

Dear parents & carers,

I can't believe we are nearly at the end of term already — this term has absolutely flown by! I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. It has been lovely getting to know the children, staff and families over the last few weeks!

We've had lots going on in the last few weeks and it has been great to see so many children getting involved in different activities across the school.

A massive well done to our Year 6 pupils and the team who supported them during SATs week. The children were amazing — they came in each morning for a tasty breakfast and approached the whole week in such a calm and mature way. We are all really proud of them and the attitude they showed throughout. To celebrate all of their hard work, they finished the week with a fab morning of handball followed by a class party, which they thoroughly enjoyed!

A big thank you as well to the parents who volunteered to help with the mass baking in Sparrowhawks class, and to everyone who bought one of the delicious cakes. Your support is always hugely appreciated and it was lovely to see the children so excited about it all. We're looking forward to more class activities like this in the coming months.

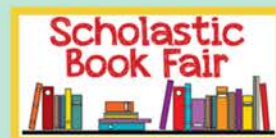
There's still lots to look forward to before the end of term and we can't wait to share more exciting events and celebrations with you all. Thank you again for all of your continued support!

Mrs Seward.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported our Scholastic Book Fair in April. As well as buying books and continuing to foster a love of reading at home, your purchases raised over £200 to go towards books for our school. A massive thank you to FoG for giving your time to make sure the book fair was open and running smoothly each day.

Thank you for your continued support.



MERIT AWARD

Congratulations to everyone who received merit awards over the past couple of weeks...



8th May 2026



15th May 2026



SPARROWHAWKS SUCCESS

A WHOLE CLASS EFFORT



Sparrowhawks are very excited about their upcoming class trip to the Nature in Art Museum, but when we realised that the costs were a little higher than hoped, we decided to take action in the most delicious way possible — with a themed cake sale!

The class fully embraced the project, making beautiful butterfly cakes and brilliant 'bug' biscuits to link perfectly with their Nature in Art theme. They were then tasked with baking something at home and thinking creatively about the name they would give their tasty produce. From 'Muddy Puddles' to 'Mint Meadow Cupcakes', the ideas just kept flowing!



We held the sale under the balcony and what a success it was. The children did a fantastic job serving, with a seamless shift changeover between year groups halfway through. We even sold ice cream in 'Vanilla Meadow' and 'Sunset Medley' flavours, with a choice of 'Rainbow Dust' or 'Ocean Breeze' sprinkles! The children did us proud, and we are thrilled to announce that we made a grand total of £403! This exceeds our target to subsidise the trip costs, so watch this space Sparrowhawks — some extra experiences and opportunities will be coming your way in Summer 2. We can't wait! ...A HUGE thank you also to the wonderful parent volunteers who came in to help with our baking. We really couldn't have done it without you!



MYSTERY READERS

BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE...

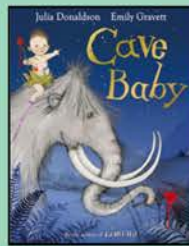


Rainbow ribbon gloves, tiger tails, scarves, bear ears, parachutes and bubbles all helped to create a wonderfully imaginative experience. The children followed the rhythm of the drum through the echoey cave, painted themselves with magical brushes and crept through the jungle like tigers, ready to ambush their prey!

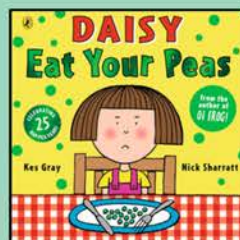
Owls had a very special treat when Miss Mahaffy joined them as a mystery reader, bringing her outside world of Playcircle into school for a magical storytelling session. With Mrs Gibson on the keyboard and African drum, the children brought Emily Gravett's *The Cave Baby* to life through music, movement and immersive play.



The Owls had a super time — and it is safe to say Miss Mahaffy enjoyed it just as much!



Owls have also enjoyed 2 further mystery readers. A HUGE thank you to; Bryher's mum for read "Eat your Peas" and Charlie's Dad read *The Who's Whonicorn of Unicorns!*



ART UPDATE

THE PERFECT OXYMORON

One of our most exciting collaborative art projects this term has been the creation of these fabulous “giant” minibeasts — surely the best kind of oxymoron!



Goshawks Class began the project last term by constructing the relief structures of the beetles, drawing on the cardboard techniques and sculptural skills they had already practised.

The project was then passed to Art Club, where children transformed the surfaces with colourful tissue paper, along with beautiful decorative details full of pattern and design. Finally, another group of Art Club children completed the pieces by adding wings and sparkling jewels, bringing each minibeast to life with even more character and charm.



These striking large-scale creations will come together as a “scuttle” and be displayed in one of our communal hallways for everyone to enjoy after the Summer Exhibition. What a wonderful example of creativity, teamwork and collaboration across the school.



THE CURSE OF MEDUSA!

Eagles Medusa's are finally glazed and out of the kiln, and looking rather terrifying! Well done Eagles, for your endurance on this project - those sneaky snakes were quite the challenge! These masks are looking super and you should be very proud of yourselves.



ART UPDATE

PRINTING PORTRAITS

Year 5 have now completed their fantastic printing unit, using a combination of cardboard collagraph techniques and oil pastel transfers to create their own Kehinde Wiley-inspired portraits. The children carefully built up a decorative wallpaper-style background, before adding their self-portrait as the striking centrepiece. The finished pieces are bold, vibrant and full of personality, showing not only the children's developing technical skills, but also their wonderful creativity and individuality.



JUDO - DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL



Gastrells children have been enjoying fantastic Judo lessons with Richard Neale, learning far more than just physical technique. Judo teaches children the importance of physical, emotional and moral control, helping them to build confidence, discipline, respect and resilience. Yuuki and Theo can be seen here demonstrating a safe throw and grapple, showing great focus, trust and control. It has been impressive to see the children embracing the art of Judo with such enthusiasm and care.



DESFILE DE MODA

'SPANISH CATWALK CHALLENGE'



Eagles Class have been looking 'muy elegante' in their current Spanish unit, where they have been learning how to describe different items of clothing.

To bring their learning to life, the children created their very own fashion ranges using newspapers, recycled materials and masking tape — and what 'fabulosos' outfits they produced!

Of course, no clothing range would be complete without a fabulously stylish catwalk, and Eagles did not disappoint. The children did a super job showcasing their designs,

combining their Spanish learning with plenty of flair, confidence and creativity.

Once again, their imagination truly shone through!

Just brilliant!



DREAM BEDROOM DESIGNS



After all their hard work during SATs, Eagles Class had the perfect opportunity to let off some creative steam by designing their very own dream bedrooms. The children's imaginations ran wild, with designs ranging from indoor slides and jungle hideaways to wall-to-ceiling graffiti, gaming zones, cosy reading corners and even a few wonderfully unusual surprises!

It was fantastic to see each child's personality shine through in their designs, with every bedroom feeling completely unique, just like the amazing children who created them.



PHOTOGRAPHY SUCCESS



A HUGE well done to all of the Gastrells children who took part in the Gloucestershire Young Photographer Competition this year. We were incredibly proud to see Phoenix, Finn and Idris receive special awards, presented by the Mayor in front of hundreds of people at the Bacon Theatre in Cheltenham — what a fantastic achievement!



Congratulations also go to Celeste, Millicent, Joseph, Lola, Erin, Jayden, Lillie, Matilda and Ethan, whose photographs were also selected for inclusion in the audio visual presentation. In fact, the standard of entries from Gastrells was so impressive overall that we were awarded a special trophy for the school, which is now proudly on display in our foyer.

A truly super achievement — well done, everyone!

SCIENCE EXPLORATION



There has been lots of super science learning taking place across school this term. Owls have been exploring Space and the solar system, then putting their new knowledge into action through both creative writing and artwork.



Meanwhile, Year 4 have been investigating sound and how vibrations travel.



The children made their own telephones using paper cups and string, discovering that the sound vibrations could be carried clearly through the string from over 7 metres away, as well as 'conference calling' as a whole class!



NATURE UPDATE

NATURE QUIZ SUCCESS!



A HUGE congratulations to our fantastic Nature Quiz team, who enjoyed a great success in Round 1 of the Gloucestershire Nature Quiz! Playing against Haresfield, it was a very close contest right up until Round 4, when Gastrells steamed ahead to secure a brilliant win by 5 points.

The team have worked so hard exploring their surroundings and building up their nature knowledge, and we are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm and teamwork. Questions in this round included "What do swans eat?" and "Name a tree beginning with the letter E," while specimens to identify included ash leaf, red campion and wild garlic; not an easy task.

The next round will be against Foxmoor and Nailsworth schools on 3rd June. Good luck team — we are all rooting (...no pun intended!) for you!

SLITHERING SIGHT...

A huge thank you to Jake for bringing in the fantastic photographs and video footage of the grass snakes that he and his dad discovered at the bottom of their yard. How utterly incredible



to see such beautiful reptiles almost literally on their doorstep! The grass snake is, of course, one of the UK's three native snakes, alongside the adder and the smooth snake.



NOTICES



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

FRIENDS OF
Gastrells
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SATURDAY
6TH JUNE

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

PRE-LOVED
CLOTHES
SALE

11AM-1PM

Donations of clean, good quality **adult & children's** clothes (in bags separated & labelled by age if possible) are welcome at Gastrells on Thursday 4th & Friday 5th June

Gastrells Primary School,
Kingscourt Lane | Stroud GL5 3PS

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Dear parents & carers,
You are warmly invited to this year's :

Summer Art Exhibition

as we showcase and celebrate creativity from across the school. Back by popular demand, this year's immersive UV glow room exhibit will return as; 'Out of this World!'

Tuesday 16th June

KS1 viewing, 3.15-4.15pm

Wednesday 17th June

KS2 viewing, 3.15-4.15pm

Open to everyone 5.15pm - 6.45pm.

(Awards presented at 6pm)



We hope that you can join us!

STAFF RECOMENDATIONS



LEGO AT BERKELEY CASTLE!

From Sunday 10th May - Sunday 10th June, Berkeley Castle are hosting a brilliant display of LEGO throughout the grounds and castle. From cave paintings and viking invasions to transport and railways, the exhibition covers multiple avenues of history and sounds like a very impressive and immersive day out!

Paula, Wrap Around Care



TINKLEY GATE WALKS

For a beautiful family walk, I can thoroughly recommend Tinkley Gate National Trust. Wander through the peaceful woodland down to Woodchester Lakes, where the scenery is simply stunning and there is plenty of nature to enjoy along the way. Afterwards, head back to the café for a well-earned coffee and pizza in a gorgeous setting — just lovely!

Mrs West, TA, ELSA



STROUD ROCKS

Stroud Rocks is a really helpful website if you are looking for groups and activities for families in the Stroud area. From holiday camps, to pre-school sessions, there is a really comprehensive list of events to signpost you to, so well worth a look if you are at a loose end over the half term break or heading into next term.... www.stroudocks.co.uk

Miss Mahaffy, Teacher



TERM DATES

SUMMER 1 TERM

APRIL

13	Summer 1 Term Starts
16-23	Scholastic Book Fayre
22	Y5 & Y6 Netball
24	Easter Bingo - FOG
27	The Great Big Dance Off, Regional Heats
29-01	Year 4 Residential

MAY

06	Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz - Round 1
06	Pre-loved Uniform Sale - FOG
15	KS2 Handball
20	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics
20	Sparrowhawks v's Parents Backgammon 2.30pm
21	Piano Concert 2.30pm (parents welcome)
22	KS2 Duathlon
22	End of Term 3.15pm
31-03	Year 6 Residential

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

SUMMER 2 TERM

JUNE

01	Summer 2 Term Starts
03	KS2 Rounders
03	Nature Quiz Round 2
04	Cricket Competition
04	Sparrowhawks Trip, 'Art in Nature' Museum
06	Pre-loved Clothes Sale - FOG
10	Y2 Dodgeball
12	£10 Challenge
15	KS2 Swimming Gala
16 - 17	Summer Art Exhibition
19	KS2 Mountain Biking
24	KS1 District Sports
30	Sports Day, Mini Olympics am, Races pm

JULY

02	Owls - Bristol Zoo Trip
06 & 08	Year 6 Production, Matilda, 6pm
07	KS2 District Sports
09	Y4 Multiskills
13	KS1 Sportshall Athletics
14	KS2 Sports Awards 2pm (Parents welcome)
15	KS1 & KS2 Dance Festival
17	Leavers Assembly 11am
17	End of Term 12.15pm

TERM DATES 25-26

Term 1	Wed 3 rd Sept - Fri 24 th Oct 2025
Term 2	Tue 4 th Nov - Fri 19 th Dec 2025
Term 3	Mon 5 th Jan - Fri 13 th Feb 2026
Term 4	Mon 23 rd Feb - Fri 27 th Mar 2026
Term 5	Mon 13 th Apr - Fri 22 nd May 2026
Term 6	Mon 1 st June - Fri 17 th July 2026

INSET DAYS

Mon	1 st September 2025
Tue	2 nd September 2025
Mon	3 rd November 2025
Mon	19 th January 2026
Mon	20 th July 2026

ATTENDANCE ACROSS THE SCHOOL

(30th April - 14th May 2026)

Owls	95%
Peregrines	98%
Ospreys	98%
Sparrowhawks	95%
Goshawks	93%
Eagles	84%

TERM DATES

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

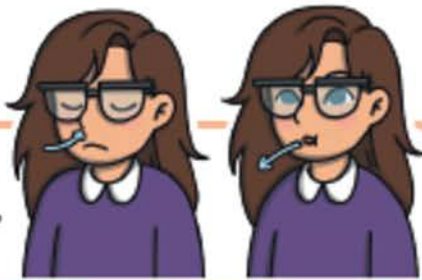
Talk a walk in nature.



Remember you are amazing!



Breathe.



Mental Health Week

Be a kind friend.



Get moving.



Take a break.





WHAT'S ON MAY HALF TERM...



At Kids Stuff Stroud

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

Daily Craft Tables: 10am-12:30pm



Tuesday 26th - Orbeeze Stress Balls

Make a water bead Orbeeze stress ball, squidge, squeeze and shape sensory fun.



Wednesday 27th - Sharpie Tie Dye

Get designing and tie dying with coloured sharpies. Take home your own design on fabric!



Thursday 28th - Badge Making

Get making your own badge, draw, collage, decorate your own design and wear it with pride!



Friday 29th - Skewer Sculpture

Get creative with paper, beads and clay and make a colourful Skewer sculpture!



Saturday 30th - Toilet Roll Windsocks

Recycle a toilet roll and transform it into a colourful windsock to enjoy in your garden, window or bedroom!



Scavenger Hunt all week - Pick up a sheet from the till area



All Offered: Drop-in, Join-in, Pay-as-you-can

If you enjoy your activities and are able to, please pop a donation in the pot at the till or donate online. This helps us provide more sessions to support local families. Thank you!

Noneed to book - A member of the team will be hosting 10:30am-12pm

The Long Table will be offering **pay-as-you-can lunches and kids jacket potatoes** throughout the Half term holiday. Lunch times daily, 12-2pm* Subject to availability

All event details here: www.strouddistrictkidsstuff.org.uk





FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING, LASERTAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY



Active Lifestyles Stroud

Stratford Road, Stroud, GL5 4AF

9.00am – 4.00pm

Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12

FROM £29.50 PER DAY!

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drinks Bottle.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!



Scan the QR code for more information,
call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS

MAY HALF TERM FAMILY FUN

10am-1pm FREE • DROP IN • ALL WELCOME

TUESDAY 26 MAY – STONEHOUSE
Oldends Park, GL10 2DG

WEDNESDAY 27 MAY – DURSLEY
Treetops Children & Family Centre, GL11 4NZ

THURSDAY 28 MAY – UPPER RISSINGTON
Upper Rissington Village Hall, GL54 2QW

FRIDAY 29 MAY – BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
Naight Park, GL54 2AR

Circus & Bubbles. Sports & games. Arts & Craft.
Family Support, Free food & smoothie bike

Bringing families together this May half term with free fun, food and activities, an affordable Kids essentials pop-up sale and community support - everyone welcome

