

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Village
Westbury-on-Severn
Gloucestershire
GL14 1PA

Telephone (01452) 760303

Head Teacher: Mr D. Crunkhurn

Email: admin@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk



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

Thursday 15th July 2021

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 year we have had again. I think that last September we all thought we would return to some normality, but that certainly has not been the case.

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 year, including another lockdown, uncertainty and isolation, you as parents have been tremendous. You have risen magnificently to the challenge of supporting home-learning. 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. The effort you put in was so evident on their return to school and the children have continued to work so hard to make up for their lost time in school.

However, despite the difficulties, there have been so many positive things too. It has been a joy to have started a preschool this year, and the team have been amazing in establishing, running and organising it from scratch. Again, we didn't expect things to be quite as they have been and had hoped that our buddy system with older children supporting younger ones could extend to preschool. This obviously couldn't happen this year but hopefully in September it will. The preschool has been amazing though and we have enjoyed watching those tiny people grow and develop in their confidence and enthusiasm. They have all been bundles of joy that have made our school community richer and fuller. I can't really believe that the majority of them return in September as Reception children!

Despite the challenges of having our school community buzzing together, our 'Friends of Westbury School' group have still been tremendous in supporting fund-raising events in very creative ways this year. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs Hayward and the 'Friends' team for all they have done to keep that group afloat and donate funds to support, amongst things, the purchasing of new reading resources. I'm hoping that as we move forward to September, we might be able to get back to our events again.

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 or by still managing to put together an amazing school production. Every one of my team has been spectacular and I wouldn't be without them. Already, they are making plans for next year and how they will make their learning exciting and fun.

We want to say goodbye as well, to Mrs Lyons, who has been with us for the past three years completing training to become a Teaching Assistant. She has been a wonderful addition to our team and has been a real asset as a Lunchtime Supervisor. We are so glad that she has qualified successfully in her training and wish her well for her future.

In everything we do, we try to keep our eyes fixed on our Vision, which we hold dear and our core Christian values:



Through our core Christian values of respect, friendship, perseverance and forgiveness, our Westbury family is one body, shaping the spirit, achieving together and learning for life, so that all may flourish as unique children of God.

Our children are indeed unique and with their own individual quirks and personalities. Yet, they have all had very different experiences through this COVID-19 journey. Our Reception children missed most, if not all, of their opportunity to develop vital socialisation skills due to closures of preschools and school, our current Year 1 children missed most of their Reception year and therefore couldn't complete their Early Years education and this has taken a huge toll on their own development. However, through their determination and that of staff and parents, we have seen all our children in school blossom into wonderful children, who have tried so hard to catch up and develop academically, emotionally and physically. I hope that this continues next year.

Being able to achieve together is always our goal. This isn't always easy and through the pandemic and having to be restricted in school to being in 'bubbles' and not mixing, has been really hard, especially for our Y6 children, who have longed to be buddies to their Reception friends. However, through perseverance and smiles, we have managed. And as our phrase 'Learning for LIFE', teaches us, we have learnt how to cope and deal with these strange times in new ways that will help us all as we journey through our own lives.

That resilience and determination to succeed and grow is my biggest prayer for our Y6 leavers this year. Through seizing the challenges they face, together, and applying what they know and have been taught, I hope that they will be able to face the future and whatever is thrown their way. They have been amazing individuals who have made our school better by their presence. We wish them every success for their future and look forward to hearing of their achievements.

Indeed, 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



Forest Foodbank:

A huge thank you to everyone who has continued to contribute to the Forest Foodbank collections. I was able to send a very big box to them yesterday and we will continue to support this important work again in September.

Year 6 Leavers' Service:

It was so good to hold our Year 6 Leavers' service on Tuesday evening, albeit socially distanced and with parents on Zoom. Our thanks to 'Friends' for organising the Leavers' hoodies and to the Catherine Bovey Trust of Flaxley for supplying Bibles to them. It was a lovely service and we will continue to pray for our Year 6 children as they continue their learning journeys in their secondary schools.

Start of Term – September 2021:

It is hoped that our start to the new school year will be back to our usual drop-off and pick-up times. This means that the school gates will be open from 8.30 until 8.45 for school children and they will finish at 3pm. Preschool hours remain the same with a start time of 8.45am and their afternoon session finishing at 3pm. Hopefully the staggered finish to the day will no longer be required, but at the moment we do not know. I will be in touch towards the end of the summer holiday to confirm drop-off and pick-up arrangements for September. In the meantime, this is a reminder that term starts for the children on 6th September 2021.

A Message from Mrs Lyons:

I have loved being part of the Westbury Family for the past 3 years. I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff for helping me on my journey to become a qualified Teaching Assistant. I really have learnt so much. To the children, what can I say, you are all amazing and I have loved every minute of working with you and watching you grow. You are all truly awesome. I am so proud of the resilience that you have shown through this pandemic, the empathy that you show to others and that you all have made me truly smile and laugh on a daily basis. I will go away with some awesome memories of you all. See you all soon Love Mrs Lyons x

Summer reading challenge:

Please see below, information from the library service about this year's reading challenge that will be taking place. It is open to all, so we hope you might want your child to get involved. We would love to know how your child got on with the challenge when we return to school in September.

Summer is just over the horizon, and with it comes the Summer Reading Challenge @ Gloucestershire Libraries!

This is our favourite time of year. We love seeing all your pupils get so enthused about reading, and coming to their local library. Last year, given all its weirdness, made for a very different Challenge. We took things digital, with children logging their progress online, receiving digital incentives as they went. Gloucestershire Libraries also worked hard to distribute free, gifted books, packs and medals to vulnerable children across the county. These gifts were available for every child in care, and also to those accessing Trussell Trust and independent Foodbanks across the county during the summer months. We are continuing with both these offers this year - digital content for all, and free books for vulnerable children - but our main aim is to get all children back in their local library!

This year's challenge is called 'Wild World Heroes', and was designed by The Reading Agency to be relevant, thought provoking, but above all - FUN! We have lots of fantastic events in the planning stages, to run alongside the challenge (Covid allowing), but the core challenge remains the same.

8 weeks, 6 books, 3 visits - any books at all! Even the most reluctant readers can manage that, to get their hands on a shiny golden medal (and maybe some house points too?!)



