



Gastrells Community Primary School
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28th November 2025

2025 Goodwill Lantern Procession – Friday 5th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to embark upon our annual lantern making next week and the children have been eagerly designing their creations. We do hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us for the procession, which is always such a magical event with us lighting up the streets of Stroud in true Gastrells spirit and alongside our local community and other schools who are also taking part. If you haven't been part of the parade before, we would warmly encourage you to come along, and if you have, please can we make you aware that the parade is taking a different route this year which starts at **Bank Gardens**.

We have been provided the following information from the event organisers, which we have been asked to circulate to help the lantern procession flow smoothly and to help everyone stay safe.

- Please note that parents/carers are responsible for their own children at all times.
- Please arrive by 5.50pm in Bank Gardens. DO NOT USE THE ENTRANCE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HIGH STREET. Enter Bank Gardens from Lansdown Hall steps or down from the Church.
- Locate the section of the parade where your school are meeting (there will be a 'Gastrells' sign for you to find)
- Help us get the procession into shape as quickly as possible -the Red Band will be leading, followed by school groups. Other lanterns will follow on from schools.
- There will be stewards throughout the procession who will be wearing high-vis vests. Please listen to any instructions given, or ask them for help if you need it.
- Please be aware of other public who are around town, but not part of the procession, who may just want to get by. Try to keep to the middle and leave room for passers-by.
- Please be aware of pointy sticks etc. and carry your lanterns safely. Only light lanterns with LED fairy lights and torches.
- Please disperse quickly once the procession arrives at St. Laurence church to avoid over-crowding in the area. Either down into Bank Gardens or into Church Street car park



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- In the unlikely event of an emergency please remain calm and listen to the stewards' instructions.
- First Aid is available from St Laurence Church.

Children will take home their lanterns ready for the event on Thursday, so that you have time to fix fairy lights should you wish to.

We very much look forward to seeing you there!

Warm wishes,

Miss Mahaffy
Art & DT Lead