



Soudley News

22.12.2023

www.soudleyschool.com

01594 822004

admin@soudley.gloucs.sch.uk

This term's school value is Friendship

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

This week, we celebrated the achievements of:

OTTERS CLASS - Shay, Tyler and Tom A

MOLES CLASS - Jess, John and Hollie

HEDGEHOGS CLASS - Ruby, Freddie, Oakley and Ayla

This week's best Attendance: Otters Class - 100%

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

Otters Class



Another very busy week in Otters.

Our week began with 'Testmas!' where the children were treated to two maths assessments and a spelling test - I really am too kind. These assessments will be used to analyse any gaps in learning that need to be covered again next term.

We rounded off our science unit on 'Light' by generating a series of questions and planning ways in which we could investigate and answer our questions. The children enjoyed being physicists.

Tuesday morning was very exciting, when children got to open their stockings from Father Christmas. They spent the first part of the morning enjoying their new items, visiting the other classes, and sharing the fun with each other.

We have had a busy few days; crafting, using watercolours, oil pastels and crayons to complete our Christmas cards and calendars.

Our week has ended with a lively sing-song of the Elton John classic, 'Step into Christmas'. We hope that Otter's parents enjoyed the video on Dojo; we certainly had fun making it. A fun-filled Christmas party on Wednesday afternoon and then a relaxed film day today.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Mrs Mclean and Team



Hedgehogs Class



Hedgehogs have had an exciting week at School! They have enjoyed focussed Literacy and Maths based on a range of festive stories. They particularly liked "A Festive Feast" which is a story about how people celebrate around the World. They enjoyed looking at the different foods and learning about different cultural traditions.

Santa visited the classroom on Monday night and Hedgehog Children were very excited to open their stockings and play with gifts. It was a lovely Soudley tradition and put smiles on all of our faces.

Our trip to The Dean Heritage Centre was a big success and Santa was very excited to see the Children. All Children loved the experience and we were very lucky to see the Gruffalo and his friends and play in the park.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Fabulous New Year and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2024.



Hedgehogs Class Team



Moles Class



This week in Moles we have had a lovely time in the lead up to Christmas. On Monday night we had a special visitor come to the school who delivered lots of lovely presents to the children. We had a great morning on Tuesday opening all the presents that Santa had brought us and going to see what Santa had brought to all the other classes.

On Wednesday, we had a Christmas party, where we played party games; musical statues, musical chairs and pass the parcel. We had a mountain of food that was shared, so thank you to everyone for bringing food in for the party.

Thursday was our last day and was movie day. All the children had a great day under their blankets with their teddies watching Christmas films.

I would like to say thank you to the children for their hard work this term and thank you to all the parents for your support this term.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year!

Mr Martin

The winner of the Rt Hon Mark Harper MP Christmas Card competition this year is:

Alia Lewandowska (Year 4)

Runners Up:

Rosie Sargent (Year 5)
Lexi Broomfield (Year 5)
Flossie Gambling (Year 4)

Very well done to all of you!

Mr Harper will be visiting in the New Year to thank the children personally

FAREWELL

We bid a very sad Farewell to Miss Baldwin who is leaving us today. Miss Baldwin has been hugely popular with staff, children and parents, and we know that you will all want to join us in wishing her well in her new job.

Miss Baldwin, you will be missed!

Things Happening at Soudley School Week Commencing 8 January 2024

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

Mon

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

Weds Year 3 and 4 New Age Kurling Competition for selected pupils

PC Greg Steer visiting Year 5 and 6 pupils for on-line relationships talk

Thurs 3.15-4.15 pm Archery and Fencing Club — for pupils in KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6)

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

Fri

SCHOOL LUNCH—MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024

Due to deliveries, there will be no yoghurt choice for dessert on the first day back after the holiday.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is £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.

DIARY DATES 2023-2024

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
- 18 Year 4 to "In the Net" at St White's School

July 2024

- 22 **INSET day**

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.

Caring for children with COUGHS

This leaflet contains information about how to look after a child who has a cough (not due to asthma). For more detail see www.bristol.ac.uk/child-cough



COUGH

Coughs can last for 3-4 weeks and make your child feel quite unwell but will still get better by themselves.

'Noisy chests' or 'chesty coughs' are quite common when young children catch a cold and are not necessarily a sign of a 'chest infection'.

Healthy children typically get a cough 7-10 times a year and this is not a sign that there is anything wrong with their immune system.

© University of Bristol

DISTURBED SLEEP

Coughs will often wake your child in the night. When the child lies down, more of the mucus from the nose and throat runs downwards and your child coughs more to clear it.

Coughing is part of the body's defence system which helps keep the lungs clear and fight the illness. Unfortunately this can wake the child in the night but does not mean the illness is more severe.

For children over 1 year, a spoon of honey (perhaps in a warm drink) half an hour before bed may help them to wake less often.

For children over 2 years, vapour rubs (containing camphor, menthol and/or eucalyptus) may help children sleep better.



FEVER/HIGH TEMPERATURE In children, a temperature of over 37.5°C is considered a fever.

Fever is a normal response to illness and does not harm children. It may even help to fight illness.

Children with a high temperature may be more likely to have a more severe illness, although most do not. Occasionally a child may have a fit. This shouldn't cause harm and treating the fever doesn't prevent it.

It is safe to use child paracetamol and ibuprofen to manage children's fever (and pain) for as long as needed. Follow the dosage on the bottle.

DRINKING/EATING LESS

Children often eat and drink less when they have normal childhood illnesses. Most children can go a few days without eating much and this will not affect their longer term growth and development.

All children need to drink regularly to avoid becoming dehydrated, especially if they are vomiting.

To help prevent dehydration, encourage your child to have sips of water.



WHEN TO SEE THE DOCTOR

Arrange to see or speak to your doctor today if any of the following occur:

RAPID OR DIFFICULT BREATHING (DEPENDING ON AGE):

AGE OF CHILD	BREATHING RATE
Babies under 6 months	over 60 breaths per minute
Babies 6-12 months	over 50 breaths per minute
Children over 1 year	over 40 breaths per minute
Any age	Being short of breath (as if your child has been running) or is 'working hard' to breathe when resting
Any age	Skin between and below the ribs gets sucked in each time your child takes a breath

HIGH OR PERSISTENT FEVER (DEPENDING ON AGE OF CHILD):

AGE OF CHILD	TEMPERATURE
Babies under 3 months	38°C or more
Babies 3-6 months	39°C or more
Children over 6 months	over 37.5°C for more than 5 days
If your child has a fever fit, call 999 or take them to A&E.	

VOMITING (DEPENDING ON AGE):

AGE OF CHILD	SYMPTOMS
Babies under 3 months	Vomiting + fever of 38°C or above
Babies 3-6 months	Vomiting + fever of 39°C or above
Children over 6 months	Vomiting + fever + extremely drowsy or listless
Any age	Severe vomiting (child not able to hold down fluids for 8 hours or showing signs of dehydration)
Any age	Persistent vomiting (more than 2 days)

SKIN PALER THAN USUAL

If your child appears much paler than usual; hands and feet are very cold while their body is warm. **If skin, lips or tongue appear blue, call 999.**

PAIN

Pain in the chest (not when coughing) combined with fever and rapid breathing.

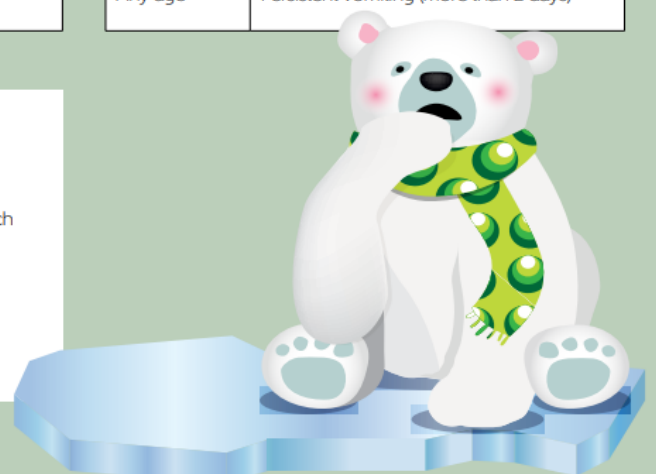
HARD TO WAKE / UNRESPONSIVE

Cannot be woken or wakes only slightly and then immediately goes back to sleep.

If your child wakes only with lots of stimulation, or is much less responsive to social stimulation (smiles and talking) than usual.

NOT FEEDING

Babies under 1 year: if your child stops feeding entirely.





Progressivesports®
...raising standards



Dedicated to giving **EVERY** child the **RIGHT** to be physically active

We invite YOUR CHILD along to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 after-school Multi-Sports Club!

PROGRESSIVE SPORTS are offering your child the opportunity to attend our weekly **MULTI-SPORTS** after school club at **SOUDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL** every **Thursday** after school next term with **Mr Smith**.

Children attending the multi-Sports sessions will develop their main physical attributes such as agility, balance, coordination, speed, running, throwing, hitting, catching, and kicking skills.

The Sport will change every week at multi-Sports club where children will have chance to try a wide range of different sports including Football, Tag Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Tennis, Archery, Gymnastics plus many more.

Come along and join us, it won't be the same without you!

IT'S SUPER-EASY TO SIGN-UP!!!

All you need to do is complete the application form below, and then hand it back either to the school office, or to your child's teacher.

Act QUICKLY, ONLY 20 PLACES AVAILABLE!

CLUB INFORMATION

Multi-Sports Club is open to all boys and girls in school that are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Every **THURSDAY NEXT TERM** from 3.15pm – 4.15pm

Club starts on *Thursday 11th January 2024* for the whole of *Spring Term 1* and *Spring Term 2*.

Please make sure your child has suitable clothing (P.E KIT), and suitable footwear, preferably trainers). As well as a drink.

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook -- @ProgressiveSportsNorthGlos

Instagram -- @ProgressiveSportsNorthGlos

COURSE Application Form

(Please return this form to Mrs Penn in the School office)

Parent/Guardian Details → → → → →	Name of Child → →	DOB →	School Year →
Title: → First Name: → Surname: →	1) → → → → →		
Address: → → → → →	2) → → → → →		
→ → → → →	3) → → → → →		
→ → → → →	Health Problems/Allergies: → → → → →		
Postcode: → → → → →			
Home No: → → → → →	Mobile: → → → → →		



Dedicated to giving **EVERY** child the **RIGHT** to be physically active

We invite **YOU** along to our **Archery** and **Fencing KS2** after school club!

PROGRESSIVE SPORTS are offering your child the opportunity to attend our weekly **Archery and Fencing** after school club next term at **SOUDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL** every Thursday with Mr Knight.

The sport will change each week for **KS2** from **Archery to Fencing**.

Fencing is the recreational sport of swordplay that can be enjoyed by people of any age and offers a multitude of benefits. Confidence and sportsmanship are gained through participation in fencing. The object of fencing is to score a point or touch by hitting your opponent's target with your weapon before they get the scoring touch on you.

Archery involves archers aiming arrows at a target from a variety of different distances – it has various forms, but all have the same aim: to shoot your arrows as close to the centre of the target as possible to score points.

Children attending archery club will develop the skills and abilities needed by archers which are: mental strength, aerobic endurance, balance and coordination, reaction time, motivation & self-confidence, skill/technique, agility, flexibility, strength & power.

**IT'S SUPER EASY
TO SIGN UP!!!**

All you need to do is complete the application form below, and then hand it back either to the school office, or to your child's teacher.

**Act QUICKLY, ONLY 25
spaces are AVAILABLE!**

"The course is a fantastic opportunity for all children, they gain so many new skills, and it's fabulous!!!"

COURSE INFORMATION

Archery and Fencing Club is open to all boys and girls in school Years 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Every **THURSDAY NEXT TERM** from
3.15pm – 4.15pm

Club **STARTS** on Thursday 11th January
and **ENDS** on Thursday 8th February.

Want more Sport?

Come along to our Multi-Sport holiday courses in Cinderford during half term, and experience the fun filled excitement of lots of different sports.

For more information contact us on 07480686608 or visit our Facebook @ProgressiveSportsNorthGlos

COURSE Application Form (Please return to Mrs Penn in the School office)

Parent/Guardian Details

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Home No: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Name of Child

DOB

School Year

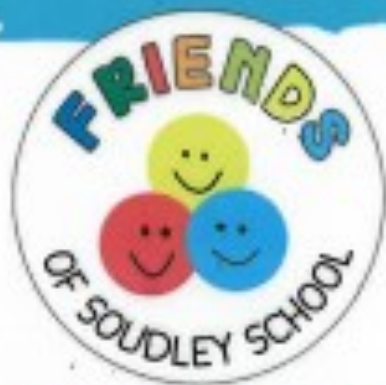
1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Health Problems/Allergies: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____



PRE LOVED UNIFORM SALE

**GRAB A BARGAIN!
PRE LOVED
SCHOOL UNIFORM
£1 PER ITEM**



If you are looking for a particular item or size, please complete an order form (available from reception) and return to a member of FOSS.



Beginner Violin Group



Play Music • Play Together • Have Fun

Every Wednesday
(Spring Term*)

3:15 (Snack Time!)
3:30-4:30 String
Group

Forest View Primary
School, Cinderford

£2.50 per week (for 10 weeks) – Starting 10th January 2024*

To sign up: [Glos Music Portal](#)



This group is for any child, up to the age of 16 years old, who is learning a string instrument through private tuition OR who has recently had whole class string lessons in their school.

Free instrument hire for 10 weeks can also be arranged, and details will be shared with you upon sign up.

*Subject to group numbers

Any queries: 01452 427242 or email glosmusic@gloucestershire.gov.uk

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings



It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

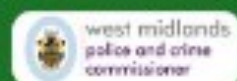
Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



How can I get my child to eat healthier

if they won't try new things?



Our top 6 tips to tackle fussy eating at home

Peter Humbles, Family Nutritionist

- 1. The big "why"?** Why don't they try new things? Are there tastes or textures they love or hate?
- 2. Check your language.** Aim for encouraging language and avoid labelling. Swap "my child doesn't eat vegetables" for "my child loves sweetcorn."
- 3. Lower anxiety at mealtimes.** Phones away and focus on chatting. There's no need to pressure them to try new foods.

Get **FREE** support to get your family healthier

Join programmes starting in January, or start online programmes now!

4. Exposure. Get them to pick out fruits and veg when you're out shopping and ask them to help chop them up.

5. Routine. Set mealtimes to build regular habits and aim for 2 healthy snacks per day between meals.

6. Make it fun! Make funny face pizzas and add some new toppings.

Sign up today!



Scan the code

...or click here to find out more



X22-1992



Progressive Active Camps

Be happy, healthy and active!



PROGRESSIVE SPORTS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ACTIVE CAMP
FOREST VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, CINDERFORD

OPEN TO ALL AGES FROM 4-13!



HAF PLACES AVAILABLE TOO!

TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY UNTIL FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY 2024!

BOOK HERE PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS-NORTH-GLOS.CLASSFORKIDS.IO/CAMP/49

HAF PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BOOK THROUGH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS WEBSITE IN DECEMBER!

NORMAL HOURS - 9.30AM UNTIL 4.30PM!

EXTENDED HOURS - 8.30AM UNTIL 5.30PM!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL JAMIE ON:

J.KNIGHT@PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS.CO.UK

OR CALL US ON 01889 343120.

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

From £20 per day!



Next online
group course
starts March
2024!

Arguing better



Disagreements are a normal part of life, and most couples argue from time to time. The way you approach these conversations can make a big difference to you, your partner, and your children.

Arguing better is a free online course to help you manage difficult conversations, avoid conflict, and improve things for your whole family.

You will learn:

- Where stress comes from and how it can affect you.
- Ways to recognise stress and talk about it.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.

Arguing Better Group Course

How do I access a group?

Groups take place in just two 90 min sessions (over two consecutive weeks) on Microsoft Teams. You will need access to Wi-Fi, a smart phone, laptop, or tablet. And its free!

Who is it for?

- Anyone with a parenting role for a child or young person
- Adoptive Parents
- Foster Parents
- Guardians/family members with parenting role

Parents are welcome to attend alone, with a partner, friend, or family member.

How do I book on to the next group?

For more information about future **Arguing Better** group dates or to book on contact:

The Family Information Service.

Email: Familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JAN 2024

This January, why not join us for one of our exciting sessions in the school holidays?

Thursday 4th Jan 2023

A session of active fun, skill-building, and friendly competition, where every child discovers their passion for play, this will be a mixture of sports and games, keeping you moving throughout!

1000-1400

Awre Village Hall

1000-1400

Blakeney Youth Centre

Friday 5th Jan 2023

Family sessions inspired by nature to create biosphere terrariums and using lathes to turn wood into beautiful keepsakes with our experienced session leaders.

Movie Dance Magic - Get ready to groove and move! KS2 children, it's time to throw some moves in our electrifying session set to some fantastic movie music.

Target Game Special - Let's hit the bullseye of excitement with target sports - where precision meets passion, and every shot is a thrill!

Nerf Gun Battle - Calling all KS2 superheroes to join us for an adrenaline-packed session of dart-flying fun, where tactical skills and teamwork take centre stage.

1000-1400

Blakeney Youth Centre & Armoury Hall, Newnham

1000-1430

Soudley Village Hall

To book onto one or all of these events please visit:
<https://sportily.org.uk/20/Viney-Hill-Sports-Events>





Prostars HAF Holiday Club



Prostars are delighted to announce that our Winter Holiday Kids Club Camps are returning. FREE HAF places will be on offer for children who receive benefit related free school meals, fully funded by Gloucester County Council and Hereford County Council.

We are delivering at:

-  St White's Primary School, Cinderford
-  Ashfield Park Primary School, ROW
-  Primrose Hill Academy, Lydney
-  Dene Magna School, Mitcheldean
-  Shurdington C of E Primary
-  Queen Margaret Primary, Tewkesbury

Bookings are LIVE!

Tewkesbury → <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/tewkesbury-haf/children-young-people-activities-tewkesbury-haf/>

Forest of Dean → <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/forest-of-dean-haf/>

Herefordshire → <https://eequ.org/experience/5615>

Dates: Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th January 2024

Kids club days involve a range of fun sport & active games alongside craft activities. Snacks, lunch and drink options will be provided during the day but children are welcome to bring their own.



Gloucestershire
HAF
holiday activities & food



HERE FOR HEREFORDSHIRE
HOLIDAYS

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 1st 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
Web: 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

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 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

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.

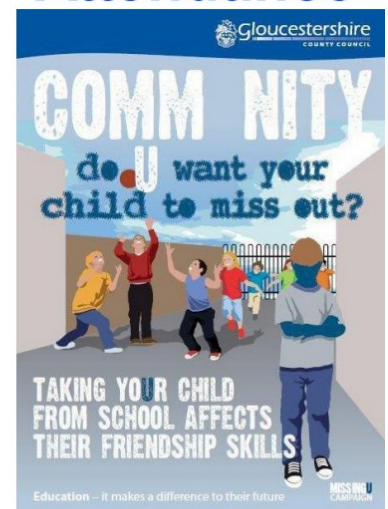


15 minutes late every day = 9 days of learning missed per year.



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

Website: 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.