

A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Finally, the days are starting to get lighter and I don't need my torch to walk to my car at the end of the day! Spring is on its way.....

There has been a lot happening in each class- please do read the teachers' news- lots of interesting work in English this term. I am still not sure what a Varmint is?!

Clubs are in full swing and Dave has a great turn out for Friday chess club at lunchtime. **Please take time to read the letter attached to this newsletter,** regarding Reading for Pleasure, reading at home and the library and changes we are making. Also, if you would like to volunteer to listen to readers in school, it is always welcome. Do ask in the office.

Also, please see the message from Jen Sigournay about our current considerations regarding joining a Multi Academy Trust. We are looking at our options and will keep you in the loop.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

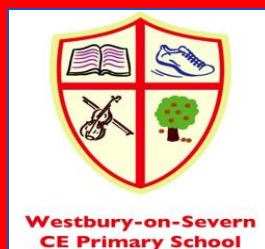
SCHOOL VALUES

COURAGE

Picture news this week asked the question
"Does how we behave matter as much as how we play?"



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Class News



CHESTNUTS

This week, the children have been focusing on the letter **G** in phonics and have enjoyed playing a fun game using a teddy bear and a chair to help them learn about positional language. Despite the very wet weather, the children have loved heading out to Forest School, where they happily got muddy making mudslides! Indoors, they have been enjoying our **Hairy Maclary** stories this term and are beginning to join in with the rhymes for each dog and cat.



WILLOW

In Willow Class we have been loving the story **Superworm** by Julia Donaldson. The children have drawn their own monsters and designed a vehicle that can help Superworm and their friends escape! They have also done some fantastic writing where Reception have been practicing writing words using their new sounds (learnt in phonics) and Year Ones have been using adjectives and exclamation marks. In Maths, Reception have been looking at making the numbers 5, 6 and 7 as well as using a balance scale to investigate which objects are heavier or lighter. The Year Ones have been partitioning 9 and 10 practically using a part whole model. In Art, we have been looking at the artist Jon Burgerman and created our own doughnut characters inspired by his work. In PE, our new unit is dance and the children have created their own actions for underwater creatures.



SYCAMORE

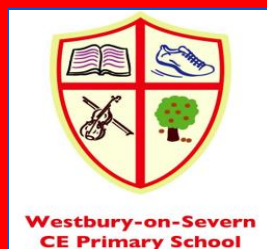
Sycamore Class have been working brilliantly this week. In maths, Year 2 are building confidence with their 2x tables, while Year 3 are tackling 3-digit column addition. In English, we have planned exciting fantasy stories and are looking forward to beginning our writing this week. In science, the children thoroughly enjoyed investigating shadows by turning out the lights and using torches to explore opaque, transparent and translucent materials. We also took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, where the children were wonderfully quiet as they carefully watched for birds and listened to their tweets. We spotted lots of different birds and are looking forward to the nationwide results in March so we can compare our findings. The children are working really hard and, most importantly, having lots of fun along the way.



OAK

Oak class have finished our pollution posters. Hopefully, you have seen some of them around the neighbourhood. We have been invited to a meeting of the Secret Gardeners' Society and are looking forward to finding out more about the Varmints! In Geography, we have been learning about lines of longitude and latitude and finding countries according to their grid references. We have been enjoying our PSHE sessions and look forward to "circle time" where we are learning to listen to each other without judgement. This is a skill that needs lots of practice.

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Dates for your diary 2026

10th February- Internet Safety Day

13th February- End of Term 3: **PLEASE NOTE Day ends at 2pm**

25th February- Oak start weekly afternoon swimming lessons

5th March- **WORLD BOOK DAY** starting at 8am with a Bookish Breakfast for all children and families. Come to school dressed as a book character (optional)

19th March- The "Life" tent in the hall: PSHE lesson for each class with Harold the giraffe.

24th & 25th March- Parents' evenings- details to follow soon

26th March- Easter Church service- everyone welcome

27th March- End of Term 4: **Please NOTE Day ends at 2pm**

13th April- First Day of Term 5

11th May- KS2 SATs week for Year 6

20th May- Whole school walk to the River Severn

21st May- OPAL play afternoon for families- everyone welcome. 1.30-2.30pm

22nd May- End of Term 5: **Please NOTE Day ends at 2pm**

Whole school Attendance update

Sept 1st 2025 – January 29th 2026

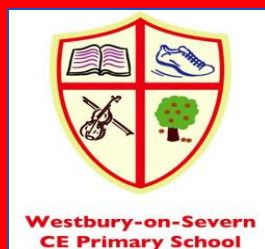
96.9%



National average for UK primary schools- **94.8%**

Very healthy whole school attendance

Pupils whose attendance drops below 90% will be contacted by the Headteacher in line with our Attendance policy.



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Celebration Awards

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

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 Award: Azzie, James

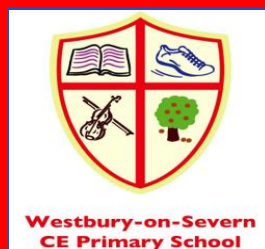
Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Award: Olive, Layla

Oak Class Academic Excellence Award: Annabelle, Gregory



We had eleven pupils put themselves forward for the **Cross Country 2km** run at Newent on 20th January. We were so proud of them all! We had a first place winner for the Y6 girls' race and we look forward to finding out how well she progresses at County level.

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Our School's Exploration of Joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of schools that work together as one organisation. By sharing expertise, resources, and leadership, the trust supports each school to provide the best possible education for its pupils. Each school keeps its own character and community focus, while benefiting from being part of a wider team.

Why We Are Considering Joining a MAT

Stronger Support for Teaching and Learning

Access to specialist teachers and subject experts
Shared curriculum resources that enrich lessons
High-quality staff training that directly benefits pupils

Greater Stability and Resilience

Professional support in areas such as finance, HR, IT, and safeguarding
Stronger systems for supporting children with additional needs
Long-term planning that protects the school's future

More Opportunities for Pupils

Joint events, clubs, sports, and enrichment activities
Collaboration with children from other schools
Broader experiences that build confidence and curiosity

Improved Staff Recruitment and Retention

Better career development pathways for teachers and support staff
Opportunities to share best practice and expertise across schools
A stable, well-supported staff team for our children
Support for staff to network and work collaboratively in a larger team

Financial Efficiencies That Benefit Pupils

Shared services and bulk purchasing reduce costs
Savings can be reinvested into classrooms and learning
Access to central expertise reduces administrative burden

Protecting Our School's Identity

Our values, ethos, Christian character and community focus remain central
MATs typically encourage schools to keep their unique character
Joining strengthens our ability to maintain what makes us special

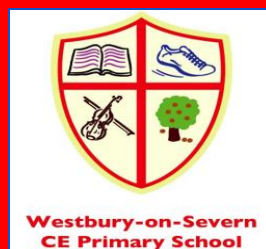
How Parents Will Be Involved

We want families to feel informed and included throughout this process. Parents will have:

- Opportunities to ask questions and share views
- Consultation events or surveys
- If you have any questions about this process please email the Chair of Governors

chair@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk

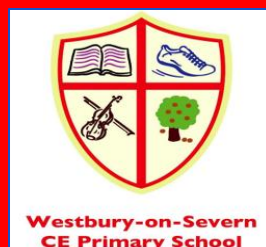
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A poster for Forest Pulse Youth Club. At the top left is the "Forest Pulse" logo in green, bubble-style letters, with the tagline "Supporting children and young people with disabilities and their families" below it. To the right of the logo is an illustration of a cupcake and three dice. The main title "AN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH CLUB" is centered in a large, white, glowing blue-outlined box. Below this, the text reads: "AN INCLUSIVE CLUB IN MITCHELDEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE", "AGES 10-17 - £6 PER SESSION", "CONTACT - 01594 826357", "CHLOE.TUBMAN@FORESTPULSE.CO.UK", "THURSDAYS TERM TIME VANTAGE POINT BUSINESS VILLAGE, MITCHELDEAN GL17 0DD". At the bottom is an illustration of five diverse young people, one of whom is in a wheelchair. In the bottom right corner are social media icons for Facebook, X, and Instagram.



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A poster for the Forest Music Centre. The background is a close-up, slightly blurred image of a red violin. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

FOREST MUSIC CENTRE

STARTING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025
TUESDAYS 6:30 - 8:30PM
ST WHITES PRIMARY SCHOOL, CINDERFORD
ENSEMBLE PROVISION FOR WIND, BRASS, STRING &
PERCUSSION PLAYERS
ALL AGES WELCOME (ADULTS AND CHILDREN)

NEW - STARTING JANUARY 2026 ✨
STRING STARTERS
FOR BEGINNER STRING PLAYERS

WWW.GLOUCESTERSHIREMUSIC.CO.UK
GLOSMUSIC@GLOUCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK
01452 427242

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