



# Soudley News

10.11.2023

[www.soudleyschool.com](http://www.soudleyschool.com)

01594 822004

[admin@soudley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@soudley.gloucs.sch.uk)

## This term's school value is Friendship

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back! It is lovely to see the children back again after the break. There are plenty of great activities for them to enjoy this term, including joint activities with their peers at Steam Mills and Woodside Schools.

Huge thanks to Mrs Smith for her work in Otters last term and welcome back to Mrs Mclean! It is lovely to see you back and everyone hopes you have enjoyed your first week.

Mrs Ridgway will be joining the team at the end of November, as a teaching assistant, when Mrs Williams leaves. Thank you so much to Mrs Williams for all she has contributed to our school, including the wonderful Forest Schools sessions. We hope you enjoy your travels and wish you well.

Thank you to all parents who completed the parent survey, which was very positive. We are particularly pleased that parents feel informed about what children are learning in school now and, most importantly, that children feel happy and safe.

### Parent Governor role

Thank you to Mr Marc Jones for his application. As there were no other nominations, Mr Jones has been re-appointed to the Governing Body.

Kind regards

**Mrs Mel Davis**

**Executive Head Teacher**

## CHILDREN IN NEED—BE SPOTACULAR!

Next Friday we are supporting Children in Need and once again raising monies for this wonderful annual charity event.

We invite all the children to come to school in non-uniform—wearing something spotty.

Please do not send any cash into school as all donations should be made on your child/ren's ParentPay account please. Thank you

### Term Dates

#### Term 1

**4 Sept to**

**27 Oct**

#### Term 2

6 Nov to

22 Dec

#### Term 3

8 Jan to 9 Feb

#### Term 4

19 Feb to

22 March

#### Term 5

8 April to

24 May

#### Term 6

3 June to

22 July

### INSET days:

~~4 September~~

6 November

22 December

24 May

22 July

### Other dates:

Bank Holiday

- 6 May



## Moles Class



In Moles this week, we began to look at our new class text 'Winter's Child'. We first discussed the title of the book, and the class used our inference skills to try and predict what the book might be about. After this, we read the synopsis and looked at the front cover of the book too see if this changed any of our predictions about what the book will be about.

We have also continued our viola lessons and have learnt some really great pieces of music, we have a concert planned on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November at 9am to show off all the music we have learnt to the school and parents are invited to come and watch as well.

On Friday, we went with to school to observe our 2 minutes silence in Soudley. Moles class learnt about why we wear a poppy on remembrance day as well as learning a remembrance poem which was performed in the village.

**Mr Martin**

## Hedgehogs Class



Hedgehogs class have come back from the half term break ready to get straight back into their learning and play.

The whole class were introduced to a new character this week... they found a lost penguin in one of the construction boxes. A tag showed that the penguin was lost, unhappy and lonely and looking for somewhere to live. Leading on from this the children have been listening to the story Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers. They will enjoy this story and engage in a range of activities over the coming weeks.

The children learnt about the poppy symbol and Remembrance Day. They watched the CBeebies Poppy clip as an introduction to this. They worked together to write a class Poppy poem to share in the Remembrance service and made their own poppies during forest school too.

Reception children have created self-portrait paper plates and made boats for the boy and penguin to travel to the South Pole.

KS1 showed great resilience and determination in art and design to create paper sculptures.

KS1 have also continued their Great Fire of London work and have remembered lots of facts. They coloured maps in geography to show where the fire spread using a key and they designed houses in history to show how they should be rebuilt following the great fire.

Well done on a fantastic week Hedgehogs.

**Mrs Toomer**



## Otters Class

What a fantastic first week back I have had with Otters. By 9am on Tuesday morning, it certainly did not feel as though I had had a year off!

We have kick started our maths learning this term by looking at decimal numbers. Both year groups have been working with numbers to three decimal places. They have learnt to write equivalent decimals as fractions, divide and multiply decimals and whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1000.

We have started reading our new texts 'Beetle Boy' and 'There's a boy in the girls' bathroom'. Two very different texts, that deliver different messages. Children are already itching to read and know more.

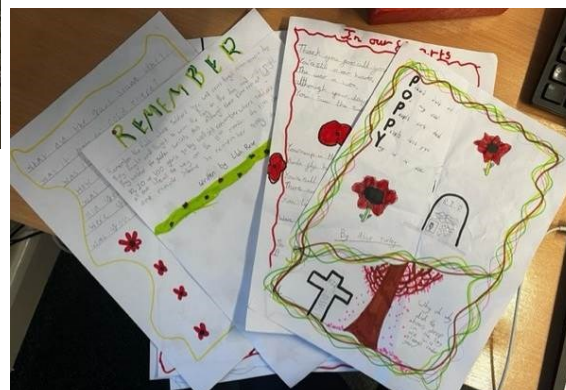
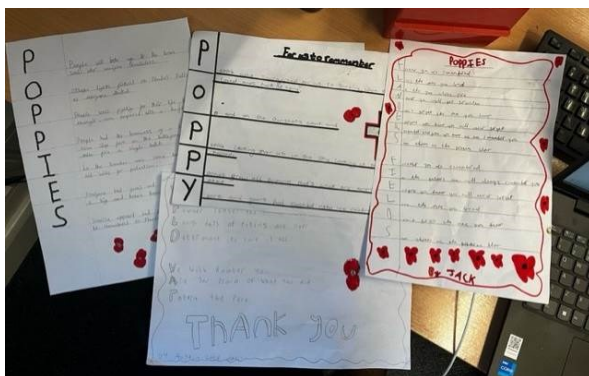
On Thursday, we travelled to Woodside school. The children worked with the Year 5 and 6 children from Woodside and Steam Mills. They worked together to learn more about Remembrance and created some beautiful poppies. It was great to hear them interacting with new children and making new friends.

We have also taken time in class to think about what remembrance means to us. We read the poem 'In Flanders Field', by John McCrae. We discussed the emotions that the words brought to us, what the images they brought to mind, and what they meant. Children then worked on their own Remembrance poems, some of which were read during our Remembrance service at the cenotaph today. The final pieces were truly moving and the children showed the upmost respect, gave thanks and created beautiful rhyming pieces.

This afternoon we enjoyed an amazing Forest Schools session in the woodland. It was great to watch the children explore in the forest, create dens and just move free.

Thank you, Otters, for a fantastic first week back.

**Mrs Mclean**







## Things Happening at Soudley School Week Commencing 13 November 2023

**8am – 8.30am DAILY - BREAKFAST CLUB  
- £2.50 per child per day**

**Mon**

**Tues** Year 5 and Year 6 pupils swimming - please remember your swimming kit every Tuesday!

3.15-4.15 pm Young Voices Choir Club (Years 3-6)

**Weds** Viola Lessons with Mr Robin Davies - Moles Class

**Thurs** 3.15-4.15 pm Dodgeball and Benchball Club — for pupils in KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6)

3.15-4.15 pm Multi Sports Club—for pupils in KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

**Fri** **Children in Need non-uniform — Wear something spotty — donations on ParentPay please**

Forest Schools—this will be the final session

Yoga for pupils in Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

### BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club will continue to be £2.50 per day and is payable DAILY.

As we continue to be a cashless school, if your child/ren attend Breakfast Club, please go into your child's ParentPay account to pay the £2.50 on the day that they attend. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Breakfast Club runs from 8 am until the start of school every school day during term time. For a very reasonable charge of £2.50 per child per day, the children enjoy a breakfast of toast and cereals, and sometimes pancakes and bagels too. They all love the fun and relaxing start to their school day, doing art, reading and playing with their friends.

In order for this provision to continue it must be viable. Please let the school office know if you would like to book your child/ren into Breakfast Club.

### CHARGE FOR DAMAGED BOOKS

That due to an increasing number of books being returned to school in an unsatisfactory condition, there will be a charge incurred for any books that are returned to school damaged.

## **DIARY DATES 2023-2024**

### **November 2023**

- 13 Reception and Year 6 pupils Health Screening with the School Nurse Team
- 18 Children In Need
- 28 Years 3 and 4 Federation morning at Woodside School

### **December 2023**

- 6 Chaplins Pantomime visit
- 13 Christmas Lunch
- 20 Hedgehogs Class crafting and Santa visit at the Dean Heritage Centre
- 22 **INSET day**

### **February 2024**

- 2 Drama Queen's Dance Festival at Whitemead Forest Park—tbc
- 28 Life Education Visit

### **March 2024**

- 15 Comic Relief 2024

### **May 2024**

- 24 **INSET day**

### **June 2024**

- 3 Leavers' and Class photographs
- 10-14 Bikeability Training for Year 6 pupils

### **July 2024**

- 22 **INSET day**



WANT TO DESIGN YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS CARD THAT YOU CAN SEND TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

# ENTER OUR FESTIVE COMPETITION TODAY!

There are no rules - it can be a doodle, a painting, an upside down Christmas tree or even Santa playing on his PS5!

Anyone is welcome to participate. Children, parents, grandparents, staff, your dog, schools, community volunteers - as well as local businesses.



Entries Open - Monday 6th November

Deadline - Monday 20th November

Send your entries to [Fundraising@ticplus.org.uk](mailto:Fundraising@ticplus.org.uk)

The winning design will become the official TIC+ Christmas Card for 2023.

You can purchase a digital version through [Don'tSendMeACard.com](http://Don'tSendMeACard.com) and email friends and family up to 100 cards for a small (or large!) donation to our work.

@ticplus

tic+

**Don't be late!**  
Applications must be submitted by  
15 January 2024

## Was your child born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020?



Any child born between the above dates can start school in the school year starting from **1 September 2024**. Gloucestershire County Council co-ordinates the admission of children to primary or infant school therefore you must apply to us to receive a school place for your child by the closing date **15 January 2024**

If you have not heard from us by 1<sup>st</sup> December, you must contact us so we can send you the information you will need to apply for a school place. If you do not apply on time, you may not get a place at the school you want.

### Key dates

**November 2023** – You should receive a letter from us advising you how to apply for a school place.

**15 January 2024** – Deadline for making your application.

**16 April 2024** – Allocation Day (find out which school we can offer your child).

If you have any queries about applying for a place at primary or infant school for your child, please contact Co-ordinated Admissions.

**Co-ordinated Admissions,**  
Shire Hall, Westgate Street,  
Gloucester, GL1 2TP

**Email:** [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

#### Apply Online!

- It's quick and easy to use.
- Confirmation when your application is received.
- You will see the school allocated on 16 April.
- Environmentally friendly



# GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUTH CHOIR

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- Do you love singing?
- Would you like to make music and meet like-minded musicians?
- Are you aged 9-18?

If so, come along, represent your county and get the opportunity to perform all sorts of musical styles!

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COME ALONG TO AN INTRODUCTION MORNING FOR OUR

# **FREE CREATIVE \*MULTIPLY — COURSES —**



**ARTSPACE**  
CINDERFORD

**WEDS NOVEMBER 29TH / 10AM-1 PM  
AT ARTSPACE CINDERFORD**

- Have a go- meet the tutors
- Learners- enrol for spring course
- Partners- enquire about running a FREE\* course at your location

### **TO BOOK EMAIL**

[dan@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:dan@artspacecinderford.org)

### **FOR MORE INFO EMAIL**

[catherine@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:catherine@artspacecinderford.org)

\* Our FREE creative Multiply courses build numeracy confidence and skills through a range of fun and creative Art activities.

Multiply is Free to eligible learners- 19+, resident in Gloucestershire, Less than L2/GCSE C maths or need to refresh.

## **Consultation on school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools (GCC Schools) Academic Year 2025/2026**

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires all admission authorities to consult upon their admission arrangements if changes are to be made or if there are no changes, at least once every 7 years. Gloucestershire County Council, as the admission authority for all Community (C) and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools last consulted upon their admission arrangements in 2016, therefore we are now due a full consultation.

**The current oversubscription criteria give priority in the following order:**

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements order or special guardianship order (1) including those who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who will have siblings attending the school at the time the applicant child is admitted.
3. Children with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home address (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

**We will not be making any changes to these admission arrangements for the academic year 2025-2026 therefore the priority for admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Gloucestershire will remain the same as above.**

The link to this consultation is

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagemthq.com/school-admission-arrangements-2025-consultation>

One of our schools is also consulting on a reduction of their Published Admission Number for 2025. The link for this consultation is

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagemthq.com/beece-green-primary-school-school-admission-consultation>

If you have any comments to make about the admission arrangements for 2025-2026, please do so via the consultation page.

Named points of contact;  
Holly Ryland and Amanda Johns



The following has been copied from the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website.....

## Back to school advice issued amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

Apply online for

**FREE**

**SCHOOL**

**MEALS**



Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

Your child's school receives extra funding for each eligible child registered.

If you do not have internet access speak to your child's school.



You could save up to **£437** per year



You may also be able to get extra support for free milk, reduced contributions for school trips and uniform grants – check with your school.

## THE DANGER ZONE!

Parking on zig-zag lines is dangerous and can incur a fine if you are caught!

Zig-zag lines are there for a reason; to allow good visibility for drivers to see pedestrians in high risk zones (ie on pedestrian crossings and outside of schools).

Please do not put the lives of our children at risk by parking on the zig-zag lines outside of the school, even for the shortest time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Appointments during school hours

Please avoid arranging medical/dental appointments during the school day.

We do know this cannot always be helped, however, appointments at the end of the school day (from 2 pm onwards) are far less disruptive to your child's education than morning appointments please.

Pupils should be collected from school with just enough time to allow to get to the appointment on time and, if the school day has not ended, they should be returned to school immediately afterwards please.

You should also provide the school with a copy of your child's appointment letter for the attendance register.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Weekly Reminders:

- Please ensure that Lunches are ordered on ParentPay by 8.30 am on the day they are required
- For the Health and Safety of the children, parents must not bring their children through the staff car park when dropping off or picking up from school.

Children may only be brought through the staff car park when the pedestrian gates to the playground are locked during the school day, and then **children must be escorted through the car park to keep them safe.**

- Please remember to inform the school office by 9.30 am each day, if your child is going to be absent from school.

Thank you



## What can you do to help?

Take an interest in your child's education.

- Ask them about their day and praise and encourage their achievements at school.
- If your child is missing school or is seemingly unhappy, you should discuss your concerns with your child.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of them missing school, but be on the alert for any particular reasons for non-attendance, such as bullying or problems with school work.

Contact the school as soon as possible when a concern is identified so that you can work with them to resolve any difficulties.

Be willing to engage with any support offered by the school or Gloucestershire County Council Support Services.

Make sure your child arrives at school on time for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

If your child is ill or absent for any other reason, contact the school on the first day of absence.

Follow the school's procedures for notifying absence, and always let the school know of any days that your child is unable to attend.

Updated November 2020

## It all adds up!



Can they afford to keep missing out?

## Every Minute Counts!

Being late for school reduces learning time.

5 minutes late every day = 3 days of learning missed per year.

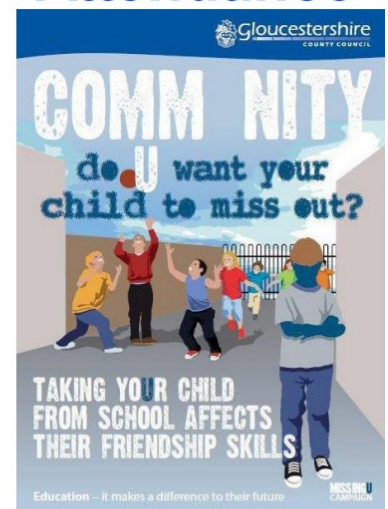


15 minutes late every day = 9 days of learning missed per year.



Arriving late can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.

# School Attendance



## Information for Parents and Carers



## Why is it important for children not to miss school?

Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending regularly. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will also help your child later on in life.

## What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

Research shows children who are not regularly attending school are:

- More likely to become involved in, or be a victim of crime and anti-social behavior.
- More likely to fall behind due to the strong link between attendance and achieving good results.
- Less likely to achieve 5 good GCSEs (grades 9-5) compared with those with less than 8 days absence.
- More likely to have increased levels of anxiety due to inconsistencies and uncertainty in their routine.
- More likely to have reduced self esteem due to finding learning increasingly hard having missed out on key information.



## What does the law say?

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure this happens, either by registering your child at a school or by making other arrangements which provide a suitable full-time education.

**Once your child is registered at a school you are responsible for making sure he or she attends regularly.**

## What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?

**If your child fails to attend regularly - even if they miss school without you knowing - the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you.**

Schools will notify you if your child's attendance level is a concern and look to work with you to put in place steps to improve it. If attendance continues to require improvement then schools will look to initiate an Attendance Improvement Meeting (AIM).

The AIM is the start of the legal process. It is important you engage with the process and work with the support provided to meet the agreed targets. These targets will be reviewed and progress evaluated at a review meeting. If satisfactory progress is made then targets will either be considered met or adjusted until attendance is satisfactory. If progress is not made then you may be referred to the LA for legal intervention.

You run the risk of being issued with a Penalty Notice or being prosecuted in court. If this happens:

- Parents can be fined up to £2,500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly.
- Magistrates can also impose a Parenting Order, which means that the parent has to attend a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

## When is absence authorised?

There may be times when your child has to miss school because they are unwell. If your child becomes ill you should notify the school immediately and follow the school's absence procedures.

Children may have to attend a medical or dental appointment in school time. However, you should, whenever possible, try to make routine appointments such as dental check-ups during the school holidays or after school hours. Schools have the right to request medical evidence to validate absences for medical reasons.

If you think you might need to take your child out of school, discuss the reasons with the school as soon as possible. Absence must be requested as far in advance as possible. Absences will only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances.

Examples of absence that may be considered as exceptional circumstances include family bereavement or taking part in an agreed religious observance. The decision on whether to authorise absence is made at the headteacher's discretion.

## For more information

For more information you can contact the Local Authority's Education Inclusion Service at:

Phone: 01452 427274

Email: [Attendance@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Attendance@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning)





Although term time leave request forms are available from the office, this does not mean that holidays are authorized or the request will be granted. Please read the below regarding penalties:



### **Request for a leave of absence during term time**

Parents should be aware that the law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. The Department for Education allows a Headteacher the discretion to consider authorising a leave of absence in term time only in "exceptional circumstances".

You may consider that a holiday will be educational but your child will still miss out on the teaching and learning that their peers will receive whilst your child is away. Children returning from a leave of absence during term time are also unprepared for the lessons which build on the teaching they have missed and arrangements need to be made for individual children to catch up on missed work. Disruption to the continuity of teaching and learning is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

If requesting a leave of absence you will need to complete the form on the reverse of this notice, setting out the reasons. If the holiday is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance it will not be agreed. If you nevertheless take your child out of school for the leave of absence this **will be recorded as unauthorised leave**.

**In the case of an unauthorised leave of absence the headteacher may request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice without further warning to the parent.**

**Please note that such a penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school.**

**A Penalty Notice is a fine of £60 if paid within the first 21 days which increases to £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days.**

**Thereafter, if the penalty remains unpaid this may lead to prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.**