

WESTBURY WHISPERS

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

22nd October 2020



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

CONTENTS

THE GREAT BOOK OFF

PHOTO'S

LUNCHES

SHOEBOX APPEAL

ADMISSION TO PRIMARY
SCHOOL

SECONDARY SCHOOL
TRANSFER

LUNCHES

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

PARENTS' EVENING

Well, we have finally come to what has been, a very long and tiring term! Looking at the calendar, it will be the longest term of the school year and it is safe to say that it is not just the adults in school who are tired; everyone is too! However, as always, the children have coped admirably. They have risen to the many challenges that this term has presented, not least, the imposed isolation from each other's classes. This has been very hard for some, especially the Year 6 children who have looked forward to being a Reception child's buddy. We really hope that it won't be long before we can integrate a bit more, but we will have to see.

Despite the challenges, there have been many highlights and things to be proud of and celebrate. For me, despite the technical difficulties, it was good to still celebrate Harvest together and share as a school family our thankfulness for all that we are given through God's goodness and the hard work of farmers. Once again, as a result of your generosity, we were able to help those in need through the donation of the produce you sent in. It has also been great to welcome Mrs McFarlane to school, who is currently teaching violins to Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 children as well as the peripatetic lessons. This is going so well and we are looking forward to starting the lessons with Reception children after Christmas. In addition, Forest School, Welly Wednesday, and now Muddy Monday have also restarted and it has been super to see the children having lots of fun in the outdoors as well as learning lots of science. PE has also been great and we have enjoyed having Progressive Sports for the whole day now on Monday and Friday.

So as you can see, despite the enormous frustrations and challenges that this pandemic has brought, we have tried to keep a level of normality for the children and given them a continued rounded education, whilst still developing their basic core skills and plugging gaps!

The children have been amazing as always and they have worked so hard to catch up on lost learning over lockdown. Having said this, we are so grateful for the way you all responded to supporting the home-learning and we have seen so many fantastic pieces of work that the children sent back into school.

Under the new Government regulations, staff have been undergoing training on our new remote learning platform, that will be launched sometime in November. This will ensure that if children need to self-isolate or we have another national lockdown, the children will be able to continue learning at home – more details will follow about this.

We welcomed our new Preschool children into school in September and I have been amazed by their resilience to the long term and how well they have settled in. We have been learning a lot this term through our Preschool and are excited about how we develop this further.

As well as the Preschool and Reception children, we have been delighted to welcome some other new families to our school and are so delighted with the way they have settled in. On that note, please remember that despite the chaos in life, we are always here for you and will do whatever we can to help. We don't always get things right first time and we learn along the way, but there isn't anyone here who wouldn't do anything they could to help and support you and your child if you need it.

All that remains is to wish you all a very restful and peaceful October break. I hope that you get some family time and that those you love remain safe and well.

God bless,

Mr C.

ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Any child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 can start school in the school year starting from 1st 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 15th 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

THE GREAT BOOK OFF

A reminder about the 'Great Book Off', which is being organised by Friends of Westbury School. We will be holding this in school on 5th November and the children will have a chance to purchase books on that day if they wish. Thank you to those who have already brought in books; they are being safely quarantined! Please do look over the holiday to see if you have any books you do not want. Many thanks for supporting this.

TEAMS4U SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020



We will be sending shoeboxes home today. The box will contain a information leaflet and instructions for filling the boxes over the holiday if you are able to. 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. The shoeboxes will need to be back in school on either Monday 2nd November or Tuesday 3rd November. This will allow us to once again quarantine them before they are picked up on Friday 6th November. Thank you again for your support with this worthwhile project.

CLASS NEWS

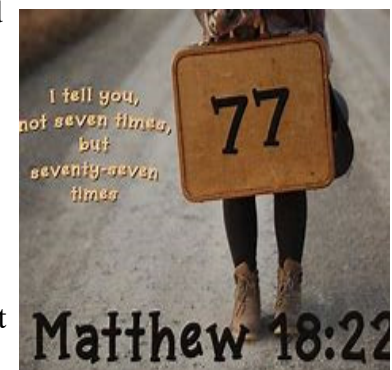
Another busy week in Swallowtails and Elvers and we are all very tired and looking forward to our break! We have been learning about the different parts of our bodies and have been labelling our friends bodies with labels and labels written on post it notes. Y1's have been working hard to show us their learning and earn spots for the butterflies. They have been practising letter formation, working on writing sentences independently, playing maths games to name a few! Reception have been working hard on their phonics and learning their tricky words. Elvers had a super Muddy Monday session and played emotions bingo, learning about their emotions. Enjoy your holiday, Swallowtail parents, please check your emails for some more information.



The children in Woodpeckers have been working very hard in 'showing off' week. In Geography they have also researched different counties in the UK. They have been finishing their theme folder covers and their Beatrix Potter stories.

Horse Chestnuts have had assessment this week, and in Science we learnt about what air resistance and friction are. In RE we explored forgiving someone 77 times and thought about pro's and con's of doing this. In history we found out about changes of modern monarchy.

Written by Mia W



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



The school photographer will be visiting us on **Monday 2nd 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 are able to have their photo taken together. We will arrange for all the children will have individual photos taken, siblings in the same class will also have a joint photo taken. Photos will be taken of children who are attending our Preschool on the day, if your child does not usually attend on a Monday you are very welcome to come into school at 8.45am so they can 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.

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 31st 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/ 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.



IMPORTANT - BY
31ST OCTOBER

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Thank you to everyone who has supported our appeal to get children eating sensibly. It is so obvious who has been helping to teach their children to use cutlery correctly and this is having a marked improvement on how well they are sitting and how much more they are eating. Since September I have been spending the whole of the lunch time serving dinners, wiping tables and sweeping the floor so that the Midday Supervisors can be in the classrooms with those having packed lunches. Yes, it is exhausting, especially when some want gravy and others don't, and when beans are not favoured over peas etc., but it has been great to be with the children and to see them develop. Please keep up the good work!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Having considered the risks and recognising that we are still in a very difficult period as a country and community, we will not be restarting after school clubs until after Christmas at the earliest. We will keep reviewing this and if we are able to change this we will, but at the moment, I have made this decision in the best interests of everyone in school.



PARENTS
EVENING

We intend to hold our Parents' Evenings on Wednesday 25th November and Wednesday 2nd December. Both these evenings will run from 3.30pm to 7pm. We will be holding the meetings via zoom. Joining instructions will be sent out when you have been allocated your time. Each meeting will last for only 10 minutes and we will have to be strict with the times. If you have a problem with zoom, it is important that you let the class teacher know, however, this seems to be the most popular and easy way to communicate in a face-to-face way (or screen-to-screen way!) Mrs Cox will be sending out a form for you to fill in to request a time, so please send that back as soon as possible, so we can try to allocate you a preferred time.