



# WESTON NEWS

2020-21 ISSUE 4: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Website: [weston.cheshire.sch.uk](http://weston.cheshire.sch.uk)

Facebook: [westonvillageprimary](https://www.facebook.com/westonvillageprimary)

Twitter: [@WestonVillagePS](https://twitter.com/WestonVillagePS)

## Dates for your diary (**new dates in red**):

**11<sup>th</sup> November – School nurse team in for Y1 hearing and vision tests (normally completed in Reception but postponed due to Covid)**

**12<sup>th</sup> November – Y2 phonics screening check**

13<sup>th</sup> November – Children In Need – wear yellow/spots/onesies

16<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-bullying week

**18<sup>th</sup> November – Blue class assembly (recorded and shared virtually)**

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 Bikeability

**10<sup>th</sup> December – Turquoise and Gold Christmas crafts**

17<sup>th</sup> December – Red and Purple Christmas crafts

18<sup>th</sup> December – Break up for Christmas holiday

## A message from Mr Cutts

I want to share some feedback from our subject leadership team about the excellent work that children have completed across the school and across the full curriculum. Our subject leaders have accessed lots of training and have time off-timetable to carry out monitoring activities to identify what is working well, how well embedded certain actions are and what aspects of their subject require further development. All of this enables them to support and develop consistently effective teaching and learning in their subjects.

Their reports are very pleasing and it is evident that despite the other challenges that schools are facing, we have been fully able to retain our broad and rich curriculum and provide the children with challenging and engaging work that allow them to make great progress. This includes increasingly complex programming activities within the computing curriculum; a very positive response to our approach in science that is designed to enable children to transfer knowledge to their long term memories more effectively; and the careful implementation of our ready-to-progress approach in maths to quickly identify and address covid-related gaps in learning.

Why not ask your child about the new vocabulary they have learned this week? Language acquisition is a foundation on which all learning and academic success is built. Children learn on

average 7-8 words a day. Children who start school in the lowest 20% for vocabulary size need to learn 20 words a day for 3 years, just to catch up. We actively teach new vocabulary in context across the curriculum every day and all subject leaders focus on this in their subject monitoring. We also expose children to new vocabulary through reading material. Did you know that per 1000 words, children learn 17 new words from everyday adult speech (university educated), 20 words from children's television, 31 from children's books, 54 from comic books and 66 from children's magazines and newspapers? So ask your child about their new vocabulary. Maybe you'll agree with the children in Aqua class that I am grandoliquent. I was slightly offended but couldn't really argue!

## New Staff

This term we have welcomed some new staff to the team. Miss Edwards has joined The Hive team and comes with a wealth of experience of working with children across many educational settings. Mrs Standley and Mrs Shilton join our teaching assistant team to work one to one with children. Both have worked in schools

for a number of years and bring valuable experience and enthusiasm to the Weston team. We are delighted to welcome all three new staff and are hoping to add two more - we still have vacancies for midday assistants. If you are interested or know anyone who is, go to the vacancies page on our website or contact Mrs Machin, the school business manager at [sbm@weston.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:sbm@weston.cheshire.sch.uk). An AMAT application form must be completed.

## Forest School Activities



The children in Blue and Yellow classes enjoyed some Halloween themed forest school activities just before half term. They used natural materials and the skills of collaboration and problem solving to make shelters, broomsticks and spiders webs. They even made fires and toasted marshmallows. The children thoroughly enjoyed their days. Other classes will use the forest school to complete a range of activities throughout the year.



## Harvest Food

Your generous harvest donations were collected by Chance Changing Lives. This is a charity with volunteers who work tirelessly to support homeless and vulnerable people in the area. This includes their food bank, the Community Pantry, which provides for over 100 registered families, which include almost 100 children. Families include lots of working parents including nursing staff. For more information about the charity, visit [www.chancechanginglives.org](http://www.chancechanginglives.org) or search for Chance Changing Lives on Facebook. Times are hard for many in our community and your donations were very gratefully received. Thank you very much.

## Parent Consultation Evenings

We have received lots of feedback about the Parent Consultation Evenings and almost all of it was very positive. It is lovely to welcome you into our school so that you can meet face-to-face with teachers and physically look through your child's work. That said, many of you have pointed out advantages of the virtual appointments such as convenience, privacy and the opportunity for a very focussed conversation away from the hubbub of the hall, which we use in more normal times. We will retain many aspects of our covid approaches after the restrictions are relaxed because they are more effective and efficient. We may look to retain the option of virtual appointments in future and I will be canvassing your opinions as we approach our Spring term





consultations. Don't forget that the teachers are accessible at reasonable times via Class Dojo. We won't wait until parent consultation evenings to bring things to your attention and we hope that you won't either.



### Children In Need

Next Friday is Children In Need appeal day. We always mark the occasion at Weston and will do so again this year. On the day, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we would like the children to dress in non-school uniform including either something yellow, something spotty or maybe even a onesie (with something underneath). They are welcome to come with wacky hair and spotty facepaint too. We ask that they don't bring accessories such as pudsey bears as we are still limiting the items that are brought into school. We would also like the children to bring in a donation to the appeal – perhaps a pound or two, or more if you can spare it. Unfortunately we can't give change and donations for siblings can be sent in with just one of the children, if it makes it easier. The theme this year is Five To Thrive and we will be providing activities throughout the week that focus on '5 ways to wellbeing'. This will include an active session on Friday morning as part of Joe Wicks' 24 hour PE lesson.



### Dojo Winners

Here are last half term's class dojo winners. They earned the most dojos in their class for demonstrating our Secrets of Success so frequently. Well done to them all!





## Stars of the Week

Here are this week's and last week's Stars of the Week. They applied the Secrets of Success: Improve, Don't Give Up, Push Yourself, Try New Things, Concentrate, Imagine, Understand Others and Work Hard, and have been recognised by their teachers. Well done to them all!



Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

*Thomas Cutts*