

Dear parents & carers, - Wow, what a busy start to our final term!

Term 6 began a day early for Year 6, who headed off to Liddington for their PGL residential. It sounds like they had a fantastic time, enjoying new experiences, making wonderful memories and, by all accounts, getting very little sleep!

Over the last few weeks, we have welcomed a number of visitors into school, focusing on different areas of our provision. The feedback has consistently highlighted how polite, respectful and engaging our children are in conversation. We are incredibly proud of them and the way they represent our school.

The £10 challenge day was a particularly busy one. My office has been filled with the delicious smell of freshly baked cookies all day, while the hall has been buzzing with excitement and activity. The children have produced some fantastic projects that have clearly demonstrated teamwork, initiative, creativity and the skills of future entrepreneurs. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and hard work on display.

The school is also getting ready for our upcoming Art Exhibition. I have had a preview of the artwork on display, and it looks amazing. The exhibition showcases a tremendous amount of hard work from both pupils and staff, and the creativity on show is truly impressive. It is definitely worth a visit, and I encourage everyone to come along and enjoy the children's fantastic achievements on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Last term also saw our Year 6 pupils complete their SATs, and this term the focus has shifted to the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by all of the children and thank our staff and families for their continued support in helping them achieve their best.

Over the next few weeks, the diary continues to fill up with exciting events and opportunities. We will be supporting children through transition activities, both within school and as they prepare for their next stage of education. We also have Sports Day to look forward to, along with assemblies, school discos and many other end-of-year events.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing many more highlights with you over the coming weeks.

MERIT AWARD

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



5th June 2026

12th June 2026



EAGLES RESIDENTIAL

ADVENTURE IN FULL SWING!

Eagles class took a trip to PGL Liddington on a sunny Sunday at the end of half term. After the departure of the parents (who seemed just as excited as the children!) we headed to our dorms and got settled. The first night saw us bust some moves at the silent disco before going on a sunset walk. It's best not to ask me how much sleep I got (or didn't get) the first night!



Over the course of the trip, the children participated in climbing, canoeing, the trapeze, giant swing, buggy building, archery and lots more! Eagles class were amazing and lots of laughs were had- by both staff and students!



The early morning breakfast starts will not be missed (especially the 2nd morning when I slept through the alarm and woke everyone up just 10 minutes before meet time!) but the children were a joy to take and it was a great way to end their time at Gastrells. I think it was clear that the girls had the most giggles and the boys made the most noise!



Thank you all for making the trip so memorable.

A personal note of thanks to Mrs Salter, Mrs Brain and Mrs Gryngarten, without whom the trip would not have happened. You are all magnificent and made the trip so enjoyable!



"Our residential trip was amazing with incredible activities such as giant swing, climbing wall, canoeing and trapeze, Lots of people loved the trapeze and giant swing, pushing people out of their comfort zone. We also got to stay in super comfy dorms in groups of four with two separate rooms in a row with a shower and a toilet, both with mirrors in that people did their hair in. All of us got delicious breakfast, lunch and dinners. We got an option to bake a cooked breakfast. Over all , we had an incredible time and had a thrilling trip."

Written by a child in year 6.

SPARROWHAWKS TRIP

NATURE IN ART MUSEUM



...from this.....to this...!



Sparrowhawks Class enjoyed a fabulous trip to the Nature in Art Museum in Gloucester, where they spent the day exploring creativity, craftsmanship and the beauty of the natural world.

The day began in rather dramatic fashion, with the children waiting for the coach in the pouring rain! Thankfully, by the time we arrived, the weather had transformed, and we were treated to glorious, unexpected blue skies for the rest of the day.



During the visit, the children took part in two very different but equally impressive art workshops. They explored the fascinating technique of Batik, creating striking designs using wax and dye, before trying their hand at wire sculpting with epoxy resin. Both techniques were highly effective and gave the children the chance to experiment with new materials and processes.

The children also had the opportunity to meet the artist in residence and ask lots of thoughtful questions about her stunning animal portraits. They were fascinated to hear about her inspiration, techniques and creative process.



There was also time to explore the galleries, where the children carefully sketched their observations and took inspiration from the incredible artwork on display, and meander around the sculpture garden, finding some very impressive creations!

It was a wonderful day full of creativity and curiosity.

A warm thank you to our 2 wonderful volunteer helpers Jane and Rhian for joining us.

ART UPDATE

PRINTING, PRINTING, PRINTING



This term, all classes have been embracing the art of printing, exploring different techniques and discovering the excitement of creating bold, effective designs.



Eagles and Sparrowhawks have also had the special opportunity to try out Miss Mahaffy's newly acquired converted Victorian mangle, which presses the ink beautifully into the paper and gives the children a real sense of traditional printmaking in action. Sparrowhawks Class have created wonderful animals in their habitats using a foam relief printing technique, producing striking images



full of texture, pattern and detail. Eagles Class, meanwhile, have impressively turned their hand to lino printing — for many of the children, for the very first time. Their intricate beetle designs were ambitious and certainly not an easy process, requiring patience, care and precision.

The results have been fantastic, and the children should be very proud of the creativity and perseverance they have shown throughout the process. Well done to everyone involved — a fabulous celebration of printmaking across the school.



CERAMIC MARVELS

DINNER ON A PLATE

Year 5's "Dinner on a Plate" ceramic creations have now been glazed and fired—and don't they look appetising! The children have done an excellent job colour matching and using reflective painting techniques to bring their food sculptures to life with remarkable realism.



TURTERLY FANTASTIC

Sparrowhawks' beautiful tortoise dishes have now been fired and painted, and they look fantastic! The children have used iridescent acrylic paints in a wonderful range of colours and patterns, creating unique and eye-catching pieces, ready for showing at the Summer Exhibition!



BOBBLE HEADS!



Ospreys' bobble heads have now been painted with tempera paints, and they are full of character! This was a particularly fiddly project, and the children have done a superb job showing patience, care and creativity to bring their unique creations to life.

BRITISH BIRDS HAVE THEIR COLOUR!

Peregrines class have been studying the beautiful colours of some of our favourite British garden birds, from robins and blue tits to blackbirds and goldfinches. Carefully observing their colour palettes, the children used watercolours to create these wonderful artworks, capturing the distinctive features and vibrant colours of each bird.



NATURE UPDATE

WE ARE SO PROUD!



We are incredibly proud of our Nature Quiz team, who competed in the next round of the Gloucestershire Nature Quiz against Nailsworth and Foxmoor schools.

The children did exceptionally well and showed fantastic scientific and nature knowledge throughout the competition. In fact, after the initial four rounds, our team were in the lead thanks to their impressive understanding of the natural world.

The final round, however, proved to be the most challenging. The children were asked to identify a range of specimens, all of which were plant-based and very tricky indeed. Although the team found this round difficult, they still performed brilliantly and finished in joint first place with Foxmoor.

Under the competition rules, in the event of a tie, the team who correctly identified the most specimens would be declared the winners. This meant that, despite leading earlier in the quiz, we were narrowly pipped to the post at the final stage.

Regardless of the final outcome, it has been a fabulous few weeks of meeting together, learning about nature, and exploring the wonderful world around us. We are incredibly proud of all four members of our team, who have shown enthusiasm, passion, curiosity and determination throughout the competition.

They represented the school brilliantly and should feel very proud of themselves.

SHARING EXPERIENCES

Thank you to all the children who have shared their nature experiences over the past couple of weeks! How utterly amazing!...

Yuuki discovering at the bottom of his garden our only native legless lizard...the slow worm! →



↙ Lyra identifying evidence of beavers while paddleboarding near Bath!



↗ Benji watching up close the first flights of a Tawny Owllet!



↙ Hope rescuing a Magpie fledgling!

IN OTHER NEWS...

SPORTS FIXTURES



Years 5 and 6 did really well at the cricket tournament at Frocester on Tuesday.

They worked incredibly well as a team, giving each other confidence and supporting one another through some challenging games.

Just the PRIDE values we want to see - well done team!

PAINTED LADIES FLY FREE!

Owls Class have loved watching their Painted Lady caterpillars grow, form their chrysalises and finally emerge as beautiful butterflies over the last few weeks. Although the children did not get to see the butterflies being released, as this happened during half term, they were very excited to hear that they had safely flown free. It has been a wonderful opportunity to learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and to see this amazing transformation up close.



TILLY THE TORTOISE VISITS GASTRELLS...

There was great excitement at Gastrells when we welcomed a very special visitor for the day — Tilly the Tortoise! Lyra and Aoifa very kindly loaned us their beloved pet to look after, and the children were thrilled to spend time with her. We began by arranging a new, larger temporary home for Tilly so that she had plenty of space to explore comfortably during her visit.

As we settled Tilly in, the children began discussing lots of interesting facts about tortoises. Did you know that a tortoise's shell is actually attached to its skeleton and grows with them as they get older?

At break time, Tilly joined us for a strawberry snack, and after break, she even helped Miss Mahaffy read the class novel, proving herself to be a very calm and attentive reading companion!

Tilly's adventures did not stop there. She ventured into other classrooms to say hello and also spent some lovely roaming time in Owls with our EYFS children. They too enjoyed meeting her and learning more about these fascinating reptiles.

A huge thank you to Lyra and Aoifa for trusting us with Tilly and allowing us to enjoy such a special day with her. After all the excitement, exploring and meeting so many new friends, we expect Tilly slept very well indeed!



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!

FOG

We are looking forward to the upcoming FOG events, including a **fabulous** end-of-year disco for the children and the FOG Annual General Meeting. Please pop the dates in your diary!

FRIENDS OF GASTRELL'S

AGM

WE
NEED
YOU!

Let's shape another great year
together!



WHEN:

Thursday 18th June
at 8.30pm



WHERE:

Via Zoom.
Link will be shared
nearer the time.

WE REALLY NEED
NEW PEOPLE TO
GET INVOLVED!

Even a little help makes a
big difference. Committee
roles aren't scary - we'll
support you!

INTERESTED?

Email us at
friendsofgastrells@gastrells.gloucs.sch.uk
or
Join our WhatsApp group:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HBMDjilaO4kEkyEO4zXSNr>

EVERY BIT
OF HELP
COUNTS!

ALL PARENTS, CARERS AND TEACHERS
ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND.

THANK YOU!

You're Invited to a

DISCO

02 JULY

Gastrell's School Hall

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC DJ,
GAMES & MORE

5:00 - 5.50PM KS 1

6:00 - 7.00PM KS 2

TICKETS
£5

Food and Refreshments available to pre
order with ticket and purchase on day

Book Here



THANK YOU



A friendly reminder to all parents: please do not park in a way that blocks residents' driveways during drop-offs, as access must be kept clear at all times. Please also note that only vehicles displaying a valid permit are permitted to enter the school car park.

STAFF RECOMENDATIONS



CLIMBING COMMONS

Whether you're a complete beginner, a regular climber or a parent looking for something brilliant to do with your kids - there's a path for you! This is a great new venue near the Long Table in Stroud that I would really recommend checking out.

Miss Woolls, Owls

BOOK REVIEW: DRAGON MOUNTAIN

Dragon Mountain by Katie Tsang and Kevin Tsang is an exciting fantasy adventure full of dragons, magic, and friendship. The story follows Billy Chan, who is sent to a summer camp in China. There, he meets new friends—Dylan, Charlotte, and Ling-Fei. Together they discover four powerful dragons hidden inside Dragon Mountain.

This book was actually lent to me, and at first I did not think it would be a book I would enjoy. However, I have been pleasantly surprised. The story quickly became exciting and engaging, and I found myself really interested in the characters and the adventure.

I really enjoyed this book because it is fast-paced and full of action. The characters are interesting and each has different strengths, which makes their teamwork exciting to read about. The dragons are also unique and have their own personalities, making them memorable and fun. My favourite part of the book is when Billy and his friends first discover the dragons hidden inside the mountain. This moment is thrilling because it changes everything and begins their magical adventure. I liked how the dragons and children form special bonds and learn to trust one another.

Overall, Dragon Mountain is a fantastic book for readers who enjoy fantasy, adventure, and dragons. I have now decided to move on to Book 2, as I am keen to continue the series. If there are any readers who would like to borrow Book 1, please come and find me.

(Mrs Seward)

I lent Mrs Seward this book in the first few weeks of last term. I lent it to her because it is a really exciting adventure and I thought she would enjoy the book.

I like this series because the story is really interesting and has lots of exciting twists and turns in the story line. My favourite part so far has been in book 2 but I do not want to spoil it for Mrs Seward and give away the exciting twist.

I am now on book 4 and I will be sad when I finish the series.

(Theo Barrett, Year 3)



TERM DATES

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
18	FOG AGM
19	Y5 Activity Morning, Archway
24	KS1 Distrcit Sports
24	Drumming Concert, parents welcome 2.30pm
30	Sports Day, Mini Olymipcs am, Races pm

JULY	
02	Owls - Bristol Zoo Trip
02	Owl Experience - Sparrowhawks & Peregrines
02	FOG Disco!
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
15	iRock Concert, parents welcome, 2.30pm
17	Leavers Assembly 11am
17	End of Term 12.15pm

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

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

(1st June - 10th June 2026)

Owls	91%
Peregrines	95%
Ospreys	94%
Sparrowhawks	98%
Goshawks	96%
Eagles	89%

TERM DATES 2025-26

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*

TERM DATES 2026-27

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
2026/27



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

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	INSET

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2026
	26 th December 2026
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Good Friday	26 th March 2027
Easter Monday	29 th March 2027
Early May Bank Holiday	3 rd May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	31 st May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	30 th August 2027

Term 1: Tue 1 st Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct 2026	39 days
Term 2: Mon 2 nd Nov – Fri 18 th Dec 2026	35 days
Term 3: Mon 4 th Jan – Fri 12 th Feb 2027	30 days
Term 4: Mon 22 nd Feb – Thur 25 th Mar 2027	24 days
Term 5: Mon 12 th April – Fri 28 th May 2027	34 days
Term 6: Mon 7 th June – Wed 21 st July 2027	33 days
Total	195 days*

*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2026/27 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend). Academies and free schools are not legally bound by school day and school year regulations; however, the DfE has stated they should be working towards a minimum of 32.5 hours per school week by September 2024 at the latest.

Please Note: As per the Governance handbook, academies and free schools can choose to set their own term dates. Schools considering alternative dates or considering changes to their school opening times may wish to contact our Transport Team to discuss transport implications and contact local childcare providers to discuss what impact this could have.

SAFEGUARDING

The positives of being a young carer

"I am able to look after myself."

"I have made new friends that I never thought I would - some have similar experiences to me and some don't."

"I am resilient."

"I can cook and deal with money."

"I am really independent and can do most things for myself."

"I am confident to deal with new and challenging situations."

"I have learnt new skills and done things that I didn't know I was capable of."

"I am able to empathise with others."

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COMMUNITY NEWS



CAMP

SUMMER KIDS CAMP 
UNLIMITED FUN FOR AGES 3-14!

20TH JULY - 21ST AUGUST 2026

-  Dinglewell Junior
-  St Edward's

27TH JULY - 14TH AUGUST 2026

-  Croft School
-  St Mary's

20TH JULY - 13TH AUGUST 2026

-  Cotswold School

17TH - 20TH AUGUST 2026

-  Kingham Hill School

childcare vouchers accepted!

ARTS & CRAFTS • FOREST SCHOOL • INFLATABLES • SPORTS • CIRCUS SKILLS • DANCE
POLYDRON CONSTRUCTION • CAMP'S GOT TALENT • FARM EXPERIENCE • SWIMMING