



The Red Squirrel



Term 2: Issue 3

14th December 2017

www.westburyontrym.academy

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sitting down to write you my last newsletter as the headteacher at the Academy following an absolutely delightful Christmas lunch enjoyed by children and staff alike. We have had so many wonderful Christmas events and performances already with the final one scheduled for this evening at Holy Trinity Church for the KS2 Carol Service. We really hope that lots of you will come along and join us for this as we are sure it will be a fantastic finale to the Christmas festivities in school this year.

Key Stage 1 Carol Service

Year 2 led this glorious celebratory Carol Service for us last Thursday. Their readings, prayers, and singing with contributions from Year 1 and Trym were fabulous. I thought the speaking parts were delivered so confidently and clearly. Thank you to all the adults involved in preparing them so well for this. Many thanks to everyone who came to walk to the church safely with us and to those of you who were able to join us for this lovely Service.

Christingle

Many thanks to all the children in Year 4 who braved the weather, and even some who came out of their sick beds, to join us for the beautiful Christingle Service they had planned and prepared. This is one of

several Church Community Services we lead and share with the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church. It is a really pretty one and we loved seeing so many of you there on Sunday to enjoy it with us. Thank you also to Mr Banks, Miss Nevill and Mrs O'Neill for preparing the children so well.

Many thanks to all of your generous donations for the Children's Society which we know they put to great use to transform children's lives, who need their support.

Trym Nativity

Traditionally here at WOT, the Trym children perform their dress rehearsal to the whole school in order to have the experience of an audience before they do this to family members. It is always a highlight of the year for all of us and this proved to be the case once again! It is always hard to imagine how they perform so confidently, whilst also doing so in an 'age appropriate' manner, when they are so young and have only been attending school for a matter of weeks. What a joy to witness this performance. We know from your kind comments how much you also enjoyed this, as much as the rest of the school did!

Donations

As you may already know, this year we have decided to donate all of our retiring collections from the Christmas Services

and the Trym Nativity to Bristol Children's Hospital. Thank you so much for your generosity so far: £257.30 was given at the KS1 Carol service and £160.64 from the Trym Unit Nativity play. The final collection will take place tonight at the KS2 Carol service, to which all school families are invited.

Choir performances

Over the last few weeks, Mrs O'Neill has been taking large groups of the choir 'out and about' into the wider community spreading joy and happiness through their wonderful singing. This is a really important part of our Academy vision and Ethos through our 'cherishing of Community' value. We couldn't do it without the amazing commitment and inspiration that Mrs O'Neill brings but also the wonderful behaviour of the children, wherever she takes them to sing. Many thanks also to the wide range of parents who come along to help us walk them to these different events and help us get them there safely. They have been to the following places:

The 'Happy Café' Dementia Club at Westbury-on-Trym Baptist church

The Friendly Club at the Methodist church

Westbury Nursing Home

Westbury Fields

Hazelwood Gardens Nursing Home

Amelia Lodge

Tescos Golden Hill—22nd Dec @ 10.15am

'A little bird told me' Award.



When Mrs Mitchell left last summer, having been a governor for many years, she introduced this award to be given to a member of staff each long term. The award is for someone who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in their contribution to our school community. Mrs O'Neill was the first recipient last summer and we are delighted to announce that this was presented to Mrs Thomas in our Red Squirrel Shield Service yesterday. I explained to the children why Mrs Thomas had been chosen. In brief, this is because of her resounding enthusiasm, endless positivity to any challenges or tasks that need to be completed and her absolute commitment to every child and family in the school.

Farewell Message

I have been so touched by the many kind and thoughtful comments, messages and gifts that I have received as I prepare to leave the school. It has been a bit of roller coaster five years, with highlights including the new building, the new hall, a good OFSTED inspection, an outstanding SIAMS inspection and significant changes to the approaches to teaching and learning here. However, the thing I'm most proud of is the fantastic energy, fun-filled atmosphere and enthusiasm for learning that our children have, which is also based on respectful and caring relationships. This has been achieved by the wonderful team of adults that work here, supported by an incredibly dedicated Governing Body. I have always said that we want every child to enjoy being in school and to 'bounce home' each day, excited about what they have been doing.

With your continuing support and respect for the vision of the staff and Governors, I am sure that the magic of Westbury-on-Trym Church of England Academy will

continue to flourish in the care of the new Headteacher, Mrs Pritchard.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year

Your Truly



Cathy Milton



Other News

New window in church

Holy Trinity Church has recently had a new stained glass window installed to commemorate 1300 years of worship in Westbury-on-Trym. The design was chosen from 3 submitted to the community and our 'Express and Reflect' team played an important role in choosing the winning design.

There are several events and services in the run up and over the Christmas period, so do take a look at the window when you visit the church.

Tag rugby report

On Thursday 30th November, the tag rugby team went to Redland Green School to play in a tournament.

The first match we played was against Stoke Bishop. We lost 1-0, but we played really well.

In the second match, we played St. Johns. We lost 6-1, but they were a really great team. Jacob scored the first and only try, which set us off on a steady start, but they made a really good comeback.

The third match we played Elmlea. We beat them 3-0. Lucas scored the first try,

with a brilliant pass by Jacob. Then Daisy scored the second try, with an amazing run all the way down the wing. After that, Lucas scored the final try, which made it 3-0.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Mr. Banks, our amazing team coach.

By Jacob, Alp and Ben

Shine after school activities

Shine after school clubs return w/c 8th January:

Tues	Forest adventure	Rec-Yr6
Wed	Mini football	Rec-Yr 2
Fri	Yr 5 football	Yr 5
Fri	Gymnastics	Rec-Yr 3
Fri	Tag rugby	Yr 1-4

Book online: shinesportscoaching.com or for more information phone 0117 4033 033

Ocean Star competition KS2

Congratulations to Sophie D who was presented last Friday with her prize as the overall winner. Highly commended and also winning lovely prizes were Sophia B and Arthur T.

Westbury-on-Trym Tree Trail

As part of the Christmas Tree Festival, (see below in 'Community news'), there will be a tree trail around the village. Every class has made a small tree to go on display in some of the shops and businesses of Westbury-on-Trym this Christmas holiday. There are 26 in total to find.



Trail leaflets will be available in the foyer of the Methodist Church and at the back of the Parish Church.

Found

A grey woollen glove with a black stripe was found outside the church following the Christingle service last Sunday. If anyone is missing it, the glove is currently at the back of church just by the entrance on the left hand side as you go in - by the steps.

Report of the Full Governing Body meeting, Tuesday 5th October, 2017

Here is my termly summary of the last FGB of 2017 and of Cathy Milton's period of Headship, focusing, as usual, on issues likely to interest parents and carers.

- FGB was pleased to welcome Jude Graham to her first FGB as a new Community Governor. Jude will be a member of our Quality of Teaching and Learning Committee
- A representative of our Accountants attended for the important annual item when the Governors review the Academy's audited accounts for the previous year. Against the challenging background for the national schools sector, Governors were advised that our Academy's financial position was sound, and has been very well managed, including while we are without an Academy Business Manager (ABM). Governors were pleased to accept the Accounts, and recorded their thanks to the Finance Officer for her role in producing these.
- Following their lengthy discussion in October of aspects of our popular After-School Club, Governors were pleased to hear that it had been able to expand its staff, and hence its numbers of children, which had significantly reduced the waiting list. The date for opening the booking system for the new term had been brought forward and other modifications made to the joint use of the Hall by the WASC and other enrichment activities, which also appeared to be working well. Governors were reminded,

though, that there was inevitably an upper limit to the numbers of children the WASC could accommodate for safety and site-capacity reasons.

- In her regular report to the FGB, the Headteacher updated the meeting on a number of current aspects of the school, including the transition arrangements being followed for the arrival of the new Head and ABM in January, 2018.
- She also briefed Governors on the recent parents evenings, now working to a model which has proved popular with parents, including the crèche provision which is very well used
- The School has been awarded £5000 through the Tesco 'Bags for Help' scheme, thanks to the tremendous work by Clare Warbis.
- Clare then reviewed recent and planned activity under the Online Safety agenda, which she oversees. Governors were pleased to learn that there had been no online safety incidents reported this term.
- The Admissions Code for entry in 2019 will be uploaded onto the Academy's website early in the new year.
- Fr Andre reported the good news that the football kit we had sent to our linked school in Uganda had recently arrived at Lakwatomer School in Gulu (via a generous donation from a football club used by some of our children). It was hoped a visitor from the school might be able to visit us in September, 2018. In the meanwhile, collections had been held for both of our linked schools: that for Singdi (Nepal) had already been sent and the

Uganda one would be taken out early in 2018.

- Governors are important two-way conduits of information between school families and the Governing Body, and the meeting discussed the importance to keep this in balance at times with necessary constraints of confidentiality. The FGB intend to return to this in more detail at their next meeting.
- The FGB still has a vacancy for a Community or Co-opted Governor, and are keen to fill this with an appointment linked to its need to monitor Health and Safety issues at the School. It will be advertising locally for possible nominations early in 2018. If you know anyone with this expertise and interest in becoming a Governor do ask them to contact me or the school office directly.
- Finally, the Governors expressed their admiration and appreciation for the contribution that Cathy Milton had made to the Academy both as Headteacher and member of the FGB over the past five years, and wished her well for her future career. It then adjourned for a joint meeting with the Members of the Academy Trust where presentations were made to mark the outstanding impact she had made in so many aspects of the school's life.

Tony Hoare (Chair of Governors)

(cog@westburyontrym.academy)

PTA News



We have had an incredibly successful first term, thank you so much to everyone who has helped with our events, or participated to make them a huge success!

So far this term we have raised:

- £200 for Macmillan from our Macmillan coffee morning, and met lots of lovely new parents!
- £300 from sales of tickets for Canford Firework Display
- £1500 from our Autumn Disco
- £2500 from our Christmas Fair.

We have now raised enough for the school to complete the development of the inner courtyard over the Christmas Holidays so that

it can be used by all year groups more regularly.

Two prizes awarded at the fair were to Isla Spence for having the closest guess to the number of lego bricks in the jar (291 pieces), and Katy Smith won the best decorated jar competition, well done to both of you!

Next term we will be running a film night, so please look out for more information after Christmas

Hope you have a good rest over the holidays, and thank you again for all your support!

Thank you to Kath and her PTA team for all their hard work. We really do appreciate their continued support and commitment to the school.

Dates for your diary

Term dates 2017/18

Term 2 Break up Friday 15th December 17

Term 3 Tuesday 2nd January 18 (INSET) to Friday 9th February

Term 4 Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd March 18

Term 5 Monday 9th April to Friday 25th May 18

(Monday 7th May-Bank Holiday)

Term 6 Monday 4th June to Tuesday 24th July 18

NSET dates 2017/18

Tues 2nd Jan 2018

Friday 25th May 2018

Mon 23rd July and Tues 24th July 2018

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Community News

Christmas tree festival

As last year's Christmas tree festival was such a success, Holy Trinity church will be holding another this year. This one will be bigger and better with trees on display in both Holy Trinity church and the Methodist church. During opening hours there will be an opportunity to purchase a few festive items and enjoy homemade refreshments.

Opening times:

19th December	10.30am-4pm
20th December	10.30am-8pm
21st December	10.30am-4pm
22nd December	10.30am-4pm (Methodist Church) 10.30-12 noon (Holy Trinity)

Christmas services at Holy Trinity Church

17th December	6.30pm	Nine lessons & Carols by candlelight
Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols around the crib
Christmas Eve	11pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10am	All age Christmas service

Westbury-on-Trym Christmas Fayre Saturday 16th December 11am—3pm

Come along to the Westbury-on-Trym Christmas Fayre this Saturday which will be held in Canford Lane 11am—3pm: Hand made gifts, designer jewellery, locally produced food & drink and lots more. There will also be a fun fair and free children's activities by Red Bus nursery. MP Darren Jones will open the fayre at 11am and there will be live entertainment.