

Dear Gastrells Community,

As the days grow shorter and the evenings a little darker, our school is beginning to sparkle with excitement for the weeks ahead. Preparations are now underway for the much-loved Stroud Good Will Lantern Parade, with children busy designing and creating their magical lanterns ready to light up the winter skies. Meanwhile, Owls and Peregrines are turning their attention to the stage, as rehearsals begin for this year's Christmas performance, **"The Angel Express!"** We're really looking forward to sharing these special moments with you and celebrating together as a school community.

A PASSION FOR STORIES

A lovely moment was captured this week when some of our younger children set up an outdoor library in the amphitheatre at lunchtime.

From Tom Percival to Quentin Blake and Rachel Bright, the children carefully chose a range of favourites for everyone to enjoy. Books were tucked into our 'library hedge', ready to be picked, opened and explored, as the children lost themselves in stories and imagination out in the fresh air.



SAVE THE DATE!

Stroud Goodwill Evening 2025

LANTERN WORKSHOPS

All Welcome!



Please remember that the Lantern Parade for Stroud Good Will is on **Friday 5 December**, filling the streets of Stroud with the most magical paper creations.

Children are already planning their lanterns and an external workshop is running in Stroud should you wish to create more!

Further details on the 'community events' page!

CONGRATULATIONS

SPECIAL AWARDS

Congratulations to all the children who have received a special awards over the last 2 weeks.

We are very proud of you all!



Friday 14th November



Friday 21st November

A CHALLENGE TO PARENTS!

One of our favourite games in upper KS2 is the 24 game!

Using **all four** of the numbers and any operations you like, you need to make the number 24.

Levels range from 1-3 in difficulty.....can you solve the puzzles and how long will it take you??

Why not challenge your child to a maths duel??



CHILDREN IN NEED

SPOTS, STRIPES, BOBBLES!



Last week our school came together for Children in Need, and the classes became a glorious rainbow of odd socks—spots, stripes, and everything in between!

Children enjoyed their mix-match of patterns and donated a couple of pounds into the donation pot.

Owls Class embraced the kindness of giving too, each pupil baking **two spotty cupcakes** to gift to their reading buddy. That afternoon, they shared their treats together during reading sessions, enjoying stories, conversation, and the warm feeling that comes from doing something thoughtful for someone else.



A heartfelt thank you to every family who took part and donated this year.

Your generosity helps fund vital services that provide safety, support, and opportunities for children who need it most.

A SNAPSHOT OF LEARNING

GERALD THE GIRAFFE



Eagles Class had a special PSHE session this week with a visitor from **SCARF** (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship). The children learnt how to keep their brains healthy through good sleep, exercise, a balanced diet and time away from screens. They also talked about different types of drugs, including medicines and harmful substances, and why it's important to look after their bodies and minds.

A key part of the lesson was practising how to say "no" confidently and how to support friends to make safe choices too.

Eagles Class impressed us with their mature ideas and sensible discussions about staying safe and healthy.

Owls Class also enjoyed a special visit from SCARF this week, with a workshop all about "**My Wonderful Body.**"

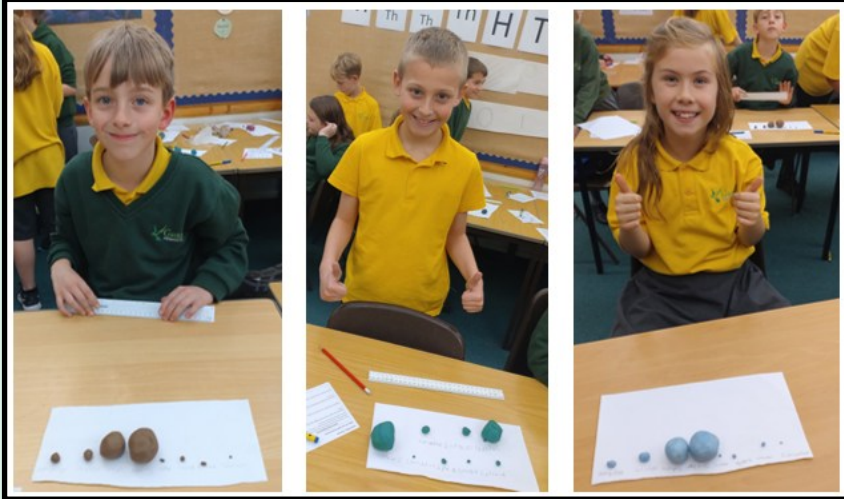
The children learned how amazing their bodies are and what they need to stay healthy and safe. They talked about the things that give them energy, such as healthy food, water, sleep and exercise, and how these help them to play, learn and grow. They also thought about ways to keep themselves safe, including knowing who they can talk to if they feel worried or unsure.

A real highlight of the session was meeting Harold the giraffe, who helped the children think about how to be kind to their bodies and to each other. Owls Class listened carefully, joined in with actions and discussions, and showed a brilliant understanding of how to look after their "wonderful bodies."



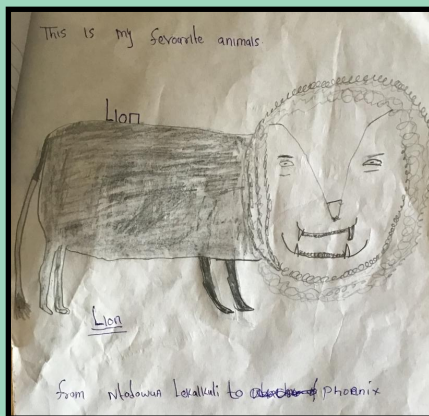
A SNAPSHOT OF LEARNING

OUT OF THIS WORLD!



Goshawks have been busy this week creating scale models of the planets in our Solar System using plasticine. The children carefully measured and compared the relative sizes, quickly noticing just how tiny Mercury and Mars are next to the giant Jupiter and Saturn! This hands-on activity helped them visualise the huge differences between the planets and use mathematical skills to compare scale. The classroom has been full of curiosity and teamwork as Goshawks brought space science to life.

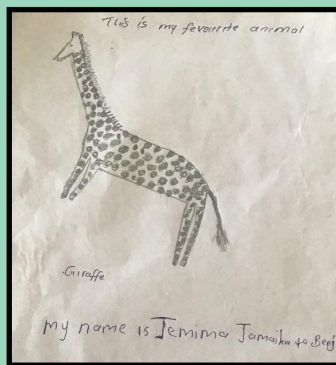
LETTERS FROM KENYA



Sparrowhawks class have taken part in a very special project this term, writing letters to children at Raap School in Kenya.

In their letters, the children described themselves, our school and what a typical day looks like here, helping them to think about how daily life and education can be different around the world.

Like many schools in Africa, Raap School has no internet, very few learning resources and a very different way of life. The Kenyan children have written back with their own letters and have drawn beautiful pictures of their favourite animals from Kenya. Sparrowhawks were excited to read their replies and compare experiences.



We will continue to write to our new penpals nearer Christmas and are also preparing a special gift for their classroom. What a wonderful opportunity this has been for Sparrowhawks to develop empathy, global awareness and new friendships.



REMEMBRANCE



Owls have made these beautiful Poppy weavings to mark Remembrance Day by wrapping wool around sticks.

The children learned that the poppy is a symbol of hope and peace.



A SNAPSHOT OF LEARNING

THE SEASONS ARE CHANGING



What a beautiful, if rather frosty, day the Owls enjoyed on their recent trip to Westonbirt Arboretum. Wrapped up in hats, scarves and gloves, the children set off excitedly, chanting, *"We're going on a Gruffalo hunt!"* as they explored the woodland paths in search of the Gruffalo and his fiends.

The children were also on the lookout for minibeasts. They carefully checked under logs and leaves, but soon discovered that most of the tiny creatures were tucked up asleep for the colder months. This led to some lovely conversations about how animals adapt to the seasons and where

they might be hiding to keep warm. There was *lots* of walking and plenty of fresh air, and the children's energy never seemed to run out. The Arboretum was a perfect place to see how the trees are changing with the seasons, and the children enjoyed collecting their favourite leaves to compare. It was a wonderful day of adventure, learning and imagination. Well done, Owls, for your super exploring!



SPECIAL EVENTS

NEXT LEVEL IS BACK!

► YOUNG LOCAL ARTISTS ► AGED 4 TO 19 ► OPEN CALL, APPLY NOW



NEXT LEVEL
'Our Natural World'
Young People's Art Exhibition

THREE STOREYS
3rd - 22nd February 2026

We are looking for **young artists, aged 4 to 19**, who would like to have their work in an exhibition in our gallery and café at Three Storeys in Nailsworth. Together we want to celebrate young peoples' creativity and art.

Visit threestoreys.co.uk
Applications close on 12th January 2026

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ART EXHIBITION**
3rd - 22nd February 2026



We are inviting young people, aged 4-19 and living or going to school within 10 miles of Nailsworth, to apply to be part of the Next Level art exhibition at Three Storeys. We want to see the talent and imagination of children, displayed for everyone to enjoy, on real gallery walls.

This time we have a theme to our exhibition; **'Our Natural World'**. This can be interpreted in many ways. You might want to celebrate what you love about the natural world, locally or globally, or perhaps you want to focus on sustainability and climate change.

What is your personal connection to nature and your natural environment?

We will be awarding prizes for each age category, as decided by a panel of local artists. The winners will be announced at a private view event for friends and families, on Tuesday 10th February.

How to apply (free of charge):

Entries can come from the parent/carer of the young person, or directly from the artist. Complete the application form, which can be found on our website, and submit it along with a high quality photograph of one piece of artwork via email, to info@threestoreys.co.uk by 12th January 2026.

2D or 3D work can be entered. We will only be considering one piece per artist, and it must fit with the theme. It is essential the photo is high quality; please take a photograph straight on, in daylight.

Please make sure you read the full information on our website, which includes how to deliver your work if requested.

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Please scan
QR code
with phone
camera



After a year off, we are **very** excited to confirm that the Next Level art exhibition is back at Three Stories Gallery in Nailsworth!

Once again, we will be submitting a number of artworks from across the school in the hopes that they are chosen for this popular exhibition which showcases the talent of children within the local area.

This year's theme 'Our Natural World' is just perfect for our school vision.

We will be in touch with parents/carers of those children who have been selected for internal submission and of course you are most welcome to submit your own selections from outside of school too.

If you do choose to do this, we ask that you please contact Miss Mahaffy to check we are also not submitting an entry, as only 1 entry per child may be sent in for consideration.

More news on the exhibition will follow soon!

DIARY DATES

AUTUMN 2 TERM

NOVEMBER

03	INSET day
04	Term starts
05-07	Stroud Book Festival
07	Open Morning for prospective parents
07	KS2 Rugby
13	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics
12-13	Parents' Evening

DECEMBER

01	KS1 Multiskills
05	Stroud Lantern Festival, whole school
08	iRock concert
09	Owls & Peregrines Class Performance 2pm
10	Owls & Peregrines Class Performance TBC
12	Treasure Room (FOG)
16	School nurse, heights/weights YR & Y6
17	Xmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
17	Tabernacle Concert 6pm (Ospreys - Y6)
TBC	Santa Run!
19	Carols around the tree
19	End of Term 12.15pm

SPRING 1 TERM

JANUARY

05	Spring 1 Term Starts
07	Pantomime—Whole School
19	Inset day
27	Cheltenham Dance Festival
28	KS1 Sports Hall Athletics

FEBRUARY

02-22	Next Level Art Exhibition, Nailsworth
04	Girls Football
13	End of Term 3.15pm

TERM DATES 25-26

Term 1	Wed 3rd Sept	-	Fri 24th Oct 2025
Term 2	Tue 4th Nov	-	Fri 19th Dec 2025
Term 3	Mon 5th Jan	-	Fri 13th Feb 2026
Term 4	Tue 24th Feb	-	Fri 27th Mar 2026
Term 5	Mon 13th Apr	-	Fri 22nd May 2026
Term 6	Mon 1st Jun	-	Fri 17th Jul 2026

INSET DAYS

Mon	1st Sept 2025	Mon	19th Jan 2026
Tue	2nd Sept 2025	Mon	20th July 2026
Mon	3rd Nov 2025		

We will continue to add events to this page throughout the term.

DATES CONT...

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2025/26



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER						OCTOBER						NOVEMBER						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25		
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27		
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
DECEMBER						JANUARY						FEBRUARY						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues	3	10	17	24		
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur	5	12	19	26		
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27		
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28		
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22		
MARCH						APRIL						MAY						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	3	10	17	24	31
JUNE						JULY						AUGUST						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	31	
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25		
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27		
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday			

Term 1: Mon 1 st Sept – Fri 24 th Oct 2025	40 days
Term 2: Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec 2025	35 days
Term 3: Mon 5 th Jan - Fri 13 th Feb 2026	30 days
Term 4: Mon 23 rd Feb – Fri 27 th Mar 2026	25 days
Term 5: Mon 13 th April – Fri 22 nd May 2026	29 days
Term 6: Mon 1 st June – Mon 20 th July 2026	36 days
Total	195 days*

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2025
	26 th December 2025
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2026
Good Friday	3 rd April 2026
Easter Monday	6 th April 2026
Early May Bank Holiday	4 th May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	25 th May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	31 st August 2026

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TCHAIKOVSKY
Suite from The Nutcracker ballet

OPEN REHEARSAL

Families are welcome to
join us on Saturday 22 Nov

At Holy Trinity Church,
Stroud, GL5 2HX

Doors open 3.45pm
for 4pm start

Conductor: Jonathan Trim

Leaders: John Ayre & Matthew Taylor

**Suggested donation £5 per
family on the door**



STROUD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please be aware that Gastrells will be submitting a number of entries for children from the school itself, so if you would like to enter your child into this exhibition, please contact Miss Mahaffy first to check that we are not also entering them via the school, as only 1 entry is allowed per child. Many thanks.

rmahaffy@gastrells.gloucs.sch.uk

The poster features a vibrant background of green and blue paint splatters. At the top and bottom, there are blue banners with white text. The central text is in a large, bold, blue font. Below the main title, there is a subtitle in a smaller, green font. The dates are in a green font. The Three Storeys logo is a stylized geometric shape. The text about the exhibition is in a blue font. The website and application deadline are in a blue font.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stroud Goodwill Evening 2025

LANTERN WORKSHOPS

All Welcome!



Sunday November 23rd 11am-4pm,
Saturday 29th 11am-4pm, Sunday 30th 11am-4pm,
Thursday 27th: 6-8pm
(for families who need a quieter space)
at the Baptist Church Hall, Union Street, GL5 2HA.
All workshops are public drop in.
Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
Suggested donation is £5 per lantern.
All materials provided.
This year's theme is NATURE.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stroud Christmas Markets

Thursday 18–Tuesday 23 December, 2025
Cornhill Market Place, GL5 2HE

Thursday 18th

Crafts • Gifts • Food
9am–4pm

Friday 19th

Crafts • Gifts • Food
9am–4pm

Monday 22nd

Crafts • Gifts • Food
9am–4pm

Saturday 20th

Stroud Farmers' Market
9am–2pm

Tuesday 23rd

Stroud Farmers' Market *Extra*
9am–2pm



Finish your Christmas shopping in Stroud

For further info: markets@fresh-n-local.co.uk • 07813 943237