

Monday 13th July 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a fantastic term it has been! It has certainly been jam-packed with exciting events, achievements and memorable moments, and I couldn't be prouder of everything the school community has accomplished.

Sports Day was a huge success and a wonderful celebration of determination, perseverance and teamwork. It was fantastic to see every child giving their best, encouraging one another and demonstrating such excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. Thank you also to the parents who participated in the fancy dress races - such great fun!

Last week, all of our children had the opportunity to visit their new classrooms and spend time with their new teachers and cohort. The transition sessions were a great success, and it was lovely to see the excitement as new relationships began to develop. I know these positive starts will help everyone feel confident and ready for the new academic year.

A special congratulations must go to our Year 6 children and the Year 6 staff for their outstanding performance of Matilda. It was truly fantastic. Every child went above and beyond, the singing was exceptional, and it was clear just how much the children enjoyed performing. What a wonderful celebration at the end of their primary school journey.

Many of you will already have seen that our school field is finally back open! It has been wonderful to see the children making the most of the extra space, particularly during the warmer weather. I would also like to thank you all for your understanding and support regarding the difficult decision to close the school during the afternoons because of the extreme heat. The safety and wellbeing of our children and staff will always remain our priority. We know how disruptive these decisions can be for families, and we are already discussing ways we can better manage periods of exceptionally hot weather in the future to reduce the likelihood of further closures.

Finally, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to every member of our school community for the warm welcome you have given me since I took up post. My first two terms as Headteacher have certainly been busy, but they have also been incredibly rewarding. I have already seen what a caring, supportive and dedicated community we have here, and I feel very privileged to be part of it.

I wish you all a wonderful, restful summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year together.

Mrs Seward

WITH THANKS...

A huge thank you goes to our amazing PTA for organising another fantastic school disco and for the continued support they give to our school. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who give so much of their time for the benefit of our children.



SPORTS DAY

BATTLE OF THE HOUSES!

Sports Day was a brilliant whole day of enjoyment, bringing together children, staff, parents and friends for a fantastic celebration of sport, determination and teamwork.

In traditional Gastrells format, the morning began with the adornment of house battle colours as everyone proudly represented their house teams.



The morning session was our Mini Olympics, where children took part in a range of activities and had three attempts at each one to try to better their own scores. This was a personal challenge morning, with the focus on competing against yourself, showing perseverance and aiming to improve with every attempt.

Activities included long jump, vortex throw, shuttle run, hurdles and standing high jump, to name just a few. It was brilliant to see so many children improving as each attempt was made, cheering each other on and showing real determination throughout the morning.

Once the Mini Olympics were complete, the children enjoyed a well-earned picnic on the field with parents, carers and friends. It was a lovely opportunity to relax, share food and enjoy the wonderful Sports Day atmosphere together.



SPORTS DAY

AFTERNOON RACES

The afternoon brought even more excitement with our much-loved races. Children took part in sprinting races, bean bag races, sack races and a range of fun events that had everyone smiling.



There was a fantastic sense of team spirit throughout the afternoon, with children supporting one another and the crowd cheering loudly from the sidelines. It was wonderful to see such encouragement, enthusiasm and pride from everyone involved.

Thank you to all the brave parents who also took part in our fancy dress race which brought much fun and laughter to the field!



The whole day was a brilliant example of the Gastrells community coming together. From personal bests in the morning to exciting races in the afternoon, Sports Day was full of determination, celebration and enjoyment.



Well done to all of the children for taking part so brilliantly and thank you to everyone who came along to support. A very special thank you to Miss Kelly for her fabulous organisation - what a super and memorable day! Just brilliant!

SPORTS DAY - AWARDS



Congratulations to every single child for their super success throughout the day, and an extra special congratulations to the overall winners throughout the morning...

House Winners.....Sycamore!

EYFS



Year 3



Year 2



Year 4



Year 5



Year 1



Year 6



OWLS TRIP TO THE ZOO

WHAT A FABULOUS DAY!

Owls Class had a fantastic day at Bristol Zoo, where they saw lots of amazing animals and learned many interesting facts along the way.

They watched the lemurs eating their lunch and spotted the meerkats exploring their enclosure. The gorillas were especially memorable, with one giving them a big fright when it suddenly jumped up at the window!

They also saw ostriches resting on their nest, which had three eggs inside.



The children enjoyed seeing the giraffes and zebras and learned that giraffes have seven bones in their necks, just like humans. When they visited the cheetah, they looked closely at a skull and claw and discovered more about carnivores and what they eat.



They also found the bears and wolverines enjoying a sunbathe and visited Asha the red panda, who had just turned one. They all sang "Happy Birthday" to her!

As well as meeting the animals, they had great fun completing the barefoot trail, playing in the parks and enjoying a sing-song together.

The children had the best time, and were so well behaved throughout the day. We are all very proud of Owls Class for making the trip such a wonderful and memorable experience.

MATILDA Jr THE MUSICAL!

EAGLES HIT THE STAGE!

Written by Miss Kelly

Over the course of the summer term, Eagles class have been working incredibly hard rehearsing for Matilda the Musical Jr.

We started by learning some of the whole cast songs before advancing to script read-throughs after our SATs tests. The term progressed very quickly with sports day, transition days, heatwaves etc. but the team powered through and worked tirelessly in rehearsals. We have had SO much fun and I am endlessly proud of how hard the class have worked- their efforts have definitely paid off!

For me, one of the highlights was the first time hearing 'When I Grow Up' come together- Eagles staff were entirely speechless at just how beautiful the class sounded. We have had the best time rehearsing and it has created some brilliant memories to finish off their time at Gastrells.

A moment to thank the incredible staff in Eagles who have made this happen. Mrs Salter, Mrs Gryngarten, Mrs Brain and Mrs Gardiner- thank you for everything you have done. You have been absolutely amazing- from backdrops to running lines, from props to lights- you have been the best team ever.

Thank you to the parents who supported with running lines and providing costumes, and to those who were able to support on the night.

A final HUGE thank you to Eagles. I have had the most fun working with you and you should all be so proud of yourself. I know that you will all thrive at your new schools and wish you all the luck, joy and happiness in the world.

BIRDS OF PREY VISIT



We were delighted to welcome Jenny from The Wren Bird of Prey Centre into our forest school area for a very special afternoon of learning. She brought along three beautiful, but deadly, feathered friends: a Tawny Owl, a Barn Owl and a Kestrel.



Peregrines and Sparrowhawks classes thoroughly enjoyed this exciting treat. The children learned many fascinating facts about birds of prey, including how the Barn Owl's silent feathers help it fly without being heard, how an owl's eye colour can help us identify when it hunts, where different birds of prey live, and the clever ways they catch their food.



Sparrowhawks were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to hold Rowan the Tawny Owl and Guinevere the Barn Owl. It was a truly memorable experience and a wonderful chance to see these incredible birds up close.



The hands-on learning continued as the children dissected owl pellets. They discovered hundreds of tiny bones and worked carefully to identify what the owls had eaten. This gave everyone a fascinating insight into the diet of owls and how scientists can learn about wildlife from the clues animals leave behind.



It was a brilliant afternoon full of awe, curiosity and discovery. A huge thank you to Jenny and The Wren Bird of Prey Centre for such an inspiring visit.



IN OTHER NEWS



NATURE RECOGNITION

A huge well done to Phoebe, who recently took part in a sponsored litter pick and walk to raise money for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Phoebe showed fantastic commitment to helping both her local community and the environment, and we are delighted to share that she raised an impressive £166. What a wonderful achievement—we are incredibly proud of her!

SEWING MACHING



The Ospreys children have been busy this week completing their sewing projects, creating cosy sleeping bags for their favourite toys. For many of the children, this was their first experience using a sewing machine, and we have been incredibly impressed by how quickly they have developed their skills and embraced the sewing process with confidence and enthusiasm. Thank you to Mrs Prochaski for supporting the children with their new skills.

The Owls class have made incredible progress in so many ways this year.

OWLS PROGRESS

It has been wonderful to see their confidence and social skills grow, while their start- and end-of-year portraits and name writing show just how much their fine motor skills have developed. We are so proud of you all!



A FAREWELL MESSAGE...

And finally....as we reach the end of another school year, we must say farewell to three **incredible** members of staff who will be dearly missed by the whole Gastrells community.



Miss Kelly has been part of Gastrells for more than ten years, bringing energy, enthusiasm and care to every role she has taken on. From the youngest children in the school through to Year 6, she has made a lasting difference to hundreds of pupils. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy as one of those special teachers who will never be forgotten, and a colleague who will be dearly missed.



We also say goodbye to Miss Butcher, who has spent the past couple of years with us during her teacher training and, more recently, in a cover-teaching role. She has shown exactly what it means to be a caring and inclusive teacher. Her individual attention to the children has been greatly valued and sincerely appreciated.



Finally, we bid farewell to Mrs Salter, who has worked as a teaching assistant at Gastrells for the past six years. Whether supporting children one-to-one or working across a whole class, she has brought positivity, kindness and encouragement to pupils and staff alike. She will be truly missed, and we wish her every success with her new family business venture.

We thank Miss Kelly, Miss Butcher and Mrs Salter for everything they have given to Gastrells and wish them all the very best for the future. You have all been integral to making Gastrells a wonderful community and will be truly missed.

A MESSAGE FROM FOG

Can you believe how fast this year has flown? It only feels like yesterday we were kicking things off with the Autumn Fayre - a brilliant start to the year with a real community feel, and such a warm welcome for our newest starters.

Since then, it's been a busy one: the Christmas Treasure Room worked its usual magic, the quiz night was a great laugh, Earth Day bingo was a hit with adults and kids alike as always, our pre-loved clothing sale brought the wider community through the gates, and the school disco had the hall bouncing (thank you, DJ Captain Fantastic!).



Thanks to your support, we have raised well over £5k this year and FOG has been able to fund a new skeleton for Year 6, science equipment, and new play equipment for Reception - with much more on the way!

None of this happens without you. Whether you came along, donated, or just spread the word - thank you.

And there's plenty more to come: a movie night, Autumn Fayre, a colour run, and lots of ideas in the works to keep making school life better for the kids. Watch this space! Laura, Karen, Natasha, Stasia, Annie & Emily



Captain Fantastic was indeed fantastic at the school disco last week, which raised £553!

TERM DATES

SUMMER 2 TERM

AUTUMN 1 TERM

JULY

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

SEPTEMBER

[illegible]

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

TERM DATES 25-26

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

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

(29th June - 9th July 2026)

ATTENDANCE ACROSS THE SCHOOL (29th June - 9 th July 2026)	
Owls	93%
Peregrines	98%
Ospreys	99%
Sparrowhawks	93%
Goshawks	93%
Eagles	91%

TERM DATES 26-27

TERM DATES 26-27	
Term 1	Tue 1 st Sept - Fri 23 rd Oct 2026
Term 2	Mon 2 nd Nov - Fri 18 th Dec 2026
Term 3	Mon 4 th Jan - Fri 12 th Feb 2027
Term 4	Mon 22 nd Feb - Thur 25 th Mar 2027
Term 5	Mon 12 th April - Fri 28 th May 2027
Term 6	Mon 7 th June - Wed 21 st July 2027

INSET DAYS

INSET DAYS	
Tue	1 st September 2026
Wed	2 nd September 2026
Fri	23 rd October 2026
Mon	4 th January 2027
Mon	22 nd February 2027

LOOKING AHEAD...

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	

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

TERM DATES 2026-27

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
2026/27



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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						
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	31
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

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	INSET

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*

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2026
	26 th December 2026
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2027
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

*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

Staying Safe Online



- 1 Respect other users. Be kind and polite online.



- 2 Don't share personal information.



- 3 Only talk to people you know online.



- 4 Visit safe websites that a trusted adult has checked first.



- 5 Tell a trusted adult if something makes you upset or uncomfortable.

