



A small school, dreaming big Thursday 12th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see the Year 6s enjoy their Leavers Service in the grand setting of Gloucester Cathedral. Poppy opened the service with a beautiful reading- we are so proud of her. All the Y6s had a lovely pizza party afterwards, thanks to the Friends of Westbury. A wonderful grandparent baked a cake for their pudding. So they had a fab afternoon. Today and tomorrow the Y6s are learning to ride their bikes with two days of Bikeability training- despite the rain! Please can I remind all parents to send a coat in every day with their children because we play outside even in the rain. If they don't have a coat, they can't go outside. All of the children are excited to perform tomorrow for our Father's Day Service. Remember, EVERYONE is welcome for this occasion- 9.15 in the hall. See you then!

Anna-Mai Armstrong Headteacher

WORSHIP Our value this term is TRUTHFULNESS



We explored the story of **The Boy Who Cried Wolf** and talked about how telling the truth is sometimes hard.

But it builds <u>trust</u>, which is the basis for all good relationships, with parents and friends.





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Class News



We have been looking at the story **Sarah and Duck go to the library**. The children have created some duck masks and played with toy ducks in water, creating water slides for them. In phonics we have been listening to the **Y** sound and in Maths we have explored different types of patterns.



This term in Willow Class, our topic in English has been Once Upon a Time, and the children have enjoyed exploring the fairy tale *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, retelling the story through labelled pictures and captions. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning

about mass and capacity and had lots of fun comparing different amounts using water in the outdoor area. In Science, we've been testing materials by building houses for the Three Little Pigs out of Lego, fabric, and cardboard, and we'll be using a hairdryer to see which one is the strongest just like the Big Bad Wolf! For Father's Day, the children wrote lovely messages about why they love their dads, and we hope you enjoy the service.

SYCAMORE

We have started reading our new book in English called *A Walk in London*. So far we have looked at the start of the book and have written some questions about what we'd

like to find out about some of London's landmarks. We have also used imperative verbs to give advice on what to take with you on a trip to London. In Maths, the Y2s have started their topic on Statistics, so far looking at tally charts, tables and pictograms. Y 3 have been learning to tell the time to the nearest minute - please practise this with them at home. In Science the last few weeks we have been looking at everyday materials. We have investigated the difference between man-made and naturally occurring materials. We have experimented to see which materials are waterproof and we learnt about the inventor of the mackintosh, Charles Mackintosh.

OAK

Oak class have continued to explore their Ancient Greek theme through our English and Art. In Art we've started to design clay masks just like the ones they would have used in

Ancient Greek theatre. In English we've started reading *Homer's 'Odyssey'*. We've really enjoyed hearing about Odysseus and his attempts to return home - although we're not so sure he's been making the best leadership decisions. In Maths the Y5s have been measuring and drawing angles and the Y4s have been reading charts. The Y6s have continued their "Move on, Move up!" units where they're preparing for Y7.

We've also really enjoyed having **an hour swimming** each week - we've seen children make some amazing progress within the extended lessons and it's only week 2!





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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: Ayrton
Sycamore Class Academic Excellence Award: Django
Oak Class Academic Excellence Award: Liz



Attendance update

Sept 1st 2024 – 12th June 2025 = 96.8%

24% of children have EXCELLENT attendance- 99%+!!!

We have maintained <u>above the national attendance</u> levels (94.9%) all year - AMAZING! We have 0% of pupils with persistent absence (missing 10% or more of school) – excellent news.

We are in the top 10% of primary schools in the UK for our attendance – Dreaming BIG!



Hot school dinners

The price of a hot school meal is now £2.85. This is excellent value since the children get a good sized freshly cooked meal.

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. If you claim any benefits, you may be eligible.

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





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Dates for your diary

13th June- Father's Day Service in school 9.15am- Everyone welcome including mums, grandads, uncles, stepdads....

18th June- Y3/4 cricket event at Newent

19th June- Class photos and Year 6 leavers photos

23rd June- Dene Magna transition week for some Y6s

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

4th July - School production at the Parish Hall 6-7pm.

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

11th July - 9.30am Ukulele concert for Willow Class, parents invited.

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

17th July- End of Year Church service- 9.15am. Values Certificates for the whole school plus Bibles and hoodies for Year 6.

18th July- Farewell assembly for Y6 at 1.15 in the hall. School day ends at 2pm.

Dream Big Active Week programme:







Monday: Climbing wall in playground all day (not Chestnuts) . Football lessons for each class including Chestnuts.

Tuesday: Archery lessons for every class (not Chestnuts)

Wednesday: Sports morning on the field (including Chestnuts.) Parents welcome to stay and picnic with their children at 12.

Thursday: Circus skills lessons (including Chestnuts) all day in hall from the School of Larks.

Friday: Whole school rounders match on the field in House Teams.





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CHESTNUTS UPDATE

We have recently made some big decisions about expanding our Chestnuts class (Preschool). This is because we have noticed how well pupils transition into the Reception year when they have attended Chestnuts and because demand is growing.

From September 2025:

- Chestnuts will be in the room that is currently adjacent to Oak, behind the temporary wall. This will allow us to take in more children and to keep access to the outside play area. Willow will be next door.
- Children will be able to start when they are <u>2 years 9 months</u>, rather than currently, aged 3.
- We will be staying open till 5pm on days when the demand is there. The plan is for this eventually to be daily.

We know that our Preschool is excellent and our staff are highly experienced, caring and knowledgeable. Ofsted in 2024 were so incredibly impressed with what we offer the youngest children so it makes sense to expand this community provision.

Please ask for an application form from the office to sign up for Sept-**DEADLINE is 30**th **June.** Spaces are filling up!





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Maternity leave

We said good bye and good luck yesterday to our two teachers, both expecting their babies this summer.

We held a special Worship to give them their whole school cards and a gift for each of them from the staff and then sang each of their favourite Ising Pop songs.

Miss Wills chose *Thank you* and Mrs Walls chose *Show Me* the Way. Everyone sang beautifully. We wish them all the best and cannot wait to meet their babies.



At Flaxley Fete, Saturday 19th July '25

To enter, please deliver your miniature garden to Flaxley Church before 3pm on the day, for judging.

Winners to be announced in the main arena at 4pm.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes to be won! Entries may be collected after 4pm

Create your very own fairy garden in a tray no bigger than 10"x14"

This event is raising funds for Flaxley Schoolroom and Flaxley Church





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See next page for details.....





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