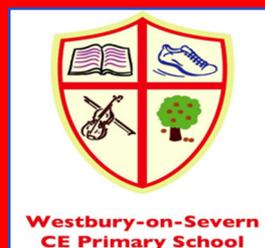
SYCAMORE

The children have welcomed Mrs McKelvey to class this week, she is settling in well and getting to know the children. Sycamore Class have carried out an investigation in science, our question was 'Do people with longer femurs jump further?' The children looked at the variables and which would stay the same to make it a fair test. We have revisited the seasons in Geography and create calendars to share with their families. In RE, we have finished answering the question 'What Good News did Jesus bring?' and the children have learnt about forgiveness, peace and friendship. We read stories from the New Testament and Jesus' disciples. Our theme 'Funnybones' is drawing to a close, and we will begin preparing for our next theme 'Eureka!', more details to follow in the new year. We have also been enjoying some end of term activities, including a trip to the Panto, Christmas Lunch and the Christmas Service in church. We also have a few gifts to share with our families too, including our Gingerbread Skeletons. It's been a busy term, we wish all our families a lovely restful Christmas break and New year!



OAK

Oak class has had a jam packed last few weeks of our royal theme. We've looked at crime and punishment through the ages, and have used our DT skills to build a mini-guillotine. We've explored material dyes from the Tudor times and have created some natural colouring for our coat of arms project. Our projects have needed us to think carefully about design and safety and we've written and evaluated plans and risk assessments. We've all loved this theme and can't wait to start our new term with a trip 'Around the world in 80 lives'



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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. Here are the recent certificate winners:

Reception: The Whole class

Year One: The Whole Class

Year Two: Billy

Year Three: Liz

Year Four: Martha

Year Five: Poppy

Year Six: Heidi

The Westbury Way Award

for a pupil who consistently demonstrates *The Westbury Way*

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

The Award last week went to **Bethany Harris**.



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Governing Board Updates

Message from the Chair of Governors

“Well done everyone for all of the hard work you and your children have put in over the course of this latest very long term, congratulations to those who have received certificates in celebration worship and to all those who have taken part in the festive lead up including the choir and Nativity shows. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and come back in January feeling refreshed and reinvigorated.” **Jen Sigournay**

Peter Muldrew- Foundation Governor



I have 2 young children and have lived in the area for the past 8 years. I became a governor to help play a small part in making sure the school can be the best that it can possibly be. It's been really rewarding to see how passionate the Governing Board and teaching team are about the children and their development. I help keep an eye on the financial aspects of the school, using my experience of 12 years in the financial markets and working with companies as an advisor.

Maxine Godfrey – Clerk to Governors



I have been a clerk since January 2020 and until recently clerked eight schools in the local area. I have just changed my role and now support ECT and Maths trainees in HUBS. I kept a couple of schools on my books including Westbury on Severn as it is a great team to work with. I have been supporting the Governing board with their development which has been a fast progression since I started. They are doing great things.



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We have signed up for this **Gloucestershire-wide Oracy competition** for the New Year. It is open to ALL PUPILS to speak on a subject of their choice for 2 mins. We will be holding classroom heats to choose 3 pupils to represent the school in the new year.

Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

WHAT IS ORACY AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language.

By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

HOW WILL THE COMPETITION WORK?

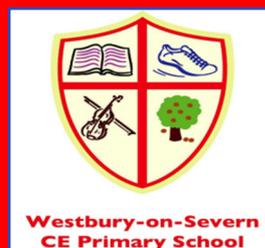
Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools!

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoints please.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM AT HOME?

- ★ First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It can be anything at all!
- ★ They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- ★ Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.



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Staffing News

- Mrs McKelvey has started working as a TA in Sycamore class and is settling in very quickly. We are very pleased to have her join our Westbury family.

Next Term dates for your diary:

5th January: INSET DAY for staff

8th January: First day of Term- all clubs starting first week back

29th January: Start of our Dream Big week in Storytelling

6th February: Safer Internet Day

9th February: End of term

Attendance update

School Target - **96%**

From start of term- 12th December – **92.2 %**

Please can dentist and doctor appointments be taken after school and optician appointments be made for after school or weekends as much as possible.



Good school attendance supports children to feel confident and happy about school and learning

As a parent you can support your child to enjoy school life to the full by ensuring they **attend school EVERY day and also arrive on time.**



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OPAL Playtimes



We have built welly storage for every class so it is now ready to be filled with **NAMED WELLIES for every child**. In January we are opening up grassy areas for play in all weathers, including rain. So there will be days that we insist pupils wear **wellies and a coat** so that pupils can play outside more often and are not just restricted to the tarmac playground. **From January 8th PLEASE make sure your child has a pair of wellies in school for the week and a coat on cold days.**

If they don't have wellies and a coat, they can use the school spares.

Q: What are the benefits of the OPAL Primary Programme?

More teaching time

Most schools report 10 minutes more teaching time per teacher with happier, more creative, and well exercised children who settle to classes much more quickly.

Improved behaviour

OPAL schools report an 80% reduction in the use of behaviour policies and a 90% reduction in senior leadership time being spent resolving playtime issues.

Faster core skills development

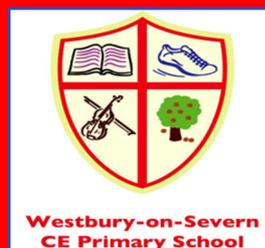
Children at OPAL schools rapidly develop creativity, imagination, cooperation, resilience, stamina and confidence.

Inclusion

OPAL's approach makes play better for every child, every day... no exceptions!

Happiness and wellbeing

Play is a human need and a human right. Children and staff at OPAL schools report feeling less stressed, happier, and more excited about school.



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Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

The **Pupil Premium** is funding allocated to the school to support pupils whose families may be struggling financially. Once it has been allocated, ***it stays with the child all the way up to Y6.***

Pupils in R-Y2 are automatically entitled to free school meals but the school benefits from the **extra funding** to spend on whole school improvements, CPD for teaching staff, extra support in the classroom, free milk in KS2.

Your child or children can get **Free School Meals** if you, your partner or the child is receiving one of the benefits below:

- [Income support \(IS\)](#)
- [Income Based Jobseekers Allowance \(JSA\(IB\)\)](#) - Not JSA(Contribution based)
- [Income-related Employment and Support Allowance \(ESA\(IR\)\)](#) support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- [Child Tax Credit](#), provided you are not entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#) and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed **£16,190**.
- [The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit](#).
- [Universal Credit](#)

Follow this link to apply if you meet the criteria above:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>



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SPECIAL EVENTS IN JAN 2024

This January, why not join us for one of our exciting sessions in the school holidays?

Thursday 4th Jan 2023

A session of active fun, skill-building, and friendly competition, where every child discovers their passion for play, this will be a mixture of sports and games, keeping you moving throughout!

1000-1400

Awre Village Hall

1000-1400

Blakeney Youth Centre

Friday 5th Jan 2023

Family sessions inspired by nature to create biosphere terrariums and using lathes to turn wood into beautiful keepsakes with our experienced session leaders.

Movie Dance Magic - Get ready to groove and move! KS2 children, it's time to throw some moves in our electrifying session set to some fantastic movie music.

Target Game Special - Let's hit the bullseye of excitement with target sports - where precision meets passion, and every shot is a thrill!

Nerf Gun Battle - Calling all KS2 superheroes to join us for an adrenaline-packed session of dart-flying fun, where tactical skills and teamwork take centre stage.

1000-1400

Blakeney Youth Centre & Armoury Hall, Newnham

1000-1430

Soudley Village Hall

To book onto one or all of these events please visit:
<https://sportily.org.uk/20/Viney-Hill-Sports-Events>