

A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 15th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year everyone! It has been a wonderfully calm and settled start to the term. On the second day back, we all went to Cheltenham Playhouse to see Robin Hood, which was enormous fun.

This is another BUMPER edition of our newsletter, packed with lots of (hopefully) interesting news for you.

We are welcoming Miss Reeks to the team this term, she has made a great start, getting to know children and parents. Also Mrs May, she is teaching Oak until Mr Boyle starts. Mr Boyle visited this week to get to know the school and meet with me.

We have just held the school wide heats for the Gloucestershire wide competition "Look Who's Talking" and we are very proud of all the children who took part in this. Three of them will go through to the next round.

Anna-Mai Armstrong

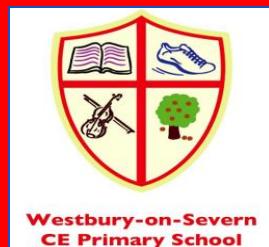
Headteacher

SCHOOL VALUES

COURAGE

Worship Team this week performed the story of
The Cheetah who only wanted to win.

We reflected as a school on the values in the story- one of which was courage, because it takes courage to be brave enough to let others win and show sportsmanship.



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Class News



CHESTNUTS

It has been wonderful to see all the children return with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm and settle back into the routine so well. It's been a joy to have everyone together again. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families joining us at Preschool. The children have been enjoying their time outdoors, especially playing on the trim trail and taking part in Forest School activities. In our learning this week, the focus sound has been 'm', and the children have been busy listening, joining in, and practising words that begin with this sound. We have also been learning the rhyme "**Hickory Dickory Dock**", which the children have loved singing together. Lastly, we would like to give a very warm welcome to **Mrs Smith**, who joined our Early Years team this week. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are delighted to have her with us.



WILLOW

Willow Class have had a super start to the year! The children enjoyed their trip to the pantomime last week, and were excited to share what their favourite parts were! In Drawing Club, we have been looking at the story '**The Magic Bed**'. The children have drawn pictures of where their magic bed travelled to and practised writing their own magic words. In Maths, the Year Ones have been partitioning 7 and 8, while Reception have been practising their counting and ordering numbers 1 to 5. In Science, we have been looking at different animals and what they eat. Year Ones have learnt about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and drawn some fantastic animal pictures. In History we have been learning about how people communicated in the past, and how this is different to now. Thank you so much for welcoming me into Willow Class, I look forward to the term ahead with you all!



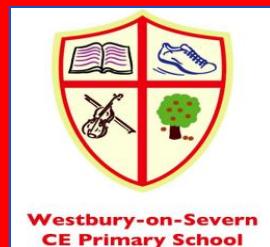
SYCAMORE

Sycamore Class have settled brilliantly back into school after the Christmas break and are ready for an exciting, busy term ahead. In English, we have started a fascinating new book, "**The Mysteries of Harris Burdick**." As the book contains only mysterious illustrations, the children have loved using their imaginations to come up with their own ideas, stories and explanations for what might be happening in each picture. In maths, Year 2 children are learning how to make equal groups, while Year 3 are developing their understanding of fractions. We also had our first violin lesson this week, which went very well. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm and focus, and we're looking forward to seeing their musical skills grow over the coming weeks.



OAK

Oak class have had a mysterious start to the new term. We received a letter from a "secret gardener" along with some flowers, which we discovered are hellebores, and some seeds, which we have planted. We have also been given a book, **The Varmints**, which we have begun to read. In Science, we have started a new unit called All Creatures Great and Small. We began by researching some weird and wonderful animals, such as the Aye-Aye. In circle time, Mrs May has been getting to know the children. She already feels very welcome and settled and is grateful that the children are so friendly and helpful.



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Dates for your diary 2026

20th January- Individual Cross Country runners event for Oak class pupils

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.

24th & 25th March- Parents' evenings

26th March- Easter Church service- everyone welcome

27th March- End of Term 4

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.

22nd May- End of Term 5

Whole school Attendance update

Sept 1st 2025 – January 14th

96.7%

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: Lyra

Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Award: Finn

Oak Class Academic Excellence Award: Leah

Purple Learners of the Term

Freddie in Willow

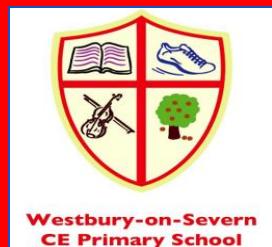
Layla in Sycamore

Gregory in Oak

Westbury Way Award: Zach Waite

We are very proud of all our award winners





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Year 4 Kurling

On Tuesday this week four of our year 4 pupils represented the school at a New age Kurling event for local primaries held at Newent School. After finishing top of their group, having not lost a single match, the team competed against St Whites A and B teams in the final to take home the **silver medal**. This is a great example of us as a small school, dreaming big- competing against much bigger schools and doing well.

This is an incredible achievement and not only do we clearly have ace Kurling players at Westbury - it was commented on by spectators how well they worked together as a team and supported one another. A huge well done to the Year 4s who should be incredibly proud of their achievement - and their medals.

Thanks to Mrs Cracknell for being the driver and supporting the team!





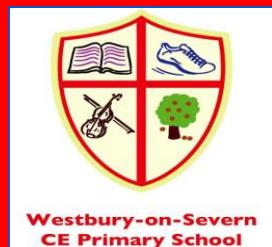
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After our excellent end to the year with our OPAL platinum award we want to keep up the momentum - and the fun - during these wetter months. Full waterproof gear has really improved the children's engagement and enjoyment of lunchtime play and whilst we do have some spare waterproofs in case of emergencies these are very limited in number and not intended for regular use. **Please do provide your children with their own pair of waterproof trousers- NAMED- and encourage them to use these before relying on the school spares.** We now have hooks for hanging muddy trousers and wet coats, so they don't need to use their lockers. We are aware that some children's waterproof trousers have gone missing on occasion, and we are regularly checking that they are all on the right pegs.

In **OPAL club** this week the children have been using the Christmas tree cuttings to build a camouflaged den which we hope will make an excellent hideout to enjoy. They also planted the lovely climbing plants that Mrs Roseblade bought as a leaving gift, to adorn the entrance to our quiet area in the playground.



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**Make Music
Have Fun
Get Playing**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your child is receiving Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) in school through Gloucestershire Music, we are delighted to extend this amazing offer. Through this scheme, our ethos of making music fun and accessible will enable your child to benefit from affordable instrumental hire and music centre membership allowing them to continue their enjoyment of music outside of the classroom.

We've lit the musical spark, now let us show you how exciting the next stage can be!

Visit www.glosmusic.org or call our team on 01452 427242 for more information.

Happy Music Making



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Restorative Practice

At Westbury, we have made great progress with our approach to behaviour management by, over the past three years, adopting a Restorative Approach to behaviour.

It has been transformative and has built a strong bond of trust between staff and pupils.

This approach aligns with our Church school ethos and values.

On 5th January 2026 we had our third Restorative Practice training session and have since started with “Restorative Circle Time”, in addition to using our Restorative Conversations to address conflicts between children.

Here is a key slide that explains how a Restorative approach differs from the approach most of us were raised with. We hope to offer a workshop for parents in the near future.

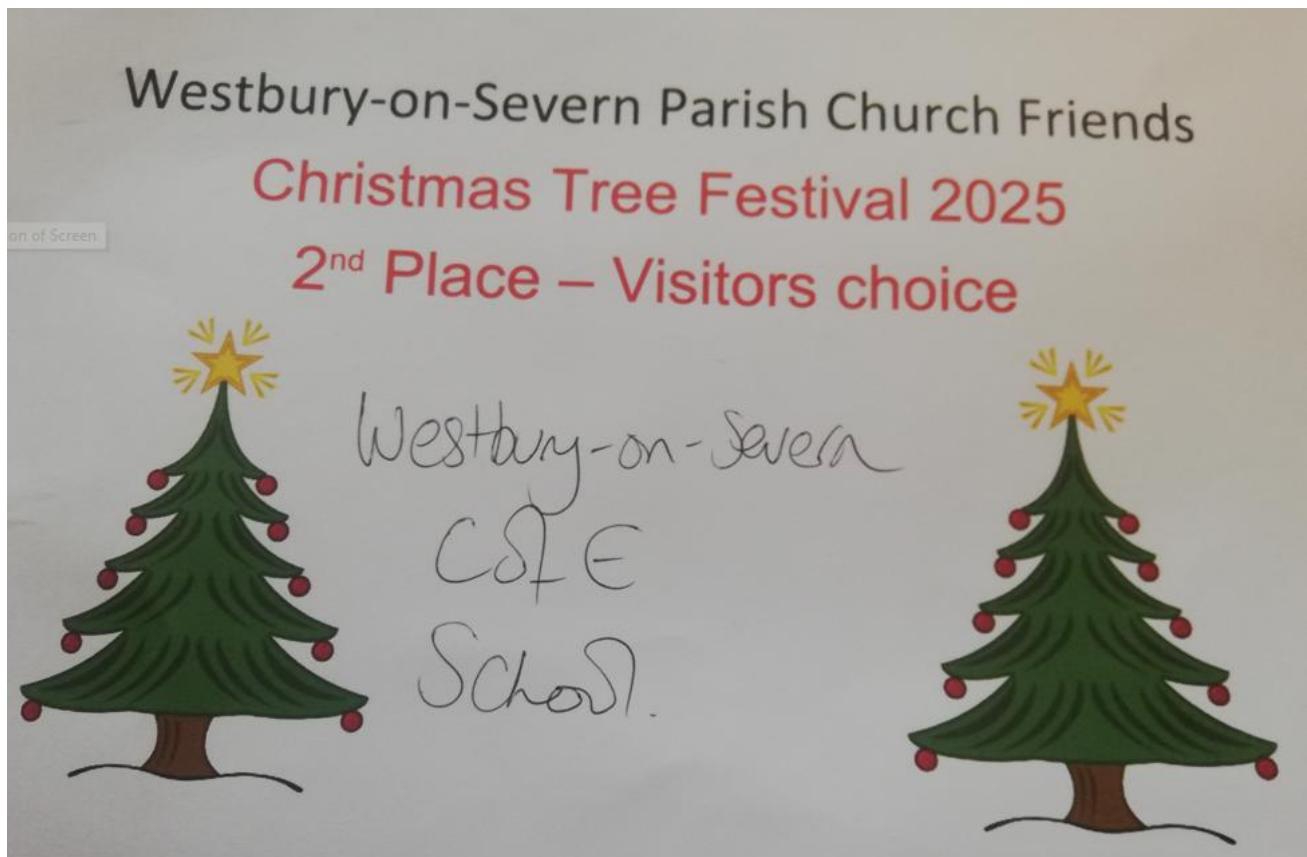
If we approach behaviour through a restorative lens in the WITH box, what would we do differently?

Conventional Thinking	Restorative Approach
All behaviour is motivated by rewards and sanctions	All behaviour is motivated by basic universal needs
Challenging Behaviour is used to get things (e.g. attention) or to avoid things (work)	Challenging behaviour is a problem that needs to be solved and skills that need to be taught/learnt
Attention seeking	Attachment seeking
Behaviour is a matter of a child's will	Behaviour is a matter of a child's skill
What's wrong with you?	What happened to you?



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A big Thank you and Congratulations to Knitting and Crochet club- led by Mrs Trigg!

They used their club time to make wonderful decorations for our school tree and were the Visitors' Choice and got 2nd overall in the Christmas Tree festival in December.