

Dear Gastrells Community,

With just one more week to go before the Easter half term, there continues to be a real sense of purpose and enthusiasm across the school, with children making the most of every opportunity on offer.

This week also marks Mr Price's final week as interim executive Headteacher and Gastrells; we thank him for his hard work and commitment to Gastrells during this transitional period, and we begin a new chapter with our new Headteacher, Mrs Seward, who we are very much looking forward to welcoming into our Gastrells family after the Easter break. Mrs Seward has been popping into school over the last couple of weeks, taking the opportunity to familiarise herself with more aspects of school life and to get to know some of the children and staff. We look forward to giving her a very warm Gastrells welcome.

This week, we also say goodbye to two **very special** members of the team. Mrs Grace-Fox has been a truly wonderful teacher at Gastrells for the past 7 years and has brought so much joy and care to the classroom. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every happiness on her adventures 'down under' where we know many exciting opportunities await her.

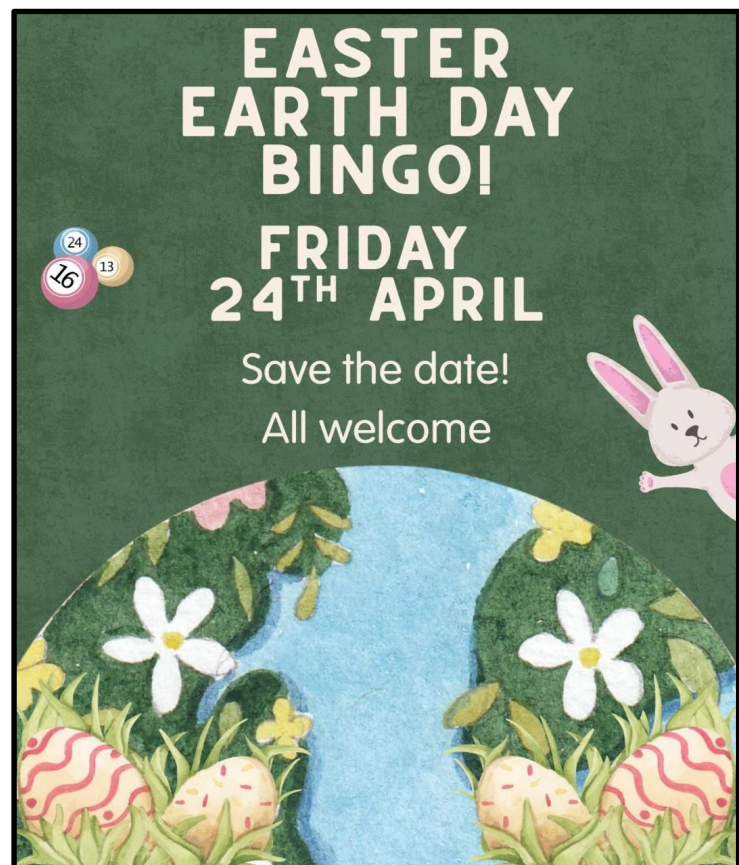
We also say a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Stroud, who is retiring after an incredible 29 years at Gastrells. The impact Mrs Stroud has had on the Gastrells community over the years has been immense, and we so very much appreciate all that she has done for the school and the hundreds of children whose lives she will have positively touched during that time. She will be greatly missed.

We look forward to making the most of this final week before the Easter break and to all that lies ahead for our school community.

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 13th April.
(Please remember that term finishes this Friday; 12.15pm.)

Please do also come along to the FOG Easter Bingo night on Friday – a perfect way to end the term!

A HEARTFELT FAREWELL...



WE WILL MISS YOU!

I loved being in your class – I will really really miss you!

Mrs Grace-Fox – I remember the time when you were on the field and Martha K and me came over and started dancing, then I fell over and I started laughing and you started panicking but I was ok! Don't forget me!



I like her hair and her lovely eyelashes



I have loved giving her hugs everyday

I really enjoyed doing forest school with you Miss Grace-Fox.



She is so kind



I remember when in one of your assemblies, you were doing internet safety and I was really interested and then I looked at your hair and I thought your hair looked amazing because it was so soft and bouncy!

I am going to miss her very much!

I remember in year 2, we were learning about Polar Bears and Miss Grace-Fox gave me a sticker. It made my day!

Mrs Grace-Fox is really brave



I remember when Miss Grace said that she was getting married and was now called Mrs Grace-Fox but I thought it was too hard to say so I still called her Mrs Grace for the rest of the year.



I remember when you always did our PE lessons, and you're really good at it! I hope you have a good time in Australia but don't forget about us! Thank you for dodgeball club too.



I remember making ginger bread men with you – it was so much fun!

Mrs Stroud – I remember when we did forest school together and I always used to play on the rope swing and hammock.



You were really helpful with my maths and made things much easier to understand. Thank you.

I remember once having a really bad day, but Mrs Stroud smiled at me and I felt so much better.

She is so kind and is always so happy.

I remember the thunder circle game we used to play in PSHE! It was so much fun!

I remember you always cheering us on loudly in PE!

Mrs Stroud always helps us with our lessons.

I am going to really miss you Mrs Stroud. Thank you for all your help.

I remember being really worried about my writing and you helped me to write half a page in the end. I was so proud of myself. Thank you.



She is really lovely and helps us a lot!

I liked it when we did English, you always made it really fun and you always made everyone proud when you got a merit.

She is very helpful

I remember when you sneaked me a chocolate button to encourage me to do a bit more – it worked! Ha ha

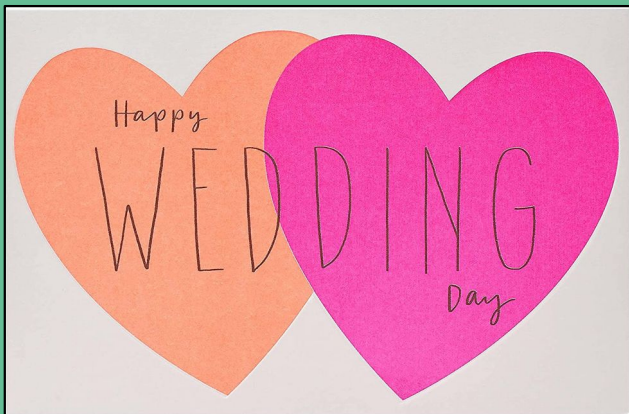


I remember you as my class TA and you were always so kind and helpful.



IN OTHER NEWS...

TYING THE KNOT...



We are delighted to share the exciting news that Mr Brown will be getting married over the Easter break! With the beautiful Saxon Barn as their wedding venue, Alex and Liz will mark their 18 years of partnership in true Cotswold style. We are sure you will want to join us in wishing them both every happiness for their wedding day and for their wonderful future ahead. Congratulations Mr B!



SPECIAL THANKS



We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Gryngarten for her eight years of dedicated service as a school governor.

Throughout this time, her support, guidance and unwavering commitment to the school have been greatly valued and have made a lasting contribution to our community. As she steps down from her role, having completed her full term of service, she will be very much missed as a governor.

We are, however, delighted that Mrs Gryngarten continues to be such an important part of our school community in her roles as Teaching Assistant and Spanish teacher. Thank you, Mrs Gryngarten — your dedication and care are truly appreciated.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the children who received special awards over the last couple of weeks.

It's always lovely to celebrate children's achievements whether that be in a piece of work, a kindness to a peer or a special moment that has been noticed during the week.

Well done everyone – we are super proud of you all...

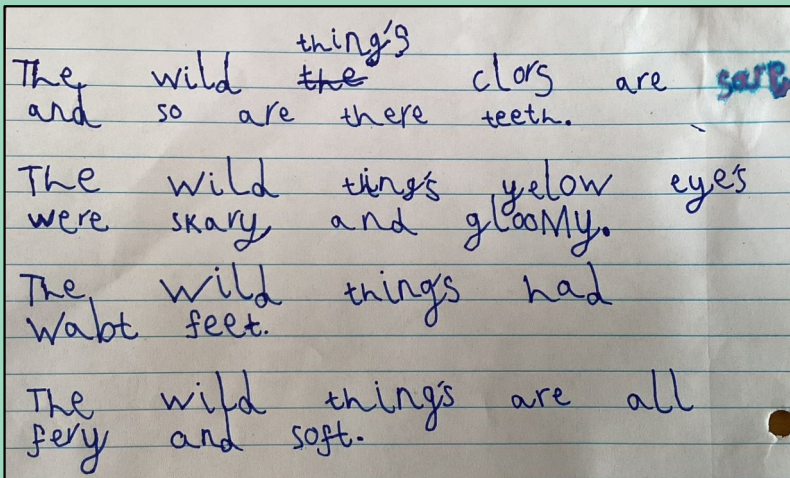


WORLD BOOK DAY

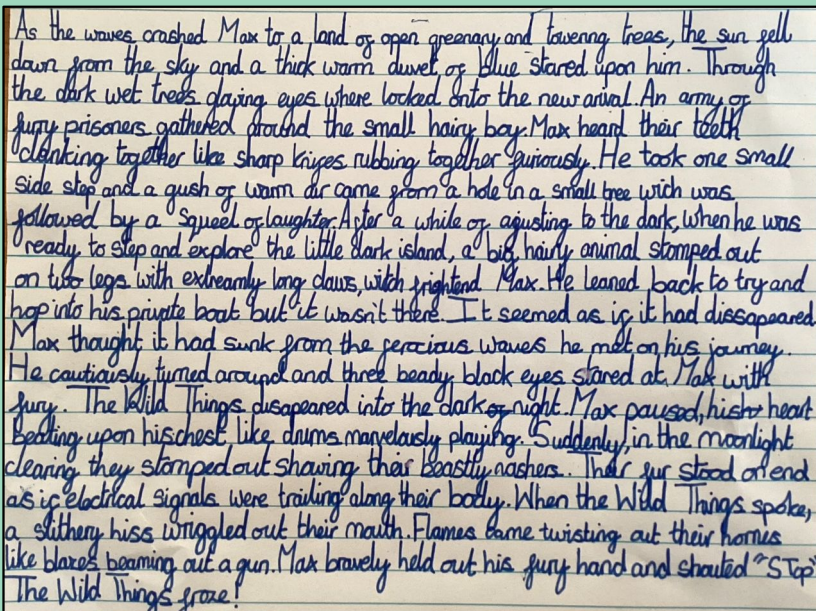
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE!

Following on from our fantastic World Book Day celebrations, the whole school took part in a special writing challenge inspired by the classic story *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak.

Each year group was given a different section of the story and asked to create a piece of writing to match it. The exciting part was that every class wrote their section using their own year group curriculum focus — meaning the final work included a wonderful range of language choices, writing styles, and creative techniques.



Once each year group had completed their section, all of the writing was compiled and put together in order, creating something truly special: one complete book written by the whole school. The finished result is a fantastic celebration of teamwork, creativity, and the love of stories that World Book Day is all about.

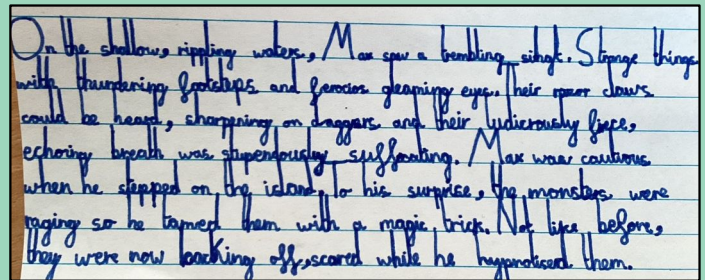


WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

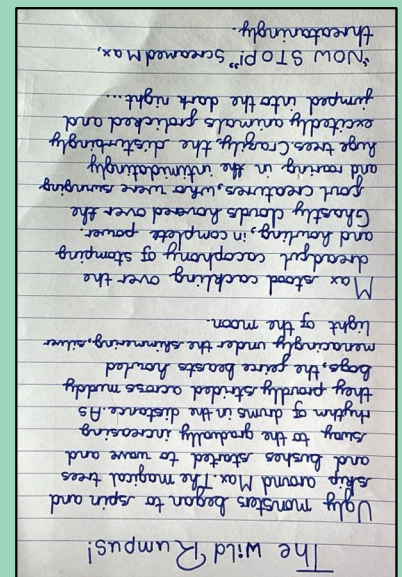


STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

From vivid settings and character descriptions to powerful vocabulary and carefully crafted sentences, the children worked hard to bring their part of the story to life. It was a brilliant opportunity to practise key writing skills while letting imaginations run wild — just like the Wild Things themselves!



We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by every class. What an amazing achievement — a whole-school story we can treasure and enjoy for years to come!



A LOVE FOR READING

OWLS HEAD FOR THE LIBRARY



Owls Class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Stroud Library this week, where they had the opportunity to listen to a selection of engaging stories and spend time reading together in a calm and welcoming environment.

The children were excited to explore the library, browse the books on offer and share their enjoyment of reading with one another. Visits like this are a fantastic way to encourage a love of books and help children see reading as both enjoyable and inspiring.

Stroud Library is a brilliant free resource for the local community and is well worth a visit, offering a wide range of books and resources, as well as regularly hosting activities and events during the school holidays.

The library is a lovely place to visit and as always, we thank them for the warm welcome Owls Class received.



PAIRED READING

Owls Class loved sharing stories with Eagles Class last week in a wonderful opportunity for our oldest and youngest children to come together. Finding quiet little spaces around the school to sit and read together made the experience feel extra special. The younger children enjoyed reading the stories, while the older children loved to listen and guide them gently — it was hard to say who gained the most from it!

A lovely win-win for everyone involved.



IN OTHER NEWS...

ENCOURAGING NATURE AROUND OUR SCHOOL



The Nature Club has been hard at work over the past couple of weeks as they continue their efforts towards the Nature Challenge for Schools. Their enthusiasm and teamwork have made for a fantastic few sessions and the children have been learning many interesting facts about British Wildlife too:

Did you know for example that a crow will drop acorns and nuts onto roads so that vehicles run over them to crack them open?

The group has been busy preparing the flower beds at the entrance of the school and scattering wildflower seeds, ready to brighten the area for the summer term. Their efforts will make a lovely difference and will no doubt be enjoyed by everyone in the school community in the coming weeks.



They have also been getting creative by making sweet-scented bird feeders using carved out oranges, and crafted with skewers for smaller birds to perch on. These feeders will help to support local wildlife and encourage more birds into our school grounds.

It's been a great few weeks for the Nature Club, and although the sessions this term have come to an end, we look forward to continuing our Nature Challenge in individual classes across the Summer.



DROP THAT BEAT!

Our school hall was filled with energy this week as seven talented young drummers performed in a fantastic afternoon showcase.



AFTERNOON RHYTHMS...



Having taken lessons with Phil in school, each child took to the stage to perform their own solo piece with great confidence and style.



It was incredibly impressive to hear them play as they took the audience on a musical journey, from the magical sounds of Aladdin to the powerful beats of AC/DC. Parents joined the rest of the school to watch, and every performance was met with a well deserved enthusiastic applause.



The children's hard work and enthusiasm were clear to see, making it a memorable event for everyone. A big well done to all the performers, and thank you to Phil for his support and guidance!



THE ARTS

FLEDGLING ARTS...

Our Art Ambassadors recently completed their very first 'Fledgling Art' session with Rodborough Playgroup, and what a wonderful success it was. The four ambassadors walked with Miss Mahaffy up to the Tabernacle, where they were warmly welcomed by the lovely playgroup leader and 14 enthusiastic children aged between 3 and 5 years old.



The ambassadors had carefully prepared a craft activity especially for the session, thoughtfully selecting resources that would be suitable and engaging for the younger age group. For their first project, they chose to create some characterful little owls — a perfect idea for the launch of 'Fledgling Arts', a name that feels especially fitting for Gastrells and its bird-themed identity. The playgroup children were fully engaged throughout the activity and clearly loved taking part. It was wonderful to see how gently and confidently the ambassadors spoke to the children, patiently explaining each step of the process and supporting them with such kindness and care.



It was a super afternoon for everyone involved, and we are incredibly proud of how brilliantly our Art Ambassadors represented the school. We are already looking forward to their next session.

BONFIRE CREATIONS

Owls Class have now completed their beautiful bonfire art, and the finished pieces look fantastic. Last term, the children carefully crafted their bonfires from clay, layering the sticks to create the structure before the pieces were fired in the kiln and then painted. They then used roving wool to create the flames of the fire itself, adding wonderful texture and colour to their artwork. To complete the scene, the children painted their little hedgehogs and the grassy environment around them, bringing the whole project to life.



The finished artworks are something the children should be very proud of and are now on display for all to enjoy!

PHOTOGRAPHY

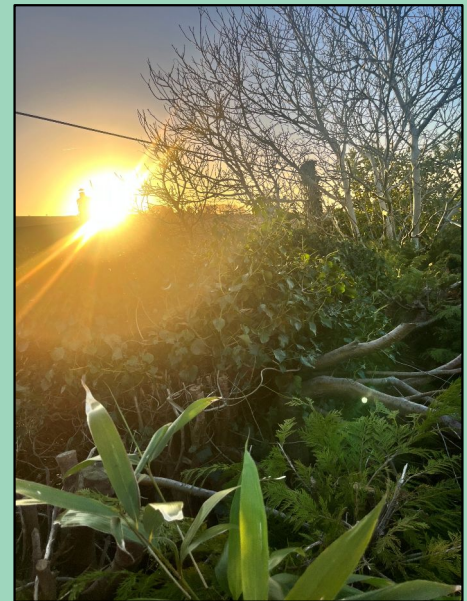
YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS SHINE!

We have been incredibly impressed by the entries for the Gloucestershire Young Persons Photography Competition this year. Over the past few weeks, children have been getting creative both at home and around the school grounds carefully considering perspectives, experimenting with camera angles, and patiently waiting to capture those perfect moments.

The standard of submissions has been fantastic, and we are very proud of all the effort and imagination shown. Entries have now been submitted, and we look forward to hearing how our young photographers have done in mid-April.

We are excited to share that many of the photographs will be displayed at our Summer Art Exhibition for you to view. A special mention also goes to Lillie in Year 5, Miss Mahaffy was so impressed with her work that it has been selected for printing and will be showcased on our communal gallery wall for everyone to enjoy. (*'Fairy City'* top left)

Well done to everyone who took part!



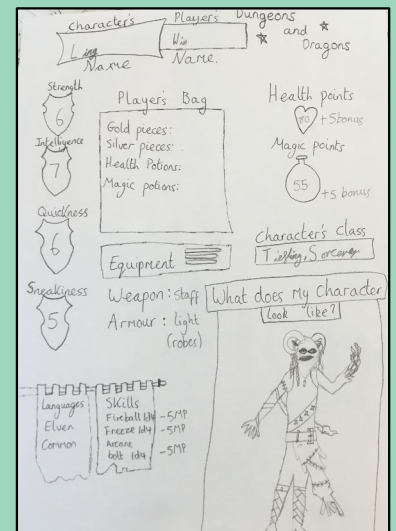
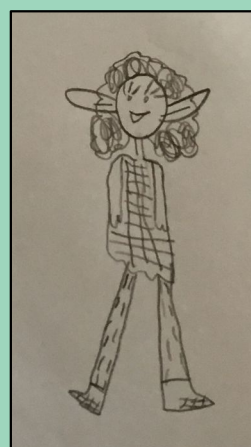
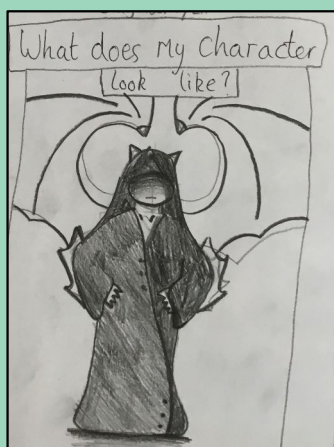
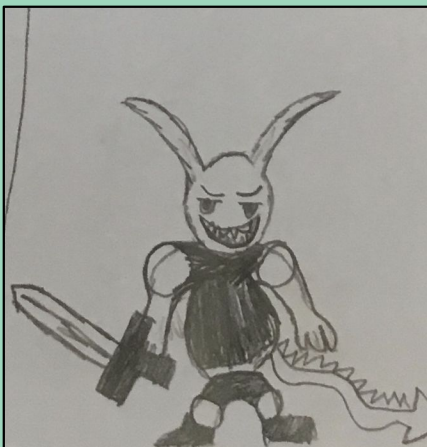
IN OTHER NEWS...

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLUB: ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Lunchtimes have taken on a whole new level of excitement thanks to the Dungeons & Dragons Club run by Mr Spring. The interest has been so big, that he has kindly split the sessions into multiple groups so that everyone can take part!

The children have been having a fantastic time, encountering powerful forces and battling mystical creatures. Each participant has created their own unique character and profile sheet, bringing imagination and creativity to every session.

It has quickly become a highlight of the week for many, offering a wonderful opportunity for storytelling, teamwork, and fun. A huge thank you to Mr Spring for generously giving up his lunch hours to make this such a special experience for the children.



FOG ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Egg Decorating Competition

Join the creative fun in this year's egg decorating competition!...Some entries last year were genuinely stunning.

£1 per egg via Total Giving

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/friends-of-gastrells>
deadline **23rd March**. Please include your child's name and year group. One winner + runner-up per year group.
Winners announced 26th March.

Inspiration from past years!



'DECORATE AN EGG' COMPETITION!

£1 PER ENTRY BY 23RD MARCH
ENTER USING THE QR CODE



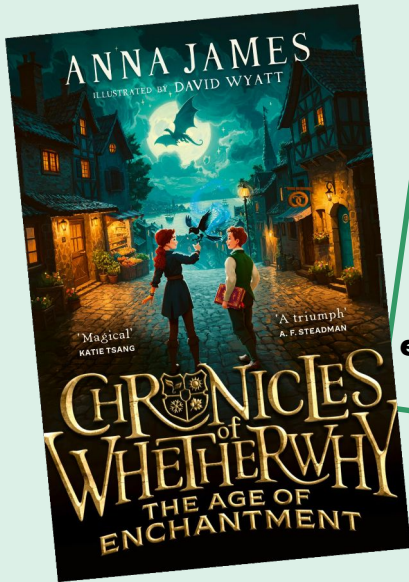
INCLUDE YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND YEAR GROUP.
ONE WINNER AND RUNNER-UP PER YEAR GROUP.
WINNER ANNOUNCED 26TH MARCH



FRIENDS OF
Gastrells
PRIMARY SCHOOL



STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS!



A GREAT READ!...

I highly recommend *Chronicles of Whetherwhy: The Age of Enchantment* by an author whose work I thoroughly enjoy. I'm currently reading it on an evening with my daughter, who is in Year 4, and we are both captivated by it. We particularly love the magical and enchanting world the story creates, and the way it explores friendship as it develops between the characters. It's a wonderfully engaging read for both children and adults who enjoy adventure, magic, and heartwarming relationships.

Mrs Seward, Head

COPSEGROVE FARM

Copsegrove Farm are celebrating Spring with a family Sunday on 26th April. The farm is a beautiful setting that we have taken classes to and its such a treat to see their calves and foals. The event will also host 'Midnight' and 'Moonlight' a pair of very special owls! Lovely walks and a great day out.

Miss Woolls, Owls



MUSEUM IN THE PARK

As always Stroud Museum in the Park has lots of lovely activities and trails on offer over the Easter holidays. Well worth a visit and a lap around the beautiful lake. There is so much wildlife emerging at the moment so lots of opportunities to explore and spy some interesting birds, animals and minibests!

Miss Mahaffy, Sparrowhawks

DIARY DATES

SPRING 2 TERM

05	World Book Day
16	Class Photos & Y6 Leavers Photos
18	Drumming concert, 1.30pm (parents welcome)
18	Gloucestershire Young Photographer Competition Deadline
19	Owls trip to Stroud Library
23	FOG Easter Egg Competition
26	iRock concert, 1.30pm (parents welcome)
27	End of Term 12.15pm

SUMMER 1 TERM

13	Summer 1 Term Starts
16-23	Scholastic Book Fayre
20	Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz Round 1
24	FOG Easter Bingo!
29	Y1 Football
29-01	Year 4 Residential
TBC	FOG Pre-loved Clothing Sale
22	End of Term 3.15pm

ATTENDANCE ACROSS THE SCHOOL (1st March – 22nd March 2026)

Owls	95%
Peregrines	90%
Ospreys	95%
Sparrowhawks	96%
Goshawks	95%
Eagles	86%

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

INSET DAYS

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

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	Mon 23th Feb	-	Fri 27th Mar 2026
Term 5	Mon 13th Apr	-	Fri 22nd May 2026
Term 6	Mon 1st Jun	-	Fri 17th Jul 2026

DATES CONT...

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2025/26



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	

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

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 th 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*

SAFEGUARDING

When to Tell an Adult

- It can sometimes be tricky to know when to ask a grown-up for help.
- Sometimes, we face problems that we can solve on our own.
- Other times, we need to ask a trusted adult for help.

Speak to a trusted adult when:

- something is making you feel uncomfortable;
- you feel you need help;
- someone is doing something that could hurt themselves and others;
- someone is being unkind;
- something is stopping you from learning;
- you feel someone else may need help.

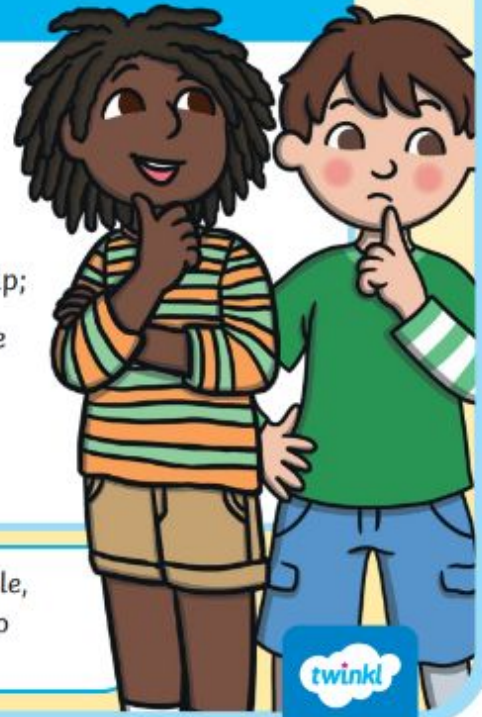
If none of these apply, it may be something that you could try to sort out yourself.

Could you:

- calmly talk about the problem;
- move away;
- ask a friend for help;
- find something else to do;
- solve the problem safely and fairly?

Remember, trusted adults are always here to help.

If something is making you feel uncomfortable, reach out and speak to an adult you trust who can help you to solve the problem.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Miss Woolls' Skydive for Sunflowers

Hey everyone!

In September - which is widely recognised as Suicide Prevention Month, I will be taking on a 15,000ft skydive to raise money for **Sunflowers Suicide Support**. It's an incredible charity that's close to my heart, having helped both family and friends bereaved by suicide. I'd love to support them the way they've supported us.

The goal is to raise £750. This money will go directly towards supporting the people who need it. According to recent data, 1 in 4 of people experience suicidal thoughts, meaning the need for charities such as Sunflowers is, unfortunately, at an all time high.

Please donate anything you can – every little helps!

To find out more about the charity, please visit their website: <https://www.sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk>



Scan to donate



COMMUNITY EVENTS

NAILSWORTH SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

THURSDAY 9TH APRIL

10:00am – 12:00pm > Aerial & Circus Skills > Age 5–9's

1:00pm – 3:00pm > Aerial & Acrobatics > Age 9–13's

6:00pm – 8:00pm > Aerial > Age 14+/Adults

£26.00 PER SESSION

(subsidised places available)

**BOOK ONLINE AT
SCHOOLLOFLARKS.COM**

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust



Waterscapes Week

30th March - 2nd April



**Water and wildlife
activities for
everyone!**

**free
events!**

How to book:



**Scan the QR
code, or ask
at reception**



COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust**



Nature Nurtures Family Fun Day



**April 7, 10am - 2pm
Robinswood Hill Country Park,
Gloucester, GL4 6SX**



Activities for the whole family to enjoy, including:

- crafts
- nature walks
- mindfulness

A chance for families to connect, slow down and explore nature together. This event is being run as a relaxed drop-in session so families can come and go at their own pace.



scan
me!

To book your family's place on the fun day, please scan the QR code.

For more information please email katie.hall@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk

