

# WESTBURY WHISPERS

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

8th October 2020



Westbury-on-Severn  
CE Primary School

## CONTENTS

---

FAMILY WORSHIP

THE GREAT BOOK OFF

CONSENT FORM

HARVEST FEESTIVAL

ADMISSION TO PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

SECONDARY SCHOOL  
TRANSFER

PHOTOGRAPHS

SHOEBOXES

It has certainly been a mixed bag of weather this week. Thank you to everyone who has made sure that children come to school with jumpers and coats.

The Forest school area has really been a hive of excitement recently, children in Class 1 and Class 2 getting thoroughly muddy as they explore the natural environment. Please do look at the photos on our school Instagram pages and you will see the fun that the children have had as they have been learning about life-cycles and insects.

Talking about the natural world and the wonders that it holds, I was sent this quote by Pope Francis, from a friend of mine. In our current climate, where there is so much worry and anxiety expressed and held by so many of us, I thought I would share it with you as an encouragement and reflection:

*'Rivers do not drink their own water;  
Trees do not eat their own fruit;  
The sun does not shine on itself  
And flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.  
Living for others is a rule of nature.  
We are all born to help each other.  
No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy;  
But much better when others are happy because of you.'*

It is our joy as members of our school staff to serve you and your children. We pride ourselves in bringing joy into the children's lives, which is why we plan not just to teach lessons, but to make lessons fun and engaging. For me, the joy of life is seen in the way we put other people before ourselves. Imagine a world if that was true of everyone.

Have a blessed week,  
Mr C.



## CONSENT FORM

At the beginning of the school year, we asked that you send back a consent form regarding school trips. I want to clarify that until it is deemed safe to do so, we will not be taking children on school trips. The purpose of the consent form is to give us permission to take children on trips, **if they start or finish outside of the normal school day**. The form also gives us your permission to administer emergency first aid, should it be necessary if we are taking children on visits outside the school day or on a residential visit. You will have already given medical consent for administering first aid during the school day. Please read the consent form carefully as this information is explained within it.



Before lockdown in March, we were collecting for people in need in our community, through supporting the Forest Foodbank. We would like to relaunch our support for this with our virtual Harvest Festival, which will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm as part of our Weekly Family Worship. Up until Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, we would like to invite you to send into school produce that would be helpful for the Forest Foodbank. We will create a display and share it during the Harvest Worship, and then take it to the Foodbank for distribution. After Harvest Festival we will continue to accept donations for the foodbank as we have done in the past. A box will be in the reception area for children to put donations in. Thank you for your support again.

### ***FAMILY WORSHIP***

It was lovely to see so many of you at our family worship last Monday. We hope that you enjoyed celebrating with us as a school family. I now have just one request, and that is when you join, please identify yourself with a name rather than 'ipad 1' for example, as it is important that we know who is with us! Thank you for your help with this and we look forward to seeing you next Monday.

### **ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Any child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 can start school in the school year starting from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) co-ordinates the admission of children to primary or infant school, therefore you must apply to them to receive a school place for your child by the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This is very important and attending our preschool does not entitle you to a place at our school. It is vitally important therefore that you do not miss the deadline. You should receive a letter from GCC during November 2020, advising you how to apply. If you do not hear from them by the end of November, you must contact the admissions team at [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## **CLASS NEWS**

### *Swallowtail and Elvers class news*



We've had an exciting week! Monday was Elvers first Muddy Monday session and Wednesday was Swallowtails first Welly Wednesday! Both groups really enjoyed exploring and investigating in our Forest School area.

Swallowtails had R.E on Monday and looked at the creation story and the Christian belief that God created all living things. We also took part in Family Worship.

Woodpeckers have been writing instructions for making felt vegetables. We have been researching and finding out about Beatrix Potter. In science, we have been learning about food chains. We researched the food chains for Peter Rabbit, Jeremy Fisher, Squirrel Nutkin and Mrs Tiggy-Winkle! In Literacy, we started writing our own Beatrix Potter Tales. We used adjectives to describe our characters and settings.



This week Horse Chestnuts have started a new unit in Literacy all about Tudor poetry. We've explored poems and songs written by Henry VIII and have learnt lots of traditional language. We then researched all about Henry's wives to help us write our own poem all about them next week. We have looked at young Henry VIII and found some descriptions of him. We

had to decide what was fact, opinion or false to create a dating biography for him to help find wife number 7!



## The Great Book Off

Following last week's request for books for the 'Great Book Off', which is being organised by Friends of Westbury School, we noticed an error in the date!



So, to rectify this, the children will be able to purchase books on Thursday 5th November. They will do this in school before the end of the day. Please do look over half-term holiday to see if you have any books you do not want. Many thanks for supporting this.

## **SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER**

For parents of children transferring to secondary school next year, please be aware that the **application form must be returned to the admissions team by 31<sup>st</sup> October**. You will have received information about this in the letter your child brought home. However, details of key dates and online application facility can be accessed at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school/) If you are unsure about any part of the application process, please do contact the school for help and we will do our best to support you.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

The school photographer will be visiting us on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** to take individual photographs of the children. Because of the current situation, and the need for children to remain in their bubbles, it will be slightly different this year. Tempest have provided us with their risk assessment for taking photos during the coronavirus pandemic and have made changes to their procedures this year.



Children will be photographed by themselves, siblings will not be able to have their photo taken together and there will be no opportunity for preschool children to join their older brothers and sisters. If siblings are in the same class they will be able to have their photos taken together. We will arrange for all the children to have individual photos taken, siblings in the same class will also have a joint photo taken. Photos will also be taken of children who are attending our preschool on the day, if your child does not usually attend on a Monday they are very welcome to come into school at 8.45am to have their photo taken. Please let us know if you **do not** want your child to be photographed. We appreciate that this will be a disappointment to some parents, but it is outside of our control this year.

## ***TEAMS4U SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020***

Each year we are delighted to take part in the Team4U Shoebox appeal. And we are always overwhelmed by the generosity that you as parents and carers give to helping us create shoebox Christmas parcels for disadvantaged children. However, this year we will be doing this differently. As you can appreciate, we are not able to mix children across their class bubbles and as a result, we will not be able to create shoebox parcels in the way we have before. We would still like to take part in this annual initiative, so this year we will be sending home a quarantined shoebox for each family represented in school. You are under no obligation to fill the shoebox and return it, but if you would like to create a shoebox parcel as a family, they can be returned to school on either Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November or Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This will give us time to quarantine them again before they are collected on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. We will send home a leaflet with a list of suggested items for the parcels, with the shoeboxes. We will send the shoeboxes home on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October or Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Christmas will be very different this year for so many of us and even more so for those children living in the worst poverty. With your help, we can bring some joy into their lives. Thank you again for your support with this worthwhile project.

