

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It really doesn't seem possible that we are once again at the end of another school year, yet here we are! What an extraordinarily last four months we have had too. None of us could have predicted back in September that we would have a year with half of the time spent in school and half learning from home, but that is what has happened and you have been amazing through it all.

I always say how proud I am of our school community and that is a statement as true today as it has ever been. Through this whole period of lockdown, uncertainty and isolation, you as parents have been tremendous. You have risen to the challenge of supporting home-learning and done so with gusto and vigour. Even when it has been hard and maybe there have been battles to get them to do it, you have supported and grown your children in their learning, knowledge and skills. This has been so evident in the children we have seen back in school and those I have had the pleasure of seeing again this week. You did it and deserve a raised glass of something special!

The children have been equally awesome. They have completed tasks set by the teachers, completed a variety of online maths and literacy learning activities and shown just how determined they have been at home to succeed as in school. The creativity that they have shown has been truly immense and I am really looking forward to seeing some of that learning in September when they bring it back.

However, that said, we all know it has not been an easy time, nor indeed a time of extended holiday, despite the long periods of warm weather. There have been personal costs involved in this pandemic crisis and I'm sure you, like us, have experienced personal heartache at some point or another. And it is that which shows me what an extraordinary compassionate and loving school community we have, in that you have been there for each other as well as our school.

As teachers, we have missed so much, the joy of seeing all your children in school, their smiles and little personalities. We have missed learning alongside them and seeing them grow. We have missed the many exciting end of term activities and adventures together. However, we are equally excited about seeing them in September, finally together again and doing what they do best – being excellent little learners, striving for success.

I want to thank all the staff for the amazing way in which they have kept school going and learning alive throughout this difficult time, whether that has been remotely at home as in the case of Mrs Sim and Mrs Hansen, or by still managing to put together an amazing school production. Everyone of my team has been spectacular and I wouldn't be without them. Already, they are making plans for next year and how we will welcome all the children back.

I'm grateful that our approach to returning to school has been measured, sensible and kind. Through honest, age-appropriately considered discussion and teaching, we have seen children move across the school and at play, without the need for yellow and black tape stuck to every surface, and without the need for staff to walk around wearing masks and visors and looking scary, and without the need to put tables in row! Bubbles have been created and beautifully floating throughout the school. There has been laughter and fun and smiles everywhere and NOT



ONE tear shed in fear. I hope that this is testament to our school's ethos and caring nature. I think it is. We still don't know fully what the next few months will bring, or indeed the next year, but it won't stop our formidable Westbury Spirit, rising to the challenges we face together. We will be right here for each of you, for whatever reason, in whatever way we can.

I wish you all the most wonderful summer break, full of sunshine both outside and in the lives of your families. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

With my warmest wishes,



David Crunkhurn
Headteacher

Goodbye Mrs Kay:

It was sad news to hear that Mrs Kay, our violin teacher, has made the decision to retire from teaching. We have loved having her work as part of our Westbury family since 2009 and she has taught almost all the children at some stage or another. We hope to be able to say goodbye in person in September, but we want to say goodbye for now Mrs Kay and have a long and happy retirement. Below is a special message from her to you all.

Dear Parent / Guardian,

During the present Lockdown, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, I have had time to consider my future, and believe, now is the time to change my life in a different direction.

It is therefore, with regret, I have taken the decision to no longer teach the violin.

I would like to take this opportunity to say, to all staff, pupils and parents / guardians, for your support and making my time in Westbury C of E school a very enjoyable experience, I say a very big thank you to you all.

I will think of you every Friday with fond memories, and would like to wish you all the very best for the future,

Yours faithfully.

Michelle Kay.
Violin Teacher.

Peripatetic Music Lessons:

For parents of children who currently receive violin tuition, please see the attached letter regarding Gloucestershire Music service. If you want your child to continue to have private lessons, then please read the letter and follow the links. The service is offering lessons in violin, viola and flute at the moment. However, if there are other instruments that you might like your child to learn, then please do get in touch and, if there is enough interest, we might be able to offer these through Gloucestershire music.



Preschool September 2020:

Preparations are well and truly underway for our new preschool room and we expect building work to be completed by the middle of the summer break. I am pleased to announce however, that Mrs Jo Trigg will be joining our staff in September to help assist the running of Preschool. She will be with us full time from September. Mrs Anita Hayward will also be joining us part-time from September to also help in the running and delivery of preschool. Both Mrs Trigg and Mrs Hayward come with great experience, expertise, knowledge and skills in preschool and have come directly from existing successful settings. They are both already known to the school community and Mrs Trigg is known by most of our existing preschool families as she helped to lead Bright Horizons Preschool before its recent closure. I know you will join me in wishing them great happiness and success as they settle into our Westbury Family and school community.

Please do spread the word about our preschool. We still have spaces and can be flexible with times. In addition to the 15 hours free-funded places we offer; we are also offering 30hours free-funded places to those who are eligible. This means that if eligible, attending full-time should only cost £6.25 per week! If you are not sure if you qualify for this provision for your 3 or 4-year-old pre-schooler, then come and speak to us in the office.

Return to School in September:

It is our intention, along with the Government's, to welcome all children back to school in September. The term dates have already been issued and we have no intention of deviating from these term dates unless something happens before September. Children will therefore start school on Wednesday September 2nd. We may need to have staggered start and finishing times, but this will be detailed to you during the summer break.

Year 5&6 PGL Residential 2021:

A letter is attached regarding the PGL Residential to Liddington for next year's Y5&Y6 children. Please do read it and return the permission slip. A deposit of £30 will be required in September. However, if any current Year 5 pupils have paid any deposit or money towards this year's visit, then this will be transferred across.

Single Consent Educational Visits Form:

Please also find attached an educational visits parental consent form. This form gives the school permission for your child to attend all educational visits that take place during the school hours and after school hours. This will save you needing to fill out individual permission forms for each visit if required. If you have any questions about this form, please do contact the school office. Please return the form as soon as possible and by the end of September 2020.

Friends of Westbury School:

Despite a difficult second half to the year, I want to express my utmost thanks to the committee of 'Friends' for all their hard work and generous fundraising. The committee have been able to support the school this year financially in many ways, which have included supplying the Y6 Leavers with their special hoodies. They have also helped with the school's contribution to the building fund and organised the ice-cream van to come to school this week. In addition, they have paid for the Y6 Leavers' meal.

Of course, they couldn't support the school if it wasn't for the generous support that all of you as parents give to their fundraising events. We hope that there will be plenty more events next academic year. Please do get involved though. The AGM has been set for **Monday 28th September at 7pm**. Hopefully, this will take place in school, but more details confirming this will come out in September.

