



The Red Squirrel



Term 5: Issue 2

26th April 2018

www.westburyontrym.academy

Dear Parents and Carers

City Nature Challenge (27-30 April 2018)

THE RACE IS ON!

Which city on Earth has the most wildlife and the most nature loving citizens? Help show the world how amazing the UK is for people and nature by joining an epic contest: to discover and record as much wildlife as possible over 4 days. Your observations count towards local, national and international efforts to learn about and protect your regions' amazing wildlife.

If you are in Bristol & Bath, London or Plymouth this weekend you can join families and fellow naturalists embarking on a wildlife spotting spree in the garden, local park or walking trail by recording your findings on the iNaturalist app.

See the following website for more details:

<http://citynaturechallenge.org/>

Girls football news

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 Girls Football Team on a very successful tournament at Redland Green School on Friday. We played 4 games: won 2 and drew 2. Plus, we didn't concede a goal! Not bad for our first competition together.

The Year 5/6 Girls Football Team also had another competition on Monday at St Bedes, where they won all of their group games: scored 5 goals and still not

conceding any! Unfortunately, we did concede in the final, losing 1-0 to Elmlea. But the girls were fantastic and represented the school incredibly.

Swimming gala news

Congratulations to our swimmers, who last Saturday competed in the Bristol Schools swimming finals at Horfield Leisure Centre. All the swimmers did themselves proud; they were focused, competitive, great sports, supported each other and celebrated everyone's achievements.

Well done to our medal winners:

- Barney - won the Gold Hat, the first Year 4 to win a final!
- Boys medley relay team (Sam, Barney, Ted, Dexter) - bronze
- Daniel - silver 25m Breaststroke
- Lily - bronze 25m Freestyle

The boys team came second in the overall points total, so well done to them. Special mention must go to the following swimmers who all achieved personal best times in their races: Ciara, Noemi, Zara, Felix & Ted.

Thank you so much to Helen, Annie and all the supporting parents, who do so much for our fantastic gala squad.

Appointments

May we ask you, if at all possible, to book appointments such as dental appointments out of school hours. It is important that your child's learning is not disrupted during the school day and whilst we understand that sometimes this cannot be avoided, we do ask that you consider this when booking appointments. Thank you for your co-operation.

Communication

Our current communication system has an easy and cost-saving service we encourage you to use – 'School Gateway'. This means that we can communicate with parents/carers, (main contact), more quickly and cost effectively via email, text and smartphone app.

Help us save money by downloading the School Gateway app

If you have a smartphone, you can help us save money by downloading the 'School Gateway' app from your app store (Android and iPhone). By doing this we can send you app messages (avoiding the cost of texts).

It's quick and easy to do. All you need is the email address and mobile number that school holds on record for you.

We're aiming to get as many main contact parents/carers using the School Gateway smartphone app – please help us achieve this target.

If you do not have a smartphone, you will still receive text messages from school.



We have noticed increasing levels of playground chat about the game Fortnite—Battle Royale which is a PEGI 12+ gun battle game which requires players to work as a team. The main risks to children are interacting with strangers and also making costly in-app purchases. If your child is

talking about Fortnite, please follow this link to find out more about it. <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming/>

Dance workshop

This week, children in Reception, Yr 1, 2DJ and Yr 6 have been involved in a Dance Workshop courtesy of 'Perform'. They explored different music and expressed themselves through dance. We hope they had as much fun as it looked! If you wish to

see pictures from the workshops, please follow our Twitter and Facebook page @WoTAcademy. Yr 3, 5 & 2KF will have their opportunity next week.

Harmonica lessons

If your child is interested in learning the Harmonica, there are places available. Harmonica lessons take place on Thursday lunch times and your child is welcome to go along to a taster session. Please contact the Harmonica teacher, Sean if you are interested: seanmcbride@harpsschool.co.uk

News from the Governing Body

Report of the Full Governing Body meeting, 20th March, 2018

Here is my usual summary of items from the last FGB of possible interest to parents.

- The Headteacher introduced a detailed and wide-ranging report from her auditing of current practice and progress, as she familiarised herself with her new school, and this generated considerable discussion. She noted that some new teaching appointments had recently been made, and a new senior post advertised to reinforce the quality of teaching and learning throughout the School. Interim progress measures for senior years were presented and these will also be provided for other years in due course. These have led to some specific targeting of support where it was felt to be most potentially effective. Staff self-evaluation of teaching practice had been completed from which the Headteacher had identified her priorities to support consistent best practice, including its oversight and management, including its optimal timing, to convert into effective action. An external-led review of writing has been commissioned, to provide guidance in an area of disappointing KS2 outcomes last year. Along with other senior

leaders, she has been working on a revision of the School Improvement Plan which should be presented to Governors in Term 5. The Academy's very full and wide-ranging enrichment programme is also under review: while a strong, attractive feature of our School it absorbs scarce time and staff resources. Finally, she reported her intention to introduce a no-teaching 'Academy Day' next year and the dates for this and the usual designated Inset Days will be provided shortly.

- The School's new Lettings policy and procedures are working well, and a high level of hiring of our facilities continues, by local groups and school families. This is now regularly monitored in Committee to maximise this additional income stream at a time when all school budgets nationally are under pressure.

- The Academy has been preparing for the onset of the new GDPR procedures in May, with regular briefings and updates for staff and Governors. Rooms where sensitive, confidential personal information is stored now have additional secure-access facilities.

- Governors have been reviewing the ways they communicate effectively with parents. One of these has been an annual meeting

hosted for parents, but recent attendances have been modest and few agenda items have been forthcoming from parents. After a review of various alternatives, Governors decided not to hold this meeting in summer 2018, but to include questions on how best to enhance parent-governor links in the annual parental questionnaire survey, and to reinstate open-door sessions to meet governors at future parents' evenings.

- It is likely that a Syrian refugee family will be coming to live locally and they may have children attending the Academy, though we are awaiting further details.

- Governors have been discussing how best to deal with matters of confidentiality when communicating with parents. Parent governors in particular are a crucial link between the School and school families and it is not easy to strike the proper balance between maintaining confidentiality while also being an effective and helpful conduit of such two-way communication.

Tony Hoare
(Chair of Governors)
(hoaret@westburyontrym.academy)

PTA news



Great Westbury Bake off

Thank you so much to all who supported part 2 of the great Westbury bake off! It was a great success, and we shall announce all the totals at the end.

If you are in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 or Year 2), please bring in cakes on Friday

4th May for part 3. Shop bought and home made donations are equally warmly received. Don't forget, this is a competition to see which group can raise the most money for the PTA. The group that raises the most money will be awarded the Golden Whisk in assembly.

We are currently raising money to go towards new books for the reading scheme

Dates for your diary

Spring Disco - Friday 18th May

Red Squirrel Day - Saturday 30th June

Are you in a band? Do you know anyone who is in a band? We are looking for a house band to play on Red Squirrel day by the Pimms tent. Please let us know if you can help!

Dates for your diary

Term 5

27th April	7.00pm	School Choir sing in the Parish church
9th May	7.30pm	Percy Smith Gala
14th—17th May		Yr6 SATs
14th May	1.30-2.30pm	Pre-school group
18th May		PTA disco

Term dates 2018

Term 4 Mon 19th Feb to Fri 23rd Mar 18

Term 5 Mon 9th Apr to Fri 25th May 18(Mon 7th May-BH)

Term 6 Mon 4th Jun to Tues 24th Jul 18

Remaining INSET dates 2018

Fri 25th May 2018

Mon 23rd Jul and Tues 24th Jul 2018

Term dates 2018/19

Term 1 Monday 3 September 2018 to Friday 26 October 2018

Term 2 Monday 5 November 2018 to Friday 21 December 2018

Term 3 Monday 7 January 2019 to Friday 15 February 2019

Term 4 Monday 25 February 2019 to Friday 5 April 2019

Term 5 Tuesday 23 April 2019 to Friday 24 May 2019

Term 6 Monday 3 June 2019 to Tuesday 23 July 2019

INSET days : To be confirmed.

Community News

Preloved sale

Childrens' BiG preloved and recycling Event to be held at **Westbury on Trym Academy on SATURDAY 28TH APRIL 2018 1.15-3.15pm**

Come along and sell your preloved baby and childrens' items, local artisan and recycled crafts, take away treats for grown ups and fun workshops for children!

A real family event! If you would like a pitch to sell your preloved items, please email kate3.cheekimonkeys@gmail.com. If you want to grab a bargain, just pop along on the day. Hope to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/189039438527040/>

Community fair 12th May, 2018

The Community fair this year is, again, action packed with stalls and entertainment. Our Academy recorder groups will be playing at the fair at 2.30pm in the Parish Church. Please contact your recorder group leader to let them know your availability.

Decorate your wheelbarrow /pushchair – Carnival Procession. Meet in Canford Park and process up Canford Lane, High Street and Church Road. Meet at 10:15, set off at 10:25 and arrive at Church 11 for the opening of the fair.

There are still some stalls available at the fair for local community group/ charities who want to raise funds or awareness. Please contact clare.waggett@gmail.com

Quiz Night for Aid Box Community

Thank you to everyone who came along and got involved on the night. In total we raised £1700 which will all go towards making the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Bristol that little bit more comfortable. We hope that you had as much fun as we did!

For further information on how you can help please visit: www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk

Tennis

Would you like to try tennis for the first time? This after school club offer is hard to beat. Open to children aged 4 – 11 who would like to give tennis a go. For just £25 you will receive 6 lessons, a brand new Babolat tennis racket (itself worth £25), a Babolat tshirt with your child's name/initials and a Babolat red tennis ball set (worth £6). LTA Level 5 coach, Peter Bendall, is offering after school clubs on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at Combe Dingle under University of Bristol Tennis. For more information, contact and booking [click here](#).

Youth Camp

Westbury Parish Church Youth Camp takes place this year from 25th - 27th May for children in Yrs 4, 5 & 6 at Barton Camp in Somerset. Barton Camp is a purpose-built centre on the edge of the Mendips. It has plenty of safe facilities for a fantastic fun weekend away; including a sports hall, swimming pool, climbing frames and loads of space to run around! All helpers are DBS cleared and involved in youth work. The cost of the weekend is £50. For further information email Tim:

youthworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

Perform

Perform X dance classes are a fresh and exciting way to build co-ordination, boost confidence, have fun and get fit. Dance classes are held in Westbury-on-Trym and Redland. To book your child's free taster session visit perform.org.uk/x.

Stem Days @ Frenchay

Come and build robot and video games. Different activities each month involving coding with robots, robot engineering and video game design. For children aged 7 –11, held at Frenchay Village Hall. Dates: 19th May, 16th June, 21st July. £28 per child. To register interest go to thestemfactory.co.uk



Are you tempted to play Roblox?

Roblox is a really fun game which allows users to create their own worlds and adventures. It is rated as a 12+ game by itunes but our online safety champions have discovered that it is being played by children all around the Academy. **If your family choose to let you play Roblox then they need to know.....**

- There is quite a lot of adult content and swearing on the site.
- **Anyone** can request to be your friend, including adults who you don't know.
- All games are public and can be seen by other people.
- It's really important that your Mum or Dad set up parental controls to turn off the chat function.