

# West Tytherley CE Primary School

Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been an interesting week at school this week, with a number of children and staff testing positive for COVID. I can't go into too many details about staff health, but I can say that we hope that there will be more in next week and that everyone is fairing quite well!

**Willow-** I had the great pleasure of teaching in Willow this week and I was most impressed by their excellent attitude and application. They were working on some assessments and they really tried hard. We will use the tests that the children have completed in all classes this week, to look at what we need to teach next and how to best help your child to progress. Next week all the teachers are meeting with me for these review meetings.

## **Safer internet**

As always this is a very important area of our children's education and we have worked this week to develop the children's understanding of how to be responsible and stay safe on line. If you have any concerns about this and your child, please do not hesitate to contact school and we can give advice or sign post you to helpful resources

## **Swearing**

I have had a few parents approach me to mention that there are some incidences of unsuitable language being used in the playground. As you know, we address these issues in school and ask the children to think carefully about what they repeat or say. The children may learn this language from a number of sources and it is very difficult to stop them from encountering it. We always attempt to emphasise that swearing is neither impressive or something that makes us more grown up. We advise that parents try to encourage older siblings to dial down their language and that access is limited in music choices where these words appear all the time. If you are particularly concerned, please don't hesitate to bring this to my attention and I will speak directly to the children involved.

On a positive note, I do find that the children at West Tytherley remain quite un-impacted by too much of the negative side of the internet or social media. They remain quite free of Tik- Tok and other apps, which can cause a degree of stress and expose them to things which are not appropriate. This leads me to the belief that sensible decisions around these things are prevailing at home and for this we are very grateful.

## **Pupil questionnaires**

This week I asked some of the children to fill in a questionnaire which asked them about their attitudes towards lots of areas of their schooling. Once everyone has done this, I will collate the responses and share them with the children and the school community. We can then look at what we will do in order to act on any of the findings.

After half-term the Governing body will be issuing a parent questionnaire, with the same aim. I will communicate once this is prepared.

The sun is shining at the moment, and I do hope it continues to do so over the weekend!

Kind regards

Lucy Macey

## Thought for the Week

This week I have been away working in London so haven't seen what you have been doing in School. Our week's theme has been 'Love' – what a big topic! I had hoped to tell the story Jesus told about a young man who took his share of his father's money and spent it. Then when he had no money left he went back to his father to ask for forgiveness – his father forgave him and threw a big party. (The story is in the Bible – Luke Chapter 15) We can pray: Lord, I know you love me even when I ignore you. Help me to love you back, and to love others, in the way Jesus showed. Amen

*Vicar James*

## Weekly Awards

This week we are celebrating the achievements of the following children

<b>Beech</b>	George	for throwing himself into a new area of learning, showing courage and perseverance
<b>Chestnut</b>	All	It was brilliant to see how they all took on a leadership role in developing their own games and then instructing the class how to play the game.
<b>Willow</b>	Noah	Noah is a very determined and focused boy in the classroom. He uses his initiative all the time
<b>Oak</b>	Freya	for working so well with a younger child, taking the initiative to support and guide, whilst stay-

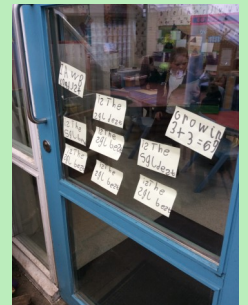
## News from around school

### Beech

We have had a wonderful week in Beech Class. Year one have been learning about inverse operations, the understanding that there is communication between addition and subtraction. They have been practising this using bar and cherry models to show partitions and a whole. Our Reception children have been looking at numicon and learning how to count the shapes and put them together.

We have started an adventure into our new class book, 'The Lion Inside' and have been talking about the mouse's journey to become brave. We talked about the different emotions that the mouse felt and how he overcame some of them.

In science, we have learnt about the five senses and what each of them do, making our own song to help us remember! We then talked about what we could hear, smell, touch, taste and see within our classroom environment.



## Chestnut

Last Friday, the children began to apply their learning during Science lessons to practical activities – they were gardening. They started on the flower bed outside the classroom, clearing the dead plant, weeds and some plants that had begun to spread. There was a lot of talk about the different parts of the plant and whether they could see a bulb or not. It was a productive morning, filling two wheelbarrows full, and we were fortunate that the sun stayed out. There are some budding gardeners within the class, so hopefully they might take these skills home and help look after the garden there.

This Wednesday, the children had their last cricket session. They were asked to apply all the skills they had learnt over the past five weeks and create their own games in partners. They then played each other and had to choose the best one. It was brilliant to see the children taking on these leadership roles and using their initiative to create some fantastic games; James even mentioned that he hasn't seen such well-planned games as those devised by our children.

In History this week, the children were posed with the question 'Why do people want to travel?' The children came up with a range of responses with their talk partners; they discussed that people may want to meet new people/friends, visit different places and, most importantly, go on holiday. They looked at three forms of transport (car, boat and plane) and weighed up the pros and cons of using these forms of travel now and in the past when they were first designed.



## Willow

This week in Willow has been a bit hectic. I have missed the class this week due to illness, but I have heard that the children have still been busy. In Maths, we have been working on formal method and recapping how to add and subtract 3- and 4-digit numbers with lots of exchanging and crossing 10s and 100s.

In English, we have been finishing off looking at persuasive language and devices. We have made posters using rhetorical questions and imperative phrases. We also had a go at trying to sell products to the teacher using a range of persuasive devices. This is all in preparation for writing a speech to persuade a character from the book we are looking at to either go or not go through the tunnel.

In guided reading, we are still looking at the escape from Pompeii. We have been focusing on setting and have been writing our own setting descriptions this week, with a focus of the senses, adjectives, and prepositions.

In other subjects, we have been studying Roman entertainment, particularly chariot racing and in DT we have been constructing small vehicles and experimenting with how axels work. I hope everyone in Willow had a good week and I look forward to seeing you all again next week.

## Oak

In Science this week, the children asked the question "How does the size of a helicopter's rotor blades affect the amount of time it spends in the air?" They recapped how to ensure a fair test and were introduced to the idea of variables and data collection. They then had a go at writing a short explanation of what their data showed.

This week the children have been tackling assessments for English and Maths and Year 6 have had their first experience of a practice Key Stage 2 SATs paper. All the children have tried their hardest and gave the tests their best. The results will be used to identify gaps in the children's knowledge and understanding, that can be addressed over the coming weeks.

