

# WESTBURY WHISPERS

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

17th December 2020



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

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I want to start by saying a BIG THANK YOU to you all for the tremendous support you have shown and offered the school during this term. It has been a very challenging one for us all as we have navigated through the start of a new school year. Who'd have thought that we would be doing parents' evenings via video-conferencing, or our Class 1 and Preschool Nativity via a zoom? We have learned so much through this difficult pandemic and most of the time, we have learned new things on the go! However, the quick-thinking and fast-paced staff here have adapted so well and I am so very proud of the team here.

You have also blown us away with your continuous displays of generosity to the school. So far we have raised money for 'Children in Need', 'Save the Children' through the jumper day, 'The Poppy Appeal', 'Friends of Westbury' through the Christmas craft fair and the book sale. You helped to change lives for children through the creation of 50 shoebox Christmas presents and have donated countless items for the Forest Foodbank. Now you have all responded so overwhelmingly with the Amazon book wish-lists. So Far, Class 3 alone have had 30 books delivered and I know that other books are arriving in the other classes. Just pause and reflect on that. You are an amazing school community and have supported not just the lives of our children but others in the wider community and world.

As I reflect on all that you have done, and all that we have done as a school community together, I feel that it typifies just what our vision and values stand for in our school, especially when we consider '...that all may flourish as unique children of God.' At this time of Christmas, when we consider the hustle and bustle and business of it all, as well as the uncertainty surrounding festivities and whether, as the media sometimes suggests, 'Christmas might be cancelled because of the virus', I have to say that the generosity of you all proves that Christmas can never be cancelled. The core purpose of Christmas is not about the receiving and getting, but the giving and sharing of love – one-to-another – bound up in the birth of Jesus, so beautifully shared by our children in their Nativity production. All the while we remember to share with those less fortunate, and remember in humility how much we have compared to others, the true meaning of Christmas will always be present. We do this whilst sharing love for those around us as much as those we hold close to us.

I thank you all and wish you a most wonderful family Christmas in whatever way it takes place.

Mr C.

## **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the 'Save the Children' Christmas jumper campaign. As a result of your generosity, we were able to raise £88.75 to support vulnerable children.





### ***CHRISTINGLE SERVICE***

This is a reminder that our Christingle service will take place tomorrow at 2pm on Zoom. The link has already

been sent home if you are able to join us. We hope to see you for this special time.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

We were so pleased with the response to the children's Christmas Craft Fair organised by 'Friends of Westbury' last week. This was a very successful event and the children made some wonderful items for sale. Once we know how much has been raised, we will let you know.

Thank you all so much yet again!

### **CHANGES TO MORNING ARRIVAL TIMES**

We have been extremely grateful to so many of you who have stuck to the arrival and pick-up times that were given to you at the start of the autumn term. It has been very successful and prevented lots of gatherings at the school gate and thereby helping with stopping spread of the virus. These times were created to ensure that, where possible, your child had their expected entitlement to their educational day of 6 1/4 hours in school.

However, through monitoring the effectiveness of this approach, it has become clear that the vast majority of children are in school now by 8.45am – the time we would normally start lessons. So, in order to try to return the children to a timetable that is as near to our 'normal' school day as possible, we will be making the following changes to arrival times **only**.

From January 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be allowing you to drop your child off in the morning at any time between 8.30am to 8.45am. This is in keeping with our usual start times. A member of staff will still greet the children each morning at the bottom of the lane, so there is no need to walk with your child up the lane to school. You can drop and go any time within this 15-minute window. If you already drop your children off at either 8.30am or 8.40am, you can continue to do so at those times. If you are one of the few parents whose time is 8.50am, then you will just need to get to school 5 minutes earlier.

There will be no changes to the end of day pick up times, so you can still pick up your children according to the initial time in your letter sent home in September. We will continue to monitor this and any build-up of traffic, and may revert back to specific drop-off times if this is necessary.

## **IMPORTANT**

### ***END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS:***

Term 2 ends on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We are all looking forward to the holiday and wish you all a happy, healthy and restful time. We will reopen on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. If during the Christmas break, any member of your family should suffer with COVID-19, or you require a test and are waiting for results, please refer to the letter that was sent out to you recently regarding informing the school through the admin mailbox: [admin@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk). This will be monitored until Christmas Eve between 10am and 11am only. Obviously, we hope that there will be no cases that will stop you from meeting other people.