

WESTBURY WHISPERS

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

17th May 2018



**Westbury-on-Severn
CE Primary School**

My overwhelming congratulations to all our amazing Year 6 pupils for completing their week of SAT tests. We are all so proud of you and how hard you have worked. We all hope you can have a wonderful end to your time with us now and enjoy the sunshine.

Well done Year 6 😊
Mr C.



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PARKING

Once again, I must write to you to request that you consider other people when parking your cars at the start and end of the school day. I really do appreciate how hard it is to find parking at these busy times, but we have always requested that you do not drive up the side lane in front of the school gate, as parents and children are walking up and down this area. Also, when parking outside the post office and dentist surgery, some people are blocking other road users and this is resulting in a few aggressive calls from the public. This is not what we want as a school. I would therefore like to ask again, that you park courteously when dropping off and picking up your children. Thanks in advance.

ATTENDANCE

I am writing to inform you that we are in the process of reviewing our attendance strategy and procedures. This is in part due to a rise in requests for holidays in term time. As I have said many times on many occasions, I can only authorise leave of absence from school for exceptional reasons. Family holidays - regardless of how cultural they might be - are still not exceptional and I cannot authorise these absences. We are currently in the process of co-ordinating our approach to attendance with the local secondary schools, which means that we can share information about absence. This is very useful in seeing what is happening with siblings in other schools, and 'unusual' patterns of illness. We will be writing to parents soon with our updated strategy, which will include unannounced home visits, as part of our monitoring procedures. It saddens me to think that there may be an increase in parental fixed-penalty notices (fines) as a result, but that will be the reality if holidays are taken without authorisation. We always try to work with families and exceptional reasons will always be taken into consideration. However, our vision for our school is that every child is able to achieve their God-given potential. That means every child in school, every day. Thank you for your help with this and for all of you that support us with attendance.

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

We will be holding our next monthly prayer meeting on Monday 4th June at 3.30pm in the school. These meetings take place on the first Monday of each month - as far as the calendar allows. We welcome everyone who would like to come along to pray for the life of the school.

CLASS PHOTOS

We will be having our class photos taken on Monday 11th June in the morning, so please make sure your child is able to attend school on this day so that they can be included in the photo.



FOREST OF DEAN LIONS EVENT

Alan Townley of the Forest of Dean Lions has asked that I share the following with you:

On 20 May we are holding the Wild Boar Chase cycle event. It is one of our biggest fund raisers. As part of the event there is a section for young riders. Details can be found :-

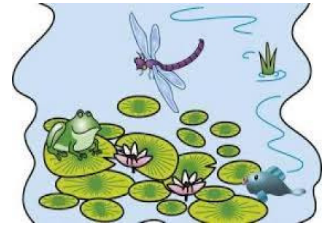
<https://www.fodmbe.org.uk/fodlions/proddetail.php?prod=HumbugEntry>

Forest of Wild Boar Chase and Humbug Chase - [fodmbe.org.uk](https://www.fodmbe.org.uk)
www.fodmbe.org.uk

The Humbug Chase is ONLY OPEN FOR riders aged for 8-12 years on the day of the event; The Humbug Chase will be well sign posted, there will be no road crossings.

CLASS NEWS

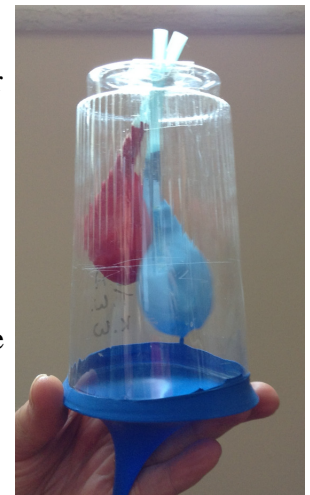
We have had a busy week in Class 1! In literacy we have been looking at the traditional tale Sleeping Beauty and Y1's have written the story and reception have wrote a part of the story. In maths Y1's have been developing their number skills to 100 and reception have been developing their number skills to 20. In Welly Wednesday we did some pond dipping and found a tadpole and four newts!



In Class 2 we have been making scarab beetle amulets out of clay and decorating them in bright colours. We have been using written methods to solve +, - and ÷ sums and learning about things you might find inside a pyramid—the ancient Egyptians and our own!

On Monday the Y6 children started their SAT's week and the Y4 and 5 children also began their week of tests. On Tuesday the Y4's went to Newnham School to watch a play on how to be safe online. This week we also went swimming and had an afternoon making props for the drama production with Class 2. We have also made models of lungs! We have been practicing a new poem called 'Please Mrs Butler'.

By Viki & Ewan



'Friends' Picnic and Performance Evening

This is a reminder of the Picnic and performance evening that is taking place at Westbury Court Gardens on the evening of Wednesday 23rd May at 6pm. Children from the school will be sharing their musical talents and there will be opportunities for the children to join in with their class on whole-class performances if they are able to attend the evening. Children have been invited to 'sign-up' if they would like to take part and showcase their musical talents. Please see the posters around the school. Please return your ticket order forms as soon as possible, and by **Monday 21st May at the latest.**

We look forward to seeing you for this beautiful, cultural evening.