

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 25th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see so many families in church this morning, celebrating this special time of year with us. I hope you enjoyed the poetry and Easter thoughts from the children, I was so proud of their confidence and clear voices in the church. Worship Team read so beautifully too and helped lead the service. It was particularly lovely to have Chestnuts in church today and they sang so well. It was great to see so many parents at Parents evening and thanks to everyone who bought books at the Scholastic Book Fair, this earns us rewards to buy more books for school.

We close tomorrow at **2pm** and we have a very packed Celebration Assembly at 1.15 to end the term. All clubs will resume the first week back, look out for the letter sent to you by Mrs KD- there is a new Tuesday club!

Have a wonderful Easter holiday and see you all back on 13th April.

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

SCHOOL VALUES **FORGIVENESS**

Thanks to Open the Book and the Rev Sarah who have been in regularly to school recently, leading our LENT worships. The children made a wonderful Easter garden and we displayed it in the church. We have been exploring the Christian meaning of Lent and Easter.

JOHN 11:25-26

Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die".



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Class News



CHESTNUTS

Chestnuts have been busy practising their song for the Easter service and are very excited to perform it for everyone! In Maths, the children have been learning to count backwards from 5 and have been solving simple problems involving numbers up to 5. In phonics, they have been focusing on the letters **H** and **B** to finish off the term. They have also been making the most of the lovely weather, enjoying lots of time playing and learning outside. Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter!



WILLOW

In Willow Class we have been reading the story '**Chicken Licken**' and the children have loved joining in with the repeated phrases in the book. The children have drawn pictures of Foxy Loxy and Reception have been practising writing simple phrases using digraphs recapped in phonics. While Year Ones have been learning about the prefix 'un' and the suffix 'ing' and have practised using them. In Maths, Reception have been learning about odd and even numbers and how to spot one using numicon. The Year Ones have been partitioning 15 and 16 practically using a part whole model. In RE we have been answering the question: 'Why do Christians put a cross in the Easter garden?'. We used drama to recreate what happened on Palm Sunday, as well as trying hot cross buns to remind us of why a cross is important. It was so lovely to talk to so many of you at Parents' evening. I hope you have a wonderful Easter break!



SYCAMORE

Sycamore Class has had a wonderfully busy and exciting couple of weeks! Last week, they were thrilled by a visit from Harold the giraffe, asking thoughtful questions and showing impeccable behaviour. This week, parents enjoyed a beautiful violin concert, showcasing the children's dedication and hard work over recent weeks. The class has also spent time practicing their poem for the Easter service, rising to the challenge with enthusiasm. In English, we wrapped up our unit on **The Minpins** by creating fact files, which the children really enjoyed. It's been a busy term, and Sycamore Class have shone throughout. Time for a well-deserved Easter break!



OAK

This week has been full of exciting learning and achievements across the class. We enjoyed our final swimming lesson, building confidence and celebrating our progress in the water. In English, we wrote thoughtful and engaging news reports. Maths lessons have been fantastic, with everyone showing great focus and determination. Our Year 6 pupils have been working especially hard as they prepare for their SATs. In RE, we explored the question "What world would Jesus want?", leading to meaningful discussions about kindness, fairness, and helping others. Well done to everyone for a brilliant week of learning!

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Dates for your diary 2026

- 27th March**- End of Term 4: **Please NOTE Day ends at 2pm- I will inform the bus**
- 13th April**- First Day of Term 5
- 15th April**- SATs meeting for Y6 parents- 3.10pm
- 16th April**- Phonics screening information evening for Y1 parents- 3.20pm
- 21st April**- Mountain biking school games at Newent for KS2 pupils
- 11th May**- KS2 SATs week for Year 6
- 20th May**- Whole school walk to the River Severn
- 21st May**- OPAL play afternoon for families- everyone welcome. 1.30-2.30pm
- 22nd May**- End of Term 5: **Please NOTE Day ends at 2pm**
- 1st June**- Start of Term 6
- 5th June**- School photos- classes and Y6 leavers
- 9th June**- Y6 visit Gloucester Cathedral for the Leavers Service
- 11th June**- Boys 2 Men Workshop for Y/6 boys
- 3rd July**- School Production at Westbury Parish Hall
- 6th - 10th**- Dream Big Active Week, more details to follow. Lots of exciting physical activities and workshops, plus Whole School Sports morning.
- 17th July**- Last day of term : **Please note Day ends at 2pm**

Whole school Attendance update

Sept 1st 2025 – March 25th 2026

=96.4%

National Average 94.9%



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Celebration Awards

Every *Friday* we celebrate pupils' achievements during our Celebration Assembly.

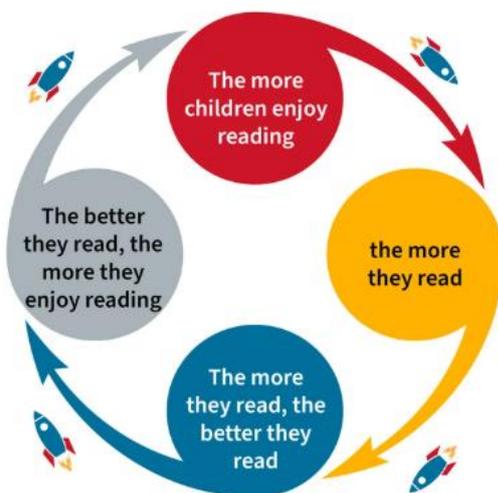
If your child achieves something spectacular out of school, they are welcome to bring in medals, trophies or certificates on a Friday and we will share their success with the whole school.

Willow Class Academic Excellence Award: Olly, Dylan

Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Award: Evie and Jané

Oak Class Academic Excellence Award: Ollie, Zach

This Friday we are launching our HOME READER AWARD for each class too encourage more reading at home, to support reading for pleasure, good mental health and academic progress during this GO ALL IN year of Reading 2026.



"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

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What a wonderful **WORLD BOOK DAY** we had! We started with a Bookish Breakfast with lots of parents and carers reading with their children and an array of fabulous costumes from both staff and pupils. During the day there were Reading for pleasure dens, a Book swap and lots of author focused activities in classes.



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PSHE- Personal, Social and Health Education at Westbury



We had a visit from Tom and Harold last week with the Life Tent popping up for the day in the hall. Each class had a session learning about different topics in an active and fun way- with an appearance from our favourite giraffe, Harold. Sycamore managed to grab a photo opportunity! These were the topics this time for each class-

Reception/Year 1 - My Wonderful Body

Years 2/3 - Meet my brain

Years 4/5/6 - Friends

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Message from Caterlink

New Meal Price

From 1 April 2026, the school meal price will increase to **£2.95 per meal**. Gloucestershire remains one of the lower-priced contracts nationally, even as many counties now charge well over £3.00 per meal. We recognise this is a significant increase for schools, particularly around the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) rate, which was subsidised last year but unfortunately cannot be subsidised again. GCC has worked extensively with Caterlink to keep this increase as low as possible despite rising food and staffing costs.

	Meat Free	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Fish FRIDAY
GCC Spring Summer 2026						
WEEK ONE						
13 April	Option One	Tomato Pasta	Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges & Tomato Ketchup	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Spaghetti Bolognese	Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Ketchup
4 May	Option Two	NEW Cheese and Pepper with Hearty Rice	NEW Soyul Jince Pasta Bake	Vegan Sausage, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Coconut Curry with Rice	NEW Cheesy Broccoli Fritata with Chips and Tomato Ketchup
1 June	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna / Layonmaide or Salmon	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese
22 June	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Baked Beans and Peas
13 July	Dessert	Cory Cookie	NEW Orange Dizzle Cake	Ice Cream with Fresh Fruit	Carrot Cake with Custard	Strawberry Jelly with Peaches
7 September						
28 September						
19 October						
WEEK TWO						
20 April	Option One	Vegan / Leatballs with Spaghefni	Beef Burger with Cheese in a Bun with Potato Wedges & Tomato Ketchup	Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	NEW Pei-Pei Chicken with Hearty Rice, Sweetcorn & Cucumber Salsa	Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Ketchup
11 May	Option Two	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes	NEW Pea Potato Curry with Rice	Roast Quorn, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Lasaroni Cheese	Vegan Sausage with Chips and Tomato Ketchup
8 June	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna / Layonmaide	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese
29 June	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Baked Beans and Peas
20 July	Dessert	Golden Syrup Snap About	Peach Cumble with Custard	Fruit Lealey	Chocolate Bro'nie	NEW Orange & Lemon shortbread
14 September						
5 October						
WEEK THREE						
27 April	Option One	Summer Piza with New Potatoes	Spaghefni / Leatballs	Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Greek Chicken pita with Hearty Rice and Tzatziki	Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Ketchup
18 May	Option Two	Tomato Pasta Bake	Vegan Burger in a Bun with Potato Wedges & Tomato Ketchup	Vegetable Loaf, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegan Bolognese with Pasta	Cheese and Bean Party with Chips and Tomato Ketchup
15 June	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Tuna / Layonmaide	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese
6 July	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Baked Beans and Peas
31 August	Dessert	Chocolate shortbread	Apple Pie with Custard	iced Vanilla Sponge	Summer Lemon Cake	Ice Cream with Peaches
21 September						
12 October						



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.

AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

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Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.



DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as reportharmfulcontent.com.



TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.



ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via childline.org.uk.



Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



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