



Soudley News

26.1.2024

www.soudleyschool.com

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admin@soudley.gloucs.sch.uk

This term's school value is Friendship



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



This week, we celebrated the achievements of:

- OTTERS CLASS - Seth, Jay and Sophia
- MOLES CLASS - Olivia, Mia-Lilly and Layla B
- HEDGEHOGS CLASS - Ivy, Azrael and Tadhg

This week's best Attendance: Moles Class



Developing our school grounds:

We applied for a grant from the local Build Back Better funding, which was support by Councillor Becky Holroyd. We are pleased to share with you that we have been awarded a grant to develop the area outside Moles. The decking there has been deteriorating gradually and we can now plan to develop it into an enclosed outdoor space for the children, transforming it into a stepped garden for planting and growing. This is very exciting and we look forward to seeing it develop. If any parents would like to get involved, please get in touch.

Reception 2024:

We are pleased to have had lots of preferences listed for Sept 2024. Although we have been disadvantaged with road closures and deteriorating transport links, we are determined to help Soudley continue to thrive. Please continue to spread the good word about Soudley; we have spaces in some year groups.

MP Mark Harper's visit

Mr Harper visited last Friday to award the prizes for the Christmas card competition. He was very interested in speaking to the children and answering their questions. Well done to all for showing him what a lovely school this is!

Federation Days:

We are planning joint events again for the Spring term and Summer term, ensuring that children have opportunities to mix with others and learn together. Details will be in newsletters.

School Council and Rights Respecting:

Miss Barton had a meeting last week with School Council children to explore lots of lovely resources we have been sent about the Rights Respecting initiative. This will help all at Soudley to understand the UN Convention on the rights of a child (eg the right to education, the right to shelter).

Kind regards,

Mrs Mel Davis
Executive Headteacher

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



**The Right Hon Mark Harper MP
Visited Soudley School on Friday
19 January 2024**

**To present certificates to the
winners of the 2023 Christmas
Card Competition**



Pupils showing perfect behaviour and manners as they listen attentively to what Mr Harper has to say in the whole school assembly.



Winner: Alia (Year 4)



Runner-Up Lexi (Year 4)



Runner-Up Rosie (Year 5)



Runner-Up Flossie (Year 4)

Moles Class



This week in Moles, we have been learning about compasses and how to use them as well as the 8 points of the compass. We first learnt about the 8 points of a compass and why they are useful in describing where things are and how they would have been used. After this we got our own compasses out and learnt how to use them. When we felt confident on how to use the compasses, we took them out into the field and playground to try some compass games using the compasses to find things in the playground.

In English we have been learning about the features of a poster. We looked at what makes a good poster and the key features of a poster. We looked at having a big title, some pictures and making sure there was key information on the poster like a time and date or the location. After looking at some examples of great posters we had a go at creating our own posters for the big final dragon initiation test from our class book.

Mr Martin



Otters Class



This week Otters have worked extremely hard to research some of the physical geographical features of South America. They have been astounded by facts about The Andes, Amazon Rainforest and The Amazon River. They used this research to create posters, some of which are displayed in our classroom.

In science we learnt about how space was viewed in the past, looking at the Geocentric and Heliocentric models. The children were interested in how the development in understanding progressed with time.

Children have been working hard on a range of independent reading skills; especially inference. This is where we answer a question by 'reading between the lines'.

They continue to blow me away with their creativity in writing. All of them are engaging marvellously with our graphic novel and have requested to cover this genre again!

In maths, Year 5 are learning a range of methods for written multiplication. They have covered the grid method and long multiplication this week. Practising their times tables at home would be really useful.

The Year 6 have finished their geometry unit and have moved onto calculations using a variety of operations. We have discussed the order of operations 'BIDMAS' and they have speedily been working their way through a variety of questions. Both units will continue next week.

Year 6 parents, please let me know if your child will be joining the SATS booster sessions that are starting after the half term break.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Mclean

Hedgehogs Class



In Hedgehogs Class Years 1 and 2 have carried on with our India Topic.

In geography we looked at the range of different habitats and weathers you find in India, we also learnt about the monsoon and started to collate facts for information booklets we are going to make next week.

We read a new book "Chapati Moon", and inspired by this, wrote instructions for how to make the perfect picnic sandwich.

In art we learnt how to draw an elephant. If you would like to have a go at home, here's the link to the tutorial we used:

<https://youtu.be/EegSW8E6zIE?feature=shared>

We used watercolours to paint the elephants for our India display.

In maths we revised number lines and partitioning, and also did some extra times tables in our choosing time.

In PHSE we talked about how your body might feel if you are nervous or scared, and who you can tell if you are anxious or worried about something. The children were so supportive of each other, well done!

Finally, we also managed to get outside on the back field for some time in nature, exploring and playing amongst the trees, which everyone really enjoyed after lots of great work inside. Let's hope it's dry next week so we can do this again!

In Reception we have continued to learn about Winter weather, early signs of Spring and the affect of the season on our wildlife. We read the story 'Stickman' and re-read 'Betty and the Yeti'. We compared these two texts and talked about their similarities and differences - for example, they have a similar setting (a snowy landscape) but are different because one character is looking for something and one has found something. We also discussed the characteristics of Betty and Stickman and voted on which character we liked best.

We have learnt about hibernating animals, the migration of birds, and how to identify common British garden birds in Winter. The children drew garden pictures onto which they stuck cut-outs of the birds and thought about appropriate places to position them, such as in trees, in bushes, on the bird table. We also visited the school field to spot birds and collect natural items.

In music we continued our work using songs, movement, and percussion instruments, to explore the sounds and movements of animals in Winter.

The children are demonstrating fantastic social skills, imagination and critical thinking when engaged in learning of their own choice. This week their interests have included exploring cause and effect and forces while building ramps and bridges for trains and cars, developing early writing and fine motor skills using a variety of mediums (paper/pens, cutting and sticking, large whiteboard, water colour paints), exploring capacity and concepts such as floating and sinking through lovely, sensory water play, and demonstrating amazing creativity and language through role-play.

Hedgehogs Class Team

IMPORTANT REMINDER

In line with the school's Health and Safety policy, we would remind you that parents/carers are only permitted access through the staff car park to drop off and pick-up children when the pedestrian gates into school playground are locked.

When using the staff car park during times when the pedestrian gates are locked (for example when picking up for/bringing back from appointments) please drive slowly.

Children must only cross the car park with an adult and small children must hold hands with their parent/carer to ensure that they do not run off.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to ensure the safety of everyone.

Things Happening at Soudley School Week Commencing 29 January 2024

8am – 8.30am DAILY - BREAKFAST CLUB

- **£2.50 per child per day**

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK



Mon

Tues 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 Drama Queens' Schools' Dance workshop and competition - 09:30 drop off at Whitemead, Parkend - 14:00 pick up from Whitemead

YMM Understanding Relationships visit for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils

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 visit - 'Understanding Relationships' for Years 1 and 2
9 3 pm FOSS Cake Sale
23 Young Voices Concert
28 Life Education Visit

March 2024

7 World Book Day 2024 - pyjama day!
15 Comic Relief 2024 - Go "Red to Toe"
YMM visit - 'Normalising Emotions' for Years 3 and 4

May 2024

3 YMM visit - 'What is Mental Health?' for Years 5 and 6
24 INSET day

June 2024

3 Leavers' and Class photographs
10 Bicycle mechanic in to service bikes for Year 6 pupils
11-12 Bikeability Training for Year 6 pupils
18 Year 4 to "In the Net" at St White's School
28 YMM transition visit for Years 5 and 6

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.



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!

Bedtime stories

World Book Day is upon us in the next term- **Thursday 7th March 2024**. To celebrate this year, we will be celebrating 'Bedtime stories'. We will encourage children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas for this day and they are welcome to bring a small teddy bear. If children do not wish to wear pyjamas, they are encouraged to wear comfy clothing. This is instead of dressing up. We will be reading a bedtime story in front of a 'cosy fire', drinking hot chocolate and eating biscuits. Hot chocolate and biscuits will be provided by school.

Book swap

Children are also invited to take part in a very special book swap. In each school, a table will be set up in the hall for children to bring in a book to donate and swap for another book of their choice. It will be really lovely for the children to all be able to take a different book home at the end of the day to encourage reading for pleasure. Please ensure books brought in are in good condition for the swap.

Book Tokens

Each child will be given a **World Book Day token with a value of £1**. This can be exchanged for any one of the books below. These **can be redeemed from Thursday 15th February to Sunday 31st March**. They are redeemable from the following stores:

•Your local independent bookseller

- Asda
- Blackwell's (selected stores only)
- Sainsburys
- Tesco
- The Works
- Waterstones
- WHSmith



If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Best wishes,
Mrs Gibbs (Reading lead for the Federation)





Cost of Living Crisis Help Available

The FODDC has entrusted us with Household Support Funding over the Winter period.

This funding is to help struggling families.

We can help with:

- Baby essentials and food
- Warm Clothes and coats 0-14 years
- Grocery vouchers
- School uniform
- Bedding

To access this help, email
fodbabybank@gmail.com



Progressive
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OUR ACTIVE CAMP IS BACK CINDERFORD THIS FEBRUARY HALF TERM!

FOREST VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY UNTIL FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY!

Normal day - 9.30am until 4.30pm!

Extended day - 8.30am until 5.30pm!

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**OPEN TO ALL
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL JAMIE ON
J.KNIGHT@PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS.CO.UK**

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Play
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PLAY GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S PLAY RANGERS

**The Recreation Ground,
Ruspidge
GL14 3AE**

 what3words

[///grapevine.runs.wool](https://grapevine.runs.wool)

**Tuesday 13th February
10am to 4pm**

With thanks to Gloucestershire County Council's Levelling Up Together Fund

Levelling up
together





Our Play Ranger activities take place outdoors in all weathers and are open access. This means there is no registration, children are free to come & go as they please.

Our Activities are aimed at school aged children. Under 8's are welcome and should be accompanied by an adult.

We believe all children have the right to play. Please talk to us if your child needs additional mobility or other support to enjoy Play Rangers.

Play Gloucestershire

Transforming lives through the power of play
www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

 @play_glos   playgloucestershire



Things you need to know about Play Gloucestershire

Play Gloucestershire - a registered charity - is the leading provider of free, outdoor, active play in the county. Our Activities are aimed at school aged children. Under 8's are welcome and should be accompanied by a parent or carer. We love it when the whole household joins us at our sessions.

Our Play Ranger activities are open access. This means there is no registration - children can leave the site at any time. Our Play Rangers will not stop them and may not know that they have left.

We encourage children to take responsibilities for their own actions. We think this is good for them. They will be encouraged to resolve disagreements amongst themselves. We will intervene if absolutely necessary.

Play Gloucestershire believe that children need and want to take risks when they play. Our Play Rangers aim to respond to these needs by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, we aim to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks. Our experience tells us that whilst children play outdoors they are likely to have accidents. If this causes concern please come along and speak to us about it.

All our activities are outdoors and include den building, fires, arts and crafts, sports and a range of playful games. We encourage children to play freely and choose what they do. They do not have to do anything if they don't want to. Children will get wet, hot, cold, smelly and dirty and need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Better to wear old play clothes than ruin your best!

Our Play Rangers will provide drinking water at all sessions. We promote healthy eating and sometimes will provide free fruit.

We believe all children have the right to play. Please talk to us if your child needs additional mobility or other support to enjoy Play Rangers.

For further information:

Visit us at www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

Email info@playgloucestershire.org.uk

Phone 01452 505548

Play Gloucestershire is a registered charity (1126562)

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.

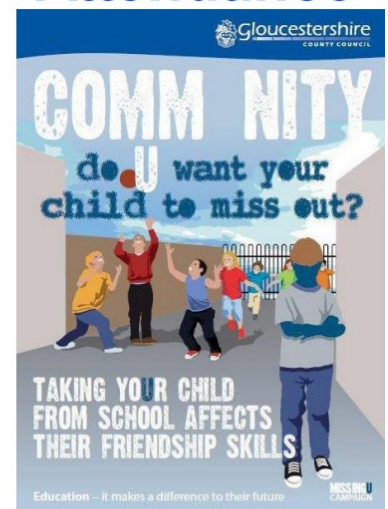


15 minutes late every day = 9 days of learning missed per year.



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.

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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.