

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 25th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our second newsletter of the year and it's full of information- do please keep reading till the end. We are hosting a new street dance class in the hall on a Tuesday evening, starting in October which is very exciting. Do sign up for their free taster session if you are interested.

Nicky sent out our new Parent Handbook which is similar to the old prospectus but is more of a practical guide to school. This was emailed to everyone yesterday- one amendment is in the Uniform section- **red polo shirts** are uniform too. Apologies for that omission.

I have some staffing news for you too. Grace George has been saving up for a trip of a lifetime in January for four months of travelling with her partner across Asia and to Australia. We are excited for her but it means she will be leaving us at Christmas, which we are sad about since she is a fantastic teacher. We will therefore be advertising soon for a full time teacher for Willow to start in January.

Finally, a big Thank-you to Gardening club, who have replanted the tubs outside Chestnuts- if you look closely there are a few fairy houses in there too!

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

SCHOOL VALUES **GENEROSITY**



In Worship we told the story of the widow's offering from the New testament and explored Jesus's message about generosity.

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Class News



CHESTNUTS

Weekly PE sessions have started in Chestnuts, they are taking place on a Monday afternoon with Gryff from Progressive Sports and the children are loving them. So far they have been practising their throwing skills using coloured bean bags and throwing them into the matching coloured hoop. Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable clothing and footwear to take part. The children are currently learning about different emotions/feelings and what makes them special/different from others. This week they have been talking about what super power they would like if they could have one. In Maths they have been learning all about the numbers 2 and 3. The focus story has been **Chicken Licken** and the children have made face masks of their favourite character from the book.



WILLOW

This week in Drawing Club, we have been exploring the story of **The Gruffalo**, drawing the character and labelling its distinctive features. In Art, we created colourful Elmer models using milk bottles, with each one being unique. In Maths, the Year 1 children have been representing numbers to 20 using different resources such as Numicon and ten frames, while Reception children have been working on representing numbers to 5. In Science, we have been learning about the seasons and went on an autumn nature walk in forest schools, where we made drawings based on our observations.



SYCAMORE

It has been another busy, exciting week in Sycamore. In English, the children are writing their own non-chronological reports about wolves, sharing lots of fascinating facts and showing great enthusiasm for research and writing. Our art lessons have taken us into the jungle as we study the work of **Henri Rousseau**, experimenting with colour mixing yellow and blue to create rich green backgrounds for our own jungle scenes. Maths has been wonderfully hands-on, we've explored place value by "feeding" base ten blocks to friendly monsters and stretching number lines right across the classroom. Everyone is settling in beautifully and beginning to feel confident with our classroom routines.



OAK We have recently finished reading *The Rain Player* in our English sessions, and we are excited to share some of our reviews with you **at the end of this newsletter**.

Over the past few weeks, we have been learning a great deal about the Maya community and Central America. Using atlases, the children explored the physical geography and biomes of the region, while in History they investigated aspects of Maya life and culture. In Science, Oak Class have been studying how molecules behave in solids, liquids, and gases, developing a detailed understanding of the differences between these states of matter.

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Dates for your diary

2025

30th September- Nasal flu vaccine for pupils.

1st October- Y5/6 Cross Country running event

2nd October- National Poetry Day

3rd October- Individual and sibling pupil photographs.

16th October- HARVEST church Service 9.15am

22nd October- Oak Class trip to Cadbury's World- please return slips to the office ASAP.

23rd October- Term ends

24th October -INSET day

3rd November- Term 2 begins

4th & 5th November- Parents evenings

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 into school

17th December- Christmas lunch

18th December- Christmas Church Service 9.15am

19th December- last day of term

2026

5th January- INSET day

6th January- Term 3 begins

7th January- Whole school to Cheltenham Playhouse for Pantomime

26th- 30th January-STEM week

10th February- Internet Safety Day

13th February- End of Term 3

25th February- Oak start weekly afternoon swimming lessons

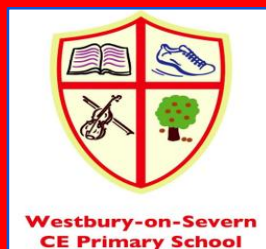
5th March- WORLD BOOK DAY

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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☀ WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARENTS — BOOKINGS NOW OPEN! ☀

Our brand-new, award-winning MF Street Dance School launches in Westbury-on-Severn on Tuesday 7th October — giving local children an exciting new way to build confidence, friendships, and life skills through dance.

📅 A limited number of FREE trial spots are available — the perfect way for your child to try it out, risk-free! 📅

Over 2,000 parents across the UK already trust MF Street Dance to give their children confidence, skills, and memories that last a lifetime. Now it's your child's turn!

Why parents choose MF Street Dance:

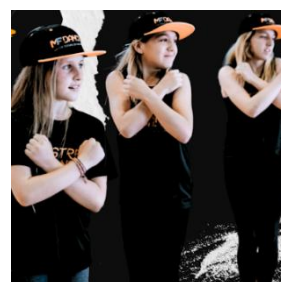
- 💡 Confidence that lasts – helping children shine on and off the dance floor.
- 🎵 Creative expression – a fun, safe way to explore music & movement.
- 💪 Health & fitness – keeping kids active, energised & happy.
- 🧠 Life skills that stick – teamwork, focus, resilience, leadership & more.
- 🌍 Friendships & belonging – a positive, supportive community.
- 🏆 Performance & competition opportunities – squads, showcases & events nationwide.

What your child gets when they join:

- ✅ FREE Trial Lesson – no risk, just fun.
- ✅ FREE Dance Attire – ready to hit the floor from day one.
- ✅ Award-winning Life Skills Programme.
- ✅ Opportunities to perform with our squads & performance teams.
- ✅ Inspiring, qualified instructors who know how to bring out the best in every child.

Classes for all ages & abilities:

- 🌟 Mini Streetz (ages 3–6)
- 🌟 Junior & Teen Streetz (ages 7–15)



📅 **Bookings are OFFICIALLY OPEN – secure your child's free trial place TODAY!**

<https://mf-support.com/MFDanceWestburyonSevern>



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WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Newborn to Pre School

COME AND JOIN US!

FRIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERMS
10AM - 11:30AM
WESTBURY PARISH HALL
£2 FOR UNDER 1S, OR £3 FOR OVER 1S.
(£1 PER ADDITIONAL CHILD).

FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY
CHILDREN'S SNACKS
ADULT REFRESHMENTS
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
DROP IN- NO BOOKING NECESSARY



14th November- it will be in the school hall 😊

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Wraparound Update

We are writing to inform you of some upcoming changes to our **Wraparound Care provision**, which will take effect from the beginning of **Autumn Term 2**, starting on **Tuesday 4th November 2025**.

After carefully reviewing the demand for Wraparound Care across the week, we have found that **attendance on Thursdays and Fridays has been extremely low** over a sustained period. In order to ensure the long-term **sustainability** of this provision — both financially and logistically, we have made the decision to **reduce Wraparound Care to three days per week**.

What's Changing:

- From **Tuesday 4th November 2025**, Wraparound Care will only be available on:
 - **Mondays**
 - **Tuesdays**
 - **Wednesdays**
- **There will no longer be Wraparound Care on Thursdays and Fridays.**

What's Staying the Same:

- **Times and pricing** for Wraparound on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays **will remain unchanged**. Short session 3.15pm-4.15pm, Extended session 3.15pm-5.30pm.

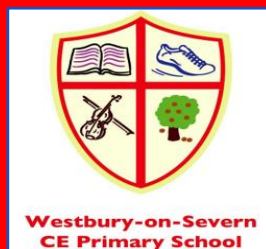
We understand that this may cause inconvenience for some families, and this decision has not been taken lightly. However, running the provision on days with consistently low uptake is not financially sustainable moving forward, and this change will help us to maintain the quality and reliability of the service on the days it is most needed at school.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how this change may affect your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide the best for our children at Westbury on Seven C of E Primary School.

Kind regards,

Jamie Knight



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Our school is once again taking part in the **T4U Shoebox Appeal**. A heartwarming project that helps bring smiles to children and families across Eastern Europe.

Taking part is simple, meaningful, and a whole lot of fun. Over the next few days, a flyer will be making its way home in your child's school bag, please keep an eye out for it. It includes all the details you need, along with helpful ideas of what you can pop into your shoebox.

This is a lovely activity to do as a family over the school holidays and is a wonderful way to show kindness and generosity to others.

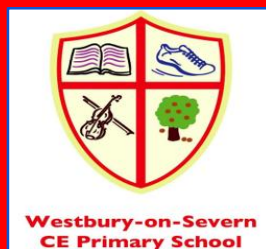
If you happen to have any **spare empty shoeboxes** at home, we'd love it if you could drop them into school so others can use them too. Or, if you'd prefer, you can buy a specially branded T4U shoebox from the school office for just **50p**.

We kindly ask that all filled shoeboxes are returned to us by **Tuesday 11th November**, so we can pass them on to the T4U team in time for their journey abroad.

As always, there's no pressure to take part, but if you are able to get involved, we'd love your support.

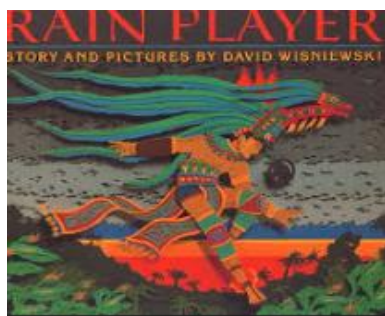
<https://teams4u.com/shoebbox-appeal/>

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Max – I believe that the rain player is a really good book. This book is about Pok-a-Tock and is really party. I think that it was a good book for our English lessons but not for little kids before bed because it might be a bit scary.

Lily F – I like this book because of the pictures and the expression. I do not recommend the boobs to young children, but I do think that people from 7 to the age of 11 might like it. It explores the Maya game Pok-a-Tock through the character Pik. I think we should encourage people to read this book because it has wonderful pictures.

Beren – This book is about a boy who challenges the rain god, Chac. It might not be suitable for small children at bedtime because they might think they will turn into frogs. It reminds me of 'Expedition with Steve Backshall' where he explores the Cenotes of central America, just like in this book he found out all about the Maya.

Max – This book is called Rain Player and in the book we meet a person called Pik. I could recommend that this book is for people that are 7 to 9, I say that because I could be a bit scary. This is my opinion but others might say something else.

Billy – I like all of the themes in the book like bravery and friendship. The main character is called Pik, he was very scared but the animals helped him. This book is, in my opinion, my favourite book because of the detail and the time it was set.

Bethany – This book explores the ancient Maya game of pock-a-Tock through the main character, Pik. Pik plays a game against the rain god, Chac. On his team are three different animals who are able to help him. In my opinion this book is a bit repetitive. The reason I believe this is because in the story there are three main points which are all extremely similar. Some have said that this reminds them of the Odyssey. They say this because the themes are similar, however I believe that they are different, I also think the Odyssey is better. The only thing I believe is that they are both stories for children aged around 7-11.

Elodie – I don't like this book because I am more of a chapter book person. I think this book is bad to read to kids ages 1-6 at bedtime because they might think that all of their crops will die like in the story. It tells the story of Pik who has a few days to get a team together to beat Chac, the rain god, in a game of Pok-a-Tok.

Harrison – In my opinion I think this book is a good book because it shows bravery and hope when Pik never gives up. The character Pik reminds me of Black Panther because he wore animal clothing to help him.