



## A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a JAM PACKED newsletter! Remember, if you do require a printed copy, do ask in the office. We have some wonderful photographs of Sycamore's Roman Day and exceptional work in Geography in Oak Class, a reminder about school uniform, the usual diary dates plus next year's term dates, our OPAL afternoon on 21<sup>st</sup>, Forest school news, plus a reminder about ordering school lunches. There is, as always, a LOT going on and a lot to celebrate! Next week is SATs week for Year 6. Some children enjoy tests; others find them stressful. We always do everything we can to make them as stress free as possible. We also remind Year 6 that they are so much more than a score- SATs capture a moment and do not reflect the whole child, their character or their potential. SATS breakfasts start at 8.15 every morning of the test for a relaxed and nutritional start to the day!

**Anna-Mai Armstrong**  
Headteacher

### *SCHOOL VALUES*

**A FRIEND IS ONE  
OF THE NICEST  
THINGS TO HAVE  
AND ONE OF THE  
NICEST THINGS  
TO BE!**

## **FRIENDSHIP**



The Worship Team acted out a story this week as part of their planned weekly Worship and asked each class focused questions about what the story represented- the children identified the values of Kindness and Friendship in their storytelling.

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### Class News



#### CHESTNUTS

This week the children have been focusing on the letters "J" and "V". They had fun making Jellyfish! This week and next in Maths, they will be learning about 3D shapes. The children have been learning new rhymes - their favourite at the moment is "**Walking through the Jungle**". Our SCARF unit for this term is all about **kindness**, how the children can be kind towards others and what being kind means to them. Thank you to all those that have let Mrs Trigg know their requirements for September. If you haven't already, please let us know ASAP.



#### WILLOW

In Drawing Club, Willow Class have been looking at the story '**We're Going on a Bear Hunt**'. Reception have continued to practise writing their own sentences using finger spaces and Year Ones have been practising using adjectives and writing words with the suffix -ed.

At the end of the week the children will be creating their own bear hunt and drawing maps to show this! In **Maths**, Year Ones have been partitioning 19 and 20 as well as starting the new topic: fractions. While Reception have been looking at how 6, 7, 8 and 9 can be composed of '5 and a bit' as well as looking at how to make 10. Willow Class have also continued to be **Scientists**, specifically focusing on plants! They have drawn different plants that they could see in the school environment, as well as planting their own sunflower seeds and learning about how to take care of them.



#### SYCAMORE

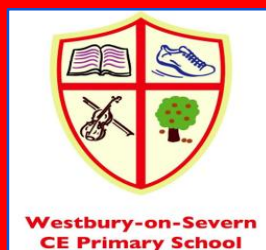
This week, Sycamore Class enjoyed an exciting **Roman Day**, where the children learned what it was like to be Roman legionaries. They designed and made their own shields and helmets before heading outside to practise formations such as the tortoise, orb and wedge. We explored Roman food, although fish custard didn't sound very appealing, the honey bread we made was much more popular! In maths, the children learned about Roman numerals and wrote their ages using this system. In the afternoon, we discovered how Roman baths were used as places to relax and socialise, and the children created their own colourful sea-life mosaics inspired by Roman designs. It was a busy and engaging day, and the children learned a great deal. (See photos later in this newsletter!)



#### OAK

Oak class have had a busy and exciting week of learning across the curriculum. In English, we have dived into our class text **The Children of Benin**, exploring the characters in depth and discussing their differing emotions and motivations. The children have shown great insight and empathy through thoughtful discussion and written work. We have now completed our Geography unit on India, where pupils demonstrated excellent understanding of the country's physical and human features. Building on this learning, we are excited to begin exploring traditional Rangoli patterns in Art, focusing on colour, shape and cultural significance. In RE, pupils have been introduced to **Hinduism**, learning about its core beliefs, traditions and how this religion is respected and valued by its followers today. Year 6 have been fantastic throughout the week and are working hard as we gear up for next week.

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### *Dates for your diary*

**11<sup>th</sup> May**- KS2 SATs week for Year 6- SATS breakfasts Monday- Thursday at 8.15am.

**20<sup>th</sup> May**- Whole school afternoon walk to the River Severn- ***if you would like to join us for the walk and support the children, please contact the office.*** Pupils need help over stiles and with their snacks and drinks along the way.

**21<sup>st</sup> May**- Open Classrooms from 8.30am- Parent and Carer drop in, come and see your children's work. All classrooms open, including Chestnuts.

**21<sup>st</sup> May**- OPAL play afternoon for families- everyone welcome. 1.30-2.30pm- see information later in this newsletter

**22<sup>nd</sup> May**- End of Term 5: ***Please NOTE Day ends at 2pm***

**1<sup>st</sup> June**- Start of Term 6

**5<sup>th</sup> June**- School photos- classes and Y6 leavers

**9<sup>th</sup> June**- Y6 visit Gloucester Cathedral for the Leavers Service

**11<sup>th</sup> June**- Boys 2 Men Workshop for Y/6 boys

**19<sup>th</sup> June**- Fathers' Day Service in the school hall at 2.30pm. All male carers welcome- fathers, stepdads, grandads, uncles etc. You will be celebrated!

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**- first day of Dene Magna induction week for Y6

**29<sup>th</sup> June**- Kindness Ambassadors visit Chaxhill Care Home

**3<sup>rd</sup> July**- School Production at Westbury Parish Hall

**6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**- ***Dream Big*** Active Week, more details to follow. Lots of exciting physical activities and workshops, plus Whole School Sports morning on the Wednesday. Y6 Bikeability during this week.

**17<sup>th</sup> July**- Last day of term : ***Please note Day ends at 2pm***

***Next year's calendar dates (2026-7) are at the end of this newsletter***



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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**: Ellie

Sycamore Class **Academic Excellence Award**: Eliza

Oak Class **Academic Excellence Award**: Freddie

### Whole school Attendance update

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 – May 5th 2026

**96.4%**

***National Average = 94.8%***



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## Forest School News



*Welcome to a new item for our newsletter. We will regularly bring you updates about the nature found in Forest School and experiences had by pupils in Willow and Chestnuts.*

As the days grow longer and the forest school area bursts into life, we're excited to share some of the wonderful experiences the children have been enjoying at Forest School this season.

### Exploring New Life

Spring has brought an abundance of discovery opportunities. The children have been spotting budding leaves, identifying early wildflowers, and observing insects emerging from their winter rest. There's been a particular fascination with the pond, which was emptied over the winter and is now being carefully revamped with plants and wildlife. Last week, the children discovered a newt, which is now settling into its new home—an exciting moment for everyone!



### Team Challenges and Play

Den building has been a favourite group activity, encouraging collaboration and problem-solving. Whether constructing shelters or inventing imaginative woodland games, the children have shown fantastic teamwork and resilience.

### Weather Watch

We've experienced a mix of sunshine and spring showers! Please continue to send them in with suitable outdoor clothing, including waterproofs and sturdy footwear.

### This coming term, we'll be focusing on:

- Birdwatching and identifying local species
- Planting and understanding growth cycles
- Creating pictures using natural materials

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## Sycamore Class' ROMAN DAY on Tuesday Vth May CCXXVI

Shields, chariots, honey bread, wine (cranberry juice actually), mosaics.

Immersive history learning at its best. Salve Sycamore!

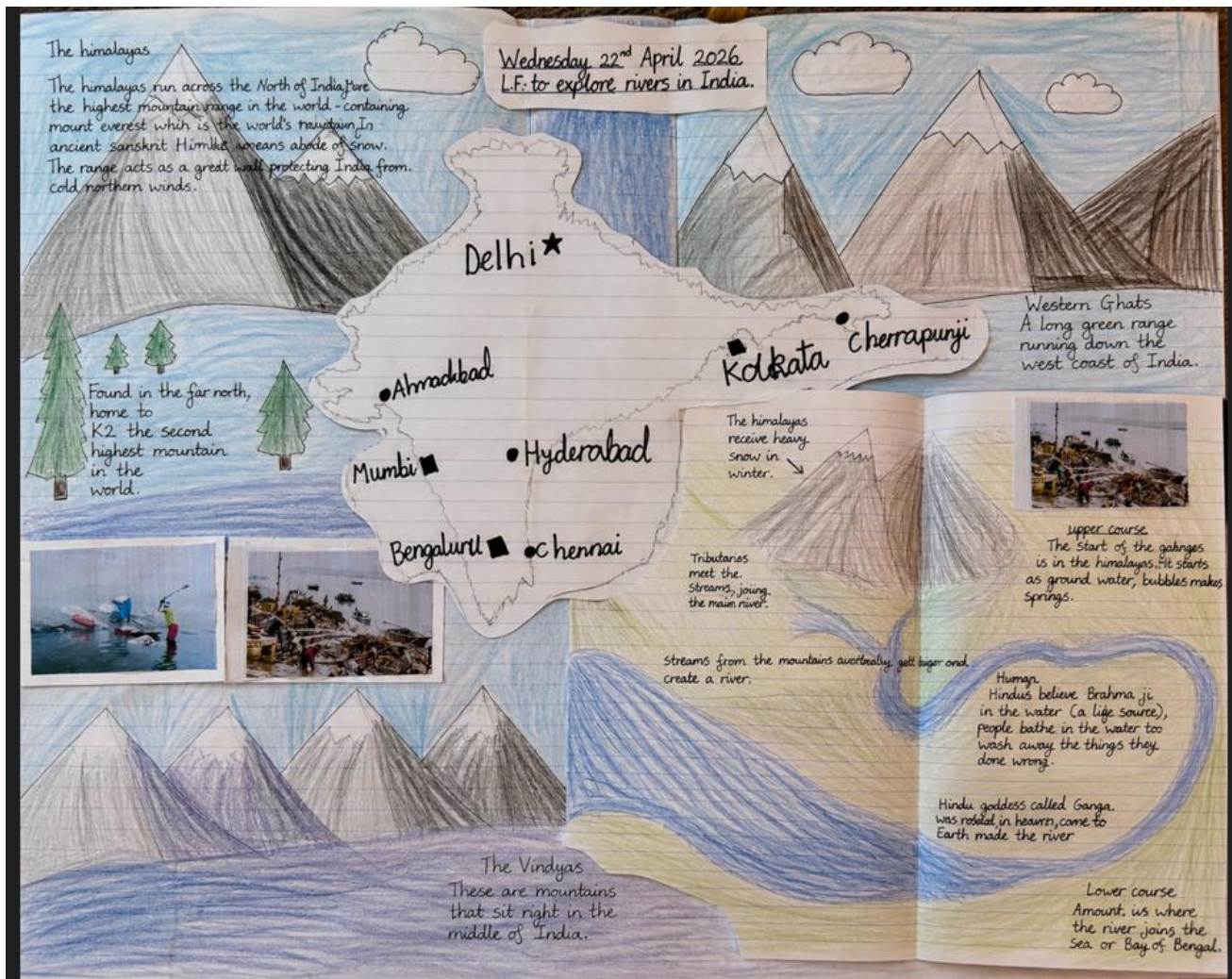


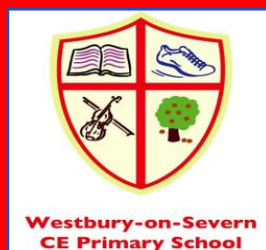


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Oak Class have been learning about India this term, which has culminated in some rich learning in Geography. The children have really enjoyed showing what they have learned using this multimedia approach, taking great pride in creating a double page collage in their Geography books.





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### A reminder about school uniform

We ask for pupils to wear

- dark trousers/shorts or a knee length grey skirt/pinafore/culottes.
- a white or red polo shirt
- a red sweatshirt or red cardigan
- red gingham summer dress (in warmer weather)
- sensible black shoes
- white/grey/black/neutral socks

On PE or Sports days pupils must wear

- black shorts or jogging bottoms
- white t shirt or polo shirt
- trainers or sports shoes
- School jumper or fleece
- **Sports kits/football kits/hoodies/clothing with logos are not acceptable**

Long hair must be tied back and only small stud earrings are acceptable (covered in PE). No makeup or jewellery is allowed. We ask that every child has a named pair of **wellies** in school for muddy/wet playtimes. They need a **coat** every day because we always try to get outdoors for playtime. Children bring over trousers during the wetter months.

***PLEASE make sure all uniform is named. This is so important!***

*Some pupils may have sensory or a medical issue that requires certain clothing, either permanently or temporarily, that supports their needs. Please speak to the Headteacher about this and your request will be considered.*



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**OPAL Play Afternoon 21<sup>st</sup> May at 1.30-2.30pm**

**We are welcoming all parents, carers, grandparents, siblings, extended family members to join us in an afternoon of play, enjoying all of the play opportunities with the pupils of Westbury.**

**This was a great success last year and we are hoping that the weather will stay fine.**

**Please arrive at 1.30 and come straight into the playground- the gate will be open.**

**At 2.30pm the children will return to classes and the hall will be open for parents for tea and coffee, served by the Kindness Ambassadors, hosted**



**by the Friends of Westbury.**

**We hope to see you there!**



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### Parent pay and Lunch orders

Please could we ask that parent ensure their pupils' school dinners orders are sent through to the office promptly, via email, every three weeks. We are not always getting pupils' meal orders through in time and if a parent has not ordered a meal for their child, we automatically order them a jacket potato in line with advice from Caterlink. This sometimes leads to disappointment in the dinner hall.

Also, in line with our School Meals Debt policy, we require that parents pay *in advance* via Parent Pay. If you do fall into arrears, please clear this debt by the following day. If the debt is not cleared, parents will be required to provide their child with a packed lunch until their account is in credit.

***This does not apply to Free School Meal pupils (all pupils in YR/Y1/Y2 or pupils in KS2 who qualify). Please apply for free school meals here if you think you might qualify.***



<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

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SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS		2026/27		  <b>Gloucestershire</b> COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		<b>OCTOBER</b>		<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	2 9 16 23 30
Tues	1 8 15 22 29	Tues	6 13 20 27	Tues	3 10 17 24
Wed	2 9 16 23 30	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	4 11 18 25
Thur	3 10 17 24	Thur	1 8 15 22 29	Thur	5 12 19 26
Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	6 13 20 27
Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	3 10 17 24 31	Sat	7 14 21 28
Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	1 8 15 22 29
<b>DECEMBER</b>		<b>JANUARY</b>		<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	4 11 18 25	Mon	1 8 15 22
Tues	1 8 15 22 29	Tues	5 12 19 26	Tues	2 9 16 23
Wed	2 9 16 23 30	Wed	6 13 20 27	Wed	3 10 17 24
Thur	3 10 17 24 31	Thur	7 14 21 28	Thur	4 11 18 25
Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	1 8 15 22 29	Fri	5 12 19 26
Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	2 9 16 23 30	Sat	6 13 20 27
Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	3 10 17 24 31	Sun	7 14 21 28
<b>MARCH</b>		<b>APRIL</b>		<b>MAY</b>	
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	3 10 17 24 31
Tues	2 9 16 23 30	Tues	6 13 20 27	Tues	4 11 18 25
Wed	3 10 17 24 31	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	5 12 19 26
Thur	4 11 18 25	Thur	1 8 15 22 29	Thur	6 13 20 27
Fri	5 12 19 26	Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	7 14 21 28
Sat	6 13 20 27	Sat	3 10 17 24	Sat	1 8 15 22 29
Sun	7 14 21 28	Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	2 9 16 23 30
<b>JUNE</b>		<b>JULY</b>		<b>AUGUST</b>	
Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	2 9 16 23 30
Tues	1 8 15 22 29	Tues	6 13 20 27	Tues	3 10 17 24 31
Wed	2 9 16 23 30	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	4 11 18 25
Thur	3 10 17 24	Thur	1 8 15 22 29	Thur	5 12 19 26
Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	6 13 20 27
Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	3 10 17 24 31	Sat	7 14 21 28
Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	1 8 15 22 29
<b>Term Time</b>		<b>Holidays</b>		<b>Christmas Bank Holiday</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> December 2026
<b>Bank Holiday</b>		<b>INSET</b>			26 <sup>th</sup> December 2026
<b>Term 1:</b> Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2026	39 days			<b>New Year Bank Holiday</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2027
<b>Term 2:</b> Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov – Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2026	35 days			<b>Good Friday</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2027
<b>Term 3:</b> Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan - Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2027	30 days			<b>Easter Monday</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2027
<b>Term 4:</b> Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2027	24 days			<b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027
<b>Term 5:</b> Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2027	34 days			<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2027
<b>Term 6:</b> Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June – Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2027	33 days			<b>Summer Bank Holiday</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2027