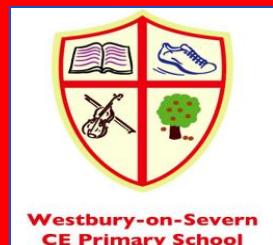


Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



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

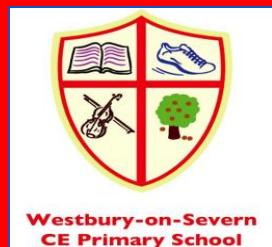
SCHOOL VALUES

COURAGE

Picture news this week asked the question

"Does how we behave matter as much as how we play?"





A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2026

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.



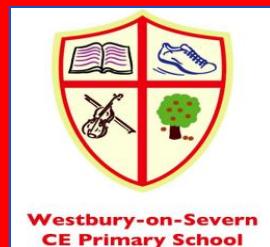
SYCAMORE

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.



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2026

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***

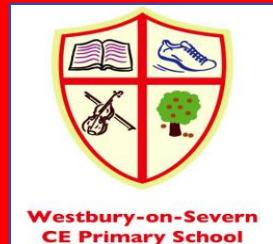
Whole school Attendance update **Sept 1st 2025 – January 29th 2026**

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.



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2026

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.

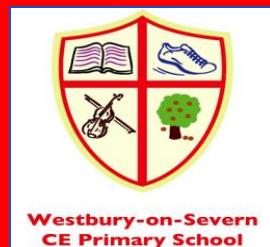
Willow Class Academic Excellence Award: Azzie, James

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.



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2022

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

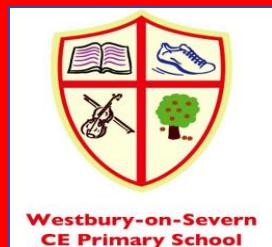
Joining strengthens our ability to maintain what makes us special

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-severncote.glos.sch.uk



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2024



forest PULSE
Supporting children and young people
with disabilities and their families

**AN ALTERNATIVE
YOUTH CLUB**

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,
6.30PM - 8.30PM**

**MITCHELDEAN
GL17 0DD**

f **X** **Instagram**

6 | Page **0 1 4 5 2 7 6 0 3 0 3** **admin@westbury-on-severncote.glos.sch.uk**



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 29th January 2026

A large advertisement for the Forest Music Centre. The background features a close-up of a red cello. The text 'FOREST MUSIC CENTRE' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the text 'STARTING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025' and 'TUESDAYS 6:30 - 8:30PM' is displayed. The location 'ST WHITES PRIMARY SCHOOL, CINDERFORD' is mentioned, along with 'ENSEMBLE PROVISION FOR WIND, BRASS, STRING & PERCUSSION PLAYERS' and 'ALL AGES WELCOME (ADULTS AND CHILDREN)'. A section for 'NEW - STARTING JANUARY 2026' is shown with 'STRING STARTERS FOR BEGINNER STRING PLAYERS'. Contact information includes 'WWW.GLOUCESTERSHIREMUSIC.CO.UK', 'GLOSMUSIC@GLOUCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK', and '01452 427242'. Logos for 'GSW Music Hub', 'Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL', 'Supported using public funding by', 'Arts Council ENGLAND', and 'gloucestershire MUSIC' are included.