



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 8th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new term- brief but jam packed! I hope you had a lovely bank holiday and are enjoying the spring weather.

There is a lot in this newsletter- can I alert you to 2 key things. The first is that we are again opening the field up every Friday after school from 3.15- 5pm for families to use. Feel free to bring bikes, play football, have a picnic and use the space. This will continue till the end Term 6.

Secondly, next Friday is our OPAL **Family Play Afternoon**. Everyone is invited into school from 1.30- 3pm to share playtime with the children. There will be a quick presentation in the hall from our Opal Mentor Rachel and then you can spend the rest of the afternoon exploring our new play areas with your children and witness Tidy Friday in action. Hope to see you there. Siblings welcome!

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

WORSHIP

Our value this term is

SERVICE

Acts 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

We launched this value by exploring in the first worship of term, what Service might look like in school



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Class News



CHESTNUTS

The children have all settled back into the routine of Chestnuts. They have been busy in Forest School building dens and looking at the wildlife that is all around them. Last week they all got to see a very large moth up close that they found under the bottom of the slide. They have also enjoyed using the outdoor area for race tracks using the crates and drain pipes, and looking after the babies - bathing them and getting them dressed. The children have enjoyed sitting in the tepee and looking at books.



WILLOW

Willow Class have been reading "Stanley's Stick" in English. They have created their own version of the story and are currently writing this up in their own booklet. In Science we have been learning about materials and objects. We have also looked at different properties of objects. In History we have been looking at houses and how they have changed. In Maths, Y1s have been learning about money, identifying different coins and notes. Reception have been practicing number formation and subitising.



SYCAMORE

We are delighted to have Miss Wills back in the classroom. She has been teaching the children about the artist Turner and the locating the countries in North America. In English, we have been reading the Thames and Tide Club - a Secret City. We have been using adverbs such as rapidly, strangely and unusually at the start and middle of sentences. Today we also used these to write a weather forecast. We have been looking at the endings of words in spelling, does it end in le, el or al. We have been practising using the homophones **to, two** and **too**. We are learning to spell these tricky words; **move, improve, people, friend, who and whole**. Please challenge your child to spell these at home. In Maths Y2 are continuing to tell the time, focusing on minutes past the hour and minutes to the hour, in 5 minute intervals. Such as 5 to 9, 25 past 3. In Y3 we have been learning about money. Any practising paying with coins would be great.



OAK

Oak class have started their term with lots of great work. In English we are looking at Romeo and Juliet; we discovered the scene of a crime on our first morning back, where something terrible had happened. We've then learned more about the build up to this from the Shakespeare play. We've written a recount of the first scene, and a diary entry from Romeo and Juliet's first meeting. In Science we explored how our eyes work so that we can see, and in Art we've studied Ancient Greek architecture and the different types of columns. In our History we're learning about what the Ancient Greeks invented that we still use now, such as democracy. We've looked at the roles of men and women in Ancient Greece and their lasting achievements in sport, maths and day to day lives.



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Celebration Awards

Every *Friday* we celebrate pupils' achievements during our Celebration Assembly.

If your child achieves something spectacular out of school, they are welcome to bring in medals, trophies or certificates on a Friday and we will share their success with the whole school.

Willow Class Academic Excellence Award: Millie and Finn
Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Award: Greg and Beren
Oak Class Academic Excellence Award: Eden and Delia

Attendance update

Sept 1st – May 8th 2025 = **96.8%**



We have maintained above the national attendance levels all year, so far- brilliant news!

Whole School Target - **98%**

Hot school dinners

From April the price of a hot school meal increased to £2.85.

If you think you might be eligible for **Free School Meals**, please apply, even if your child is in the infants, since they remain eligible up until Y6 and the school benefits financially through the Pupil Premium.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>



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Dates for your diary

9th May- Field Family Fridays start again- Field is open from 3.15- 5pm for families to use. No dogs please! Bring bikes or picnics or just have fun.

12th May- 15th May- SATs week for Y6- breakfast in school!

16th May- OPAL play afternoon with parents, carers, family members and siblings 1.30-3pm *More detail in this newsletter*

22nd May- Whole School Walk to the River Severn in the afternoon.

23rd May- Wildlife Quiz SEMI FINAL in the hall 9.30am. Last day of term.

2nd June- Term 6 starts

11th June- Year 6 Leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral

13th June- Father's Day Service in school 9.15am- all male carers welcome!

18th June- Y3/4 cricket event at Newent

19th June- Class photos and Year 6 leavers photos

26th June- Parent and Carer drop in to see pupils' work 8.30-9.15am

7th- 11th July- Dream Big ACTIVE week- PE kit all week- daily sports/active lessons

9th July- Sports morning on the field (weather permitting)

17th July- End of Year Church service- Values Certificates for the whole school plus Bibles and hoodies for Year 6.

18th July- Last day of term, farewell Year 6!



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Friday 16th May: FAMILY PLAY AFTERNOON

I hope this date is in your diary because it's going to be fabulous.

Rachael Murray from OPAL is coming into school to explain the OPAL journey we have made to parents and family members. This will be in the hall at 1.35pm. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**



After this, parents and other family members (including siblings) are invited to join the whole school (including Preschool) in **a huge family playtime**. We will open all areas (including the field) so that you can see the new developments in our play areas, play alongside your child(ren) and have fun. This is a great opportunity for you to see the quality of your children's playtimes. Feel free to take photos but only of your own children.

We have timed this to coincide with the end of SATS week for the Year 6s- a lovely way for them to let all of the stress of the week go.

At the end of play time we will ring the bell (2.45pm), everyone will put everything away (Tidy Friday!) and children will return to their classrooms and you can go around the front of school to collect them.

We hope to see lots of you there for a great afternoon of play.



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We have so far only had ONE bag of donations for the BINGO- please have a look and see if you can help with donations

We want to provide an amazing collection of loose parts for the children to use at play times. They are so creative in their play, there really is no end to what can be utilised. I have attached a copy of the **OPAL Bingo sheet** and one will be coming home with your child also. To make this a little more fun, and to get the children inspired, we are going to have a little competition between the school houses **Wild Boar, Hedgehogs, Deer and Badgers**. The house that collectively checks off the most items from the bingo sheet will win 200 house points and an extra OPAL play time. So every time your child brings something in from the BINGO sheet, they will be helping their team progress.

OPAL Bingo

DO YOU HAVE WHAT WE NEED?

 HAY BALES	 PARACHUTE	 WHEELED CONTAINERS
 TOY CARS	 EMPTY PAINT CANS	 PRAMS (NOT TOO PADDED)
 PULL ALONG WAGON	 TIMBER	 MALLETs (NOT METAL)
 PALLETs	 SPACE HOPPERs	
 STRAIGHTISH STICKS / POLES / BROOM HANDLES	 TARPAULINs	 PLASTIC CRATEs
 GARDEN TROWELs	 TENT PEGs	
 GARDEN HOSE	 ROPE	 NATURAL MATERIALs
 DOLLs	 ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF THAT WOULD MAKE GREAT CREATIVE PLAY	



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Swimming lessons



Oak Class will be starting swimming after May half term. You received a letter about this a few months ago.

We are now providing hour long lessons on these days:

Monday 2nd, 9th and 16th June 9.30-10.30am.

Monday 23rd, 30th June and 7th, 14th July at 2-3pm.

On these final 4 Mondays of term, the pupils will return to school later than usual- we estimate about 3.30pm. This will impact bus users so please make alternative arrangements for pick up on these occasions. If your child is signed up for Wraparound or Football club, they can go straight to these when they arrive.

Nicky has set everyone up on Parentpay to make your contribution towards the coach costs- £38.54 per child. If you need help with these costs, please talk to us, especially if your child is pupil premium.



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For ages 6+

Date: Wednesday 28th May 2025

Time: 10.30am and 1.30am

Venue: Books for Bugs, Vantage Point Business Village, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, GL17 0DD

Session Time: Each session will last for approx 1 hour with book signing opportunity after.

Price: £10 per child which includes a goody bag and a copy of her brand new book Puppy Problem.

Book your tickets via the QR code or at

<https://booksforbugs.co.uk/author-visit-serena-patel/>





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Steam trains all weekend.
Open 10am-5pm.
Book online now!

www.perrygrove.co.uk



HALF PRICE THIS WEEKEND!

10 & 11 May

Join us for a Teddy's Bears Picnic this weekend and get in for half price! picnic boxes available from our café.

