



# The Red Squirrel



Term 1: Issue 1

6th September 2018

[www.westburyontrym.academy](http://www.westburyontrym.academy)

## Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to you all. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that you are all revitalised and ready for what I hope will be a fantastic year ahead. It has been great to see new and old faces as I have been outside of school over the past couple of days and most importantly that all our children are back safe and sound! I have also been delighted at how the children have settled back into school family life. All the staff have commented on this. The children are of credit to themselves and you.

For those of you who are new to our school I hope both you and your child/ren will have a happy and special time as members of our school family.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to come in and see myself or your child's class teacher. If we are unable to see you straightaway you can make an appointment at the school office.

## Newsletters

A reminder that newsletters, which will keep you up to date with what is going on in the life of the school will be sent out every other Thursday. They are probably one of the main ways of communicating with you about what's going on so please look out for these in your email box. If any contact details have changed over the summer please let the office know, who will be happy to update them.

## New Staff

We welcome to our school family, some new members of staff: Vicky Milne, Assistant Head and class teacher Monday – Wednesday in 4MS; Sophie Davies, teacher 3SD; Bethan Bounds, teacher RBB, Jo Yates, teacher 6JY and Helen Dixon, HR and Data manager.

## Parent's Information Sessions

In order to continue to build on the partnership between home and school we would like to invite you to a Parent's Information session in your child's year group class during the week beginning the 17<sup>th</sup> September. This has proved to be successful in previous years, so we hope that ALL parents/carers will be able to join us for this. An additional letter will be sent home tomorrow with specific information.

## Asthma Inhalers

Any asthma inhalers that still haven't been brought in **MUST** be in school by tomorrow Friday 10th September please. Many thanks.

## Celebrations and Awards

We are always looking for ways to celebrate the gifts and talents of our children at school. If your child receives any awards/certificates or has good news to share please let us know through your child's class teacher, the office or myself.

## Reminders

**PE Kit:** Please remember PE Kits should be left in school

**Clothing:** Please label all your child's clothes, including PE kit and outdoor clothing.

**School dinners:** Dinners are currently £2.25 per day. It is really important that lunches are paid for in advance, preferably via the online payment system. Click on the button on the home page of the website. Cheques and cash are also accepted. **A reminder to Yr 3 families that they no longer qualify for universal free school meals.** If you are unable to log in to the payment system, please contact the school office for a log in code.

**Water bottles:** If you have not already done so, please provide your child with a labelled water bottle.

**Break time snacks:** In line with the School's Food Policy, children in KS2 may bring in fruit or vegetables only for a break time snack. Please **NO** snack bars, crisps or nuts. Fruit or vegetables are provided for children in Reception and KS1.

**Yr 6 camp payments:** Please could any outstanding payments for Yr 6 school camp be paid by 21st September?

**Gate times:** AM - Gates open 08.30, locked 09.00; PM - open 3.00, locked 3.40. (The gate leading to the main entrance is open at all day).

## Termly Value for Life: Respect

Our focus this term is on 'Respect'. The nature of God, as revealed in the Bible, presents everyone with choices. We will be exploring our responsibilities, choices and the consequences of these together as we start a new academic year. We will remind ourselves of expectations in order for us to play and learn happily alongside each other. When our choices or responses are respectful then we are acknowledging God's greatness and involvement in the world. We will be exploring the following important questions together:

- Who do we respect in the world around us? What responsibilities do they have? What happens when people make choices and lose our respect?
- To what extent and how do children show their respect for each other in the school and wider community?
- In what different ways are children encouraged to value and respect their own and other people's belongings?
- How do school policies and practices engender respect for all members of our school family?
- What special words, actions or religious symbols are used to inform children's understanding of God?
- How can we develop opportunities for our children to experience feelings of awe, wonder and mystery?
- How are we using our reflection tables and spaces around the school to support children to reflect and wonder at the nature of God?

## Diary Dates

Whilst diary dates are shared in the newsletter on a regular basis, we have decided to circulate some key diary dates for the year so that you have an overview of the main events that are taking place and when. Please look out for these in your child's school bag which will be sent out early next week. If for any reason you do not receive yours please come into the office to collect another one. We hope you find this useful.

## Community Sensory Garden

This term, you'll see some work commencing at the front of the school to create our new community sensory

garden. This is a wonderful opportunity to help build community relationships and grow the valuable community spirit we have even further. The majority of the project has been funded by the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme, as well as some generous contributions from the PTA, but we would very much appreciate it if anyone has any contacts or is able to donate some additional 'extras' for the garden, such as bug hotels, butterfly houses, bird boxes etc. This will help put the finishing touches to what should be a fabulous space for all to enjoy. If you are able to donate or help in any way, please contact our Business Manager, Jacqui Appleby, via the school office by 20<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you!

## Secondary School Open Evenings

Pupils and parents of children in Years 5 and 6 are invited to attend Secondary Open Evenings in the coming weeks. Details are as follows:

**Bristol Free School:** Wed 26th Sept.

Register online.

[www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

**Henbury School:** Tues 25th Sept. 7.00-9.00pm [www.henbury.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.henbury.bristol.sch.uk)

**Orchard school:** Tues 18th Sept. From 4.30pm [www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk](http://www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk)

**Colston Girls school:** Tues 18th Sept. 6.00-9.00pm or Sat 29th Sept 10.00-12.00) booking necessary). [www.colstongirls.org](http://www.colstongirls.org)

**Bristol Cathedral Choir School:** Tues 11th Sept. 5.30-7.00pm or Sat 22nd Sept. 9.00-12.00. [www.bccs.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.bccs.bristol.sch.uk)

## Vacancy for Lunchtime play worker

We have a vacancy in school for a play worker at lunchtimes. If you feel you have the skills and enthusiasm to join our team of play workers, please contact the school office.

## And finally

As staff and children we have all been thinking about what helps us to learn. We have particularly thought about what helps us learn (Movers) and what stops us from learning (Blockers). This is part of a focus on 'Successful Learning' in school and will be an ongoing journey for the children throughout their time with us and beyond. We want our children to be able to embrace confidently any challenges they may face in

life so that they can be truly independent learners. Examples of things that help us learn include 'helpful talk', a willingness to take risks, the ability to take on difficult learning, self-belief, and an 'I can' approach'; whereas examples of things that stop us from learning are 'unhelpful talk, a fear of failure, a lack of resilience, operating in our comfort zones and a lack of self-belief'. We will be exploring these concepts with the children so that we can develop positive attitudes to themselves as learners. As parents/carers it would be really great if you could talk to your child about how important learning is and that we all have gifts and talents which we contribute to our school family. We all know that we can't do everything by ourselves. However, each of us plays a part that brings us together as 'one body.' We will be holding a workshop session in the new year for parents/carers to explore in more depth some of what we have been and will be focusing on in school so that we can continue to work in partnership with you in supporting the children.

## And finally, finally

I thought I'd leave you with the prayer as we begin the year together.

Lord

At the start of another year in the life of our school family,

Help us to enter into the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

We thank you that we do not travel life's journey alone, but together with others, and in the knowledge that you guide us and love us along every step of the way.



Yours sincerely

Amanda Pritchard  
Headteacher

## Dates for diary

### September

Mon 17th-Thurs 20th Information sessions for parents/carers.

### October

Wed 3rd Harvest Festival 09.30, Holy Trinity Church

Mon 15th-19th Yr 6 residential camp

Wed 24th Individual & sibling photos

Wed 24th Parent/Teacher afternoon 3.30-6.00pm

Thurs 25th Parent/Teacher evening 5.00-7.30pm

### Term dates 2018/19

**Term 1** Break up 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

### Remaining INSET Days & Academy day 2018/19

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Community News

### Open Doors Weekend: 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Holy Trinity Church**, Westbury-On-Trym will be participating in Bristol Open Doors in September 2018.

It is an opportunity to:

- Climb the Bell Tower,
- Look at the ringing chamber,
- View Westbury-On-Trym from the roof - one of the villages finest vantage points. You can also:
- Look around this ancient church viewing this year for the first time, a new stained-glass window, book stall and recent new entrance to the church itself.

Participate in free guided tours of the Bell Tower or Learn the

History of the church – part of which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest building in Bristol.

If that is not enough then there is a very interesting churchyard as well as the original village of Westbury-On-Trym to the east of the church. Refreshments will be available.

**So, come along on either day and have a look around this ancient and very beautiful corner of Bristol.**

The church is open all day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, with tours from 10:00am – 16:00pm and

from 12:00pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September with tours from 12:00pm – 16:00pm

For Full Information and where to buy the official guide to the weekend see:

[www.bristolopendoors.org.uk](http://www.bristolopendoors.org.uk)

Save the date!

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# Cycle Sunday

16th September  
 10 AM-2 PM

Paint Spinning  
 Smoothie Bike  
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 Adapted Bikes

BRING YOUR BIKES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND JOIN US AROUND THE CLIFTON DOWNS FOR PEDAL-POWERED FUN

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 Further info: [www.cyclesunday.net](http://www.cyclesunday.net)  
 Sign up for FREE via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

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You are invited to join us for a talk  
 by Katharine Hill

## Parenting In A Digital Age

Wednesday 12th September, 7.00pm  
 Peace Memorial Hall, Badminton School

Katharine is an established speaker working for Care for the Family. She is the author of several books about parenting with her most recent book being, *Left to their own Devices – confident Parenting in a World of Screens*.

Katharine will talk about Sexting, Texting, Instagram and Facebook... our children are growing up in a digital world. There are lots of positives – but also many dangers.

Come and discover how to protect your children, but also how to make the most of all the digital age has to offer!

This event is an open event so please book a place  
 by emailing: [jmckimm@badmintonschool.co.uk](mailto:jmckimm@badmintonschool.co.uk)



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