



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 27th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are starting to get a bit Christmassy here, despite it still being November- please note the dates for Christmas school events in this week's newsletter.

Parents and carers of Oak class are warmly invited to the end of term Glockenspiel concert in the hall at 2.45pm on 5th December to celebrate this term's musical learning- I can't wait to hear them play.

We have exciting updates about OPAL play and news about our girls' football team plus the usual updates. We are seeking a new parent governor if you are interested, please check your emails for the form.

Tomorrow we are interviewing for the new role in school of Assistant Headteacher/SENCO so we will update you with this news once we have successfully appointed. Abby Reeks, the new Willow Class Teacher has booked several days in to get to know the children and work with Miss George to ensure a smooth transition.

We are holding an Open Evening here next week at 3.45pm so please spread the word!

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

SCHOOL VALUES **COMPASSION**

"If you want others to be happy,
practice compassion. If you want
to be happy, practice compassion."

DALAI LAMA

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



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Class News



CHESTNUTS The children have had lots of fun playing outside on the trim trail and taking part in Forest School activities. Our Forest School area is becoming quite muddy, so please ensure your child comes in with suitable clothing for outdoor learning, including waterproofs and wellies if possible. Children also need gloves when it is very cold. This week, we have been emptying the water from our pond, and the children have enjoyed helping with this. This is all part of giving our pond a makeover, ready for the spring! This week, the children have been practising their listening and following instruction skills through fun games such as *Simon Says*. Our focus letter has been "P", and the children have been learning all about the **number 9** through a range of activities. Due to the last week of term being non funded, please could you let Mrs Trigg or Mrs Keidel-Doggrell in the office know if you would like your children to attend. All hours attended will be invoiced.



WILLOW

In Willow Class we have been enjoying the story **Lost and Found**, using it to inspire creative drawing and labelling in Drawing Club, while the Year Ones have written their own versions where an animal appears at their door. In Maths, Year Ones have been exploring place value and numbers up to 100, including spotting patterns on a 100 square, while Reception have been practising forming the numbers 4 and 5 in different ways and using positional language during a fun game of "Hide the Teddy," confidently using words like *between*, *under* and *above*. In RE, we continued learning about the Nativity story to support our Nativity practice and thought about the special gifts we might give to baby Jesus, just like the Three Wise Kings. In PSHE, we have been looking at ways that we are different and celebrating this.



SYCAMORE

Sycamore Class have had a wonderfully busy time learning. In Maths, Year 2 have been working confidently on subtracting 2-digit numbers, while Year 3 have been tackling the challenge of adding 3-digit numbers. In English, the children have been carefully editing and improving their own versions of **Tadpole's Promise** and are looking forward to sharing their published stories with Willow Class. In Science, they thoroughly enjoyed making model hands, using straws and string to show how muscles contract and relax to move our fingers. In History, the class have been comparing the remarkable contributions of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale and exploring how both women helped shape modern nursing. Well done Sycamore for another fantastic couple of weeks of learning!



OAK

In Oak Class in the last few weeks, we've been busy! In History, we have compared the lives of the Maya and Aztecs and spotted some fascinating similarities and differences. We've even managed to try reading and writing using Maya symbols. In English, we've started our own **High Rise** inspired mystery stories with the school as our setting. In science, we've explored reversible and irreversible changes through hands-on investigations. And in RE, we've started to think about who Christians believe Jesus is, and why he is seen as the Messiah.

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Dates for your diary



2025

- 2nd December**- Open evening for prospective families 3.45- 4.45- spread the word!
- 5th December**- Singing Christmas carols to the residents of Chaxhill Residential home Plus *Glockenspiel concert for OAK CLASS* (Parents very welcome) at 2.45pm and in the evening our *Christmas Fayre* and Lights switch on- please come along! 5pm onwards
- 10th December**- Nativity production at 2pm
- 11th December**- Open classrooms 8.30am- all welcome for drop in
- 12th December**- Reading in PJs afternoon- *bring your PJs and a favourite book into school*
- 17th December**- **Christmas lunch** and **Christmas Jumper** day
- 18th December**- Christmas Church Service 9.15am
- 19th December**- Last day of term

A gentle reminder to please make payment for the upcoming panto trip via your ParentPay account. This really helps us streamline the process when confirming tickets and transport. Thank you very much to those who have already paid.*

2026

- 5th January**- **INSET day**
- 6th January**- Term 3 begins
- 7th January**- Whole school to Cheltenham Playhouse for Pantomime*
- 10th February**- Internet Safety Day
- 13th February**- End of Term 3
- 25th February**- Oak start weekly afternoon swimming lessons
- 5th March**- **WORLD BOOK DAY**
- 19th March**- The "Life" tent in the hall : PSHE for each class with Harold the giraffe.
- 27th March**- End of Term 4



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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: Sidney

Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Award: Jané

Oak Class Academic Excellence Award: *Olivia and Drizzt*

Whole school Attendance update

Sept 1st – November 26th

96.7%

National average for UK primary schools- 95.4%

We are 1.3% above the national average 😊

Sycamore class have won the attendance award ALL TERM, averaging at **97.4% this term!**



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Yesterday we received the **highest standard of accreditation** for our playtimes from OPAL- Platinum. Rachel Murray, the OPAL play specialist, who has overseen our 18 month project to improve our playtimes, visited and audited all areas of our play provision.



What does this mean?

- The Platinum OPAL award is the highest honour from the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme.
- Achieving this award means a school has made a **strategic and sustainable effort** to improve playtime and has a high-quality, stimulating play environment.
- The award places recipients in the **top 2% of schools** in the UK for outdoor play quality.

A massive thanks to the **OPAL play team**- Mrs Cracknell, Mrs Betteridge and Jen Sigournay (Chair of governors) and the **Play Champions** (Olive/Koen/Bethany and Gethyn) plus OPAL club members and all of you who helped us develop our fantastic play areas.

We couldn't be prouder!

Please read Rachel's evaluation below.....

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Congratulations to Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning Platinum Award

Huge congratulations to Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School on achieving the [OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning Platinum Award](#). This is an exceptional accomplishment and places Westbury-on-Severn within the top 2% of primary schools nationally for the quality of their outdoor play provision at lunchtime. It is an achievement the whole school community can feel immensely proud of.

I had the absolute pleasure of completing the final audit this November, following 18 months of committed, whole-school engagement in the OPAL programme. The transformation across the site is clear, vibrant and deeply child-centred.

Across the grounds, the play spaces were a lively hive of activity, joy, friendship and inclusion. Children from all year groups were playing across the school's fantastic outdoor areas—making full use of everything the natural environment offers, from autumn leaves to puddles and mud. Pupils engaged confidently in adventurous play, keeping themselves safe enough while developing their own ability to assess and manage risk.

From digging happily in the sandpit and cooking up a storm in the mud kitchen, to scooping and investigating water beads, chalking, dancing and creating obstacle courses, the range and quality of play opportunities were outstanding. The site radiated an overwhelming sense of fun, friendship and freedom.

Westbury-on-Severn's **OPAL Working Party** (HT Anna Mai Armstrong, Curricular Leads Helen Cracknell and Katherine Wills), Play Co-ordinator Cassie Betteridge and Chair of Gobs Jen Sigournay have shown excellent teamwork and dedication. They are outstanding ambassadors for children's right to play, as protected by Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Their efforts have been strongly supported by the school governors and wider parent community, demonstrating the powerful impact of a unified, whole-school approach.

Achieving the Platinum Award represents **the highest level of OPAL success** and reflects the school's commitment to ensuring every child has access to rich, high-quality outdoor play every day. A fantastic achievement for all. Congratulations, and enjoy celebrating as a whole school community!



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Girls Indoor Football



Oak class girls played a fantastic match last Tuesday 18th November at the girls' indoor football tournament held in Newent Community School sports centre. Their grit and determination was truly something to behold and stood them in good stead against impressive competition. They were pipped to the post for fourth place by just 1 point and came in a very commendable 5th. In addition to their sporting efforts the girls were a credit to the school, acting with enthusiasm and support for one another as well as their fellow competitors.

Well done girls, you did us proud!

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2026 ADMISSIONS OPENS
3 NOVEMBER!



Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

Children born between these dates can start school in the school year starting from 1 September 2026.

Gloucestershire County Council co-ordinates the admission of children to primary or infant school, therefore please ensure you submit a school application to us by the closing date, 15 January 2026.

Apply online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Don't be late!

Applications must be submitted by 15 January 2026

Key Dates

November 2025 - You should receive a letter advising how to apply
15 January 2026 - Deadline for applications
16 April 2026 - Allocation Day (find out which school your child has been offered)



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