



www.soudleyschool.com

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This term's school value is Friendship

★★
BEST ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK
★★
Goes to ... Otters and Moles Class with 100%
★★

Dear Parents and Carers.

A warm welcome back to school (if I can say that, considering the cold weather!). It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas events and thank you all for your support.

We have had a great start back and it is lovely to see the children fresh after the break and enjoying their new topics. Knowledge organisers and Spring term curriculum overviews are on the website, so please have a look for the updated information. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the class staff. [TERMLY OVER-VIEWS and KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS | Soudley School](#)

Mrs Fawkes, Mrs Mclean and I continue to be delighted with the standard of provision at the school, which is continually monitored by us, by subject leaders, Governors and our external school advisor. If you have any feedback, queries or suggestions, please contact the school office.

Mrs Toomer will be absent for this half term and we are grateful to Ms Baldwin and Mrs Williams who have returned to provide the stability and continuity needed. Senior leaders have provided the planning, with assistance from colleagues in our sister schools, ensuring that the curriculum is rich and follows the children's needs and national curriculum expectations. We are very confident in the continuity of provision and encourage you to speak to any of the class staff, to Mrs Fawkes as Early Years lead, or to Mrs Mclean as Soudley's senior teacher if you have any queries or concerns. Mrs Jeavons is also available as our SENCo, on Tuesday and on Wednesday mornings.

A few Hedgehogs parents have mentioned they couldn't attend the phonics workshop that Mrs Fawkes did in early November, so a spring session date will be advertised soon. In the meantime, here is the website link to our Phonics information which includes videos for parents about ELS: [CURRICULUM | Soudley School](#). We are a Partner School of the DfE English Hub, meaning we can access extra high quality phonics resources and advisory sessions; let us know if you would like us to explore any resources for parents via that route and we will make enquiries for you.

Although I am at Soudley frequently throughout the week, I appreciate I am not always visible at pickup or drop off times. I always make myself available for appointments and work flexibly across the three schools though, so please contact the office if you would like to arrange an appointment at any time.

Best wishes for 2024!
Mrs Davis

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

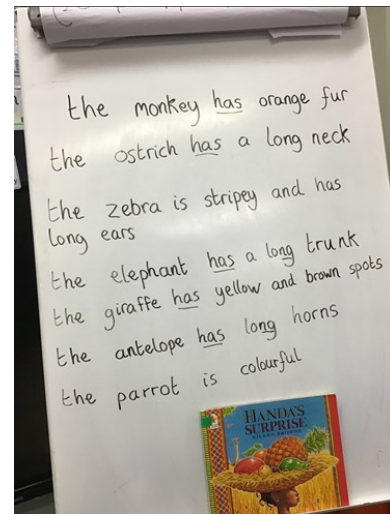


Hedgehogs Class



In Hedgehogs this week we have been focussing on the lovely story 'Handa's Surprise'.

In Reception we created a story map, and animal masks to help us retell and act out the story. We also made the fruits from the story using salt dough, and some 'African huts' using recycled and natural materials. Later in the week, we used the props we had made to create a lovely themed small world tuff tray based on the story and the children have been really inspired by this to retell the story and develop the narrative using their own imagination. We also wrote sentences in a shared writing session to describe the animals from the story, with the children using their phonic knowledge to spell some of the words.



The Year 1 and 2 children have been doing some writing based on the story, including using descriptive words to write about Handa's character. They were also very excited and enthusiastic when we went out into the playground to create a huge story map in chalk - you may have seen it! Along with the Reception children, they also got to explore the fruits from the story - pineapple, mango, avocado, orange and passion fruit - using all of their senses, cutting the fruits and smelling and tasting them. Mango and pineapple were the most popular!

The children have also been learning about 'India'. They watched some amazing Bollywood dance videos and learned that India is on the continent of Asia, and lots of other facts about the country and its culture.

Hedgehogs Class Team



Moles Class



It was a lovely return to school this week after the Christmas and New Year break. We began our new class book of 'How to Train your Dragon' and after reading the first chapter Moles class were tasked with inventing their very own dragons. From 'The Mole Hunter' to 'Long Claw' and 'The Scary Snake Dragon', we had a massive range of amazing creations. The class were then tasked with labelling some of the features of their dragons and trying to think of some new more ambitious adjectives to describe them.

In Science, our new unit is looking at Humans and digestion. We first looked at the start of the process when the food first enters our mouths and our teeth. We looked at the different names of our teeth and why teeth are so important. We looked at different animals' teeth and how herbivores and carnivores have different types of teeth and talked about why that might be. After that, we learned about why it's so important to look after our teeth and what can damage them. We then started an experiment on the effect of different drinks on your teeth, we placed hard boiled eggs into different drinks and have watched them over the week to see how the different drinks have impacted on the egg.

Our new Geography unit is South America, and this week we have started to look at where South America is compared to us. In pairs, the class were then assigned a country in South America to research and compete a fact file on, finding out some of the main human and physical geographical features in their countries.

Mr Martin

New Age Curling

On Wednesday, a group of year 3 and 4 pupils were taken to Newent school to compete in a new age curling competition. There were schools from all over the forest at the event and the children from Soudley did incredibly well.

They came 6th in their group which was an amazing effort.

Apart from medals for winning the curling competition, there were also 'Fair Play Awards' medals which I'm very proud to say the Soudley children won gold in. This was for having outstanding school games values, behaviour, teamwork, and how they spoke to the helpers.



So just a massive well done and congratulations to Hollie, Ellie, Alia and Jessica from Moles class for their effort!

Mr Martin

Otters Class



Otters have made a fantastic start to Spring Term this week.

We have started our 'Journey to South America' unit. Children located South America on a world map and have worked to name the countries and their locations that make up the continent of South America.



In Science, our theme this term is Earth and Space. On Monday, children looked at spherical bodies and how our understanding of the shape of Earth has developed overtime thanks to advances in understanding and science.

This term in writing we are studying the graphic novel, 'The Arrival'. Children have been engrossed in this so far; it is exciting to see. They have fully embraced this different genre and are already producing some excellent writing using verbs and adjectives to create an atmosphere.



Today we have begun our yoga sessions and were introduced to a range of different poses - a lovely end to a busy first week back!

Children have brought home their spellings and will be tested on these next Friday. One group have brought their spellings for the entire term and can begin learning them all.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Mclean

Things Happening at Soudley School Week Commencing 15 January 2024

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

Mon

Tues The Dean Academy visiting Otters Class for a Maths lesson

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

Weds Lunchtime knitting club with Mrs Barnard for children in Moles Class

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 Yoga for Reception pupils and Otters Class

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

January 2024

29 National Storytelling week

February 2024

2 Drama Queen's Dance Festival at Whitemead Forest Park—tbc
YMM Understanding Relationships visit for Years 1 and 2
23 Young Voices Concert
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

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.



The 2024 Children's Fundraising Challenge!

What's the challenge?

Soudley School children are invited to raise £20.24 each, for FOSS, by completing a sponsored activity.



Do's and Don'ts

You can raise £20.24 by doing any sponsored activity you choose **BUT** it needs to be something you haven't done before. Be as creative as you want.

(Here are some ideas: read 3 books in 1 week, offer 1 act of kindness for 4 days, 60-minute sponsored walk, run for 1 mile, dancing non-stop for 20 minutes for 1 week, wash up everyday for 5 days).



All activities must be supported and agreed with a parent/carer to ensure they are safe to complete.



You have until Friday 9th February 2024, to complete your sponsored activity and raise £20.24
(Children can raise more if they want to!)

When you have raised your £20.24 donation, please pass onto Mrs Penn in the school reception, by Friday 9th February 2024.

GOOD LUCK!



LOCAL RESIDENTS HALF PRICE!

The following postcodes qualify;
NP16, GL18, GL17, GL16, GL15 &
GL14.

Each adult must bring proof of
residency. You cannot book online
for this. Open from 10am - 4:30pm.
Available on 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 &
28 January, 3 & 4 February 2024.



5 REASONS TO START VOLUNTEERING TODAY

Take care of yourself

Improve your wellbeing

Volunteering is a great tool in supporting your overall wellbeing. Research shows us that 75% of individuals report feeling better about themselves as a direct result of their volunteering.

Learn new skills

Have you ever wanted to try learning a new skill? Volunteering is a great way to try your hand at new activities. Most organisation often provide lots of training opportunities too, giving you the perfect chance to learn.



Make a difference

Make a difference

Volunteering enables you to make a significant difference to causes that you are passionate about. Whether it's advocating for vulnerable individuals or you are dedicated to supporting climate change campaigns. Every volunteer makes a difference. "Our volunteers literally change lives" - A Go Volunteer Glos organisation

Make new friends

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. There is often a great sense of shared purpose in your volunteer role and organisations often host social events for volunteers too.



Career development

Are you looking to take your career in a different direction? Or perhaps you are looking for employment after some time off? No matter what your circumstances are, volunteering is a great stepping stone to boost your skills, experience and professional connections - whilst doing something worthwhile!



www.govolunteerglos.org



HOW TO FIND YOUR PERFECT VOLUNTEER ROLE

Go Volunteer Glos is the home of volunteering in Gloucestershire

Find your role in 4 easy steps

- 1** Browse opportunities on the Volunteers page
- 2** Create an account
- 3** Apply for the opportunity that you feel is right for you
- 4** Wait to hear back from the organisation hosting the role

Browse hundreds of opportunities right across Gloucestershire. No matter your interests, skills or time commitment - there is something for everyone!

www.govolunteerglos.org

Email: support@govolunteerglos.org

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.

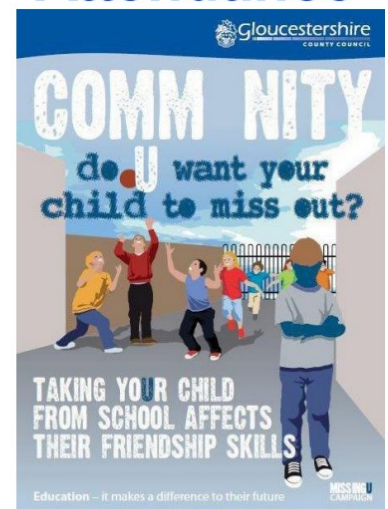


15 minutes late every day = 9 days of learning missed per year.



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.

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.