



Soudley News

23.2.2024

www.soudleyschool.com

01594 822004

admin@soudley.gloucs.sch.uk

This term's school value is Friendship



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

This week's best Attendance: Otters Class

NOTICE OF SCHOOL MEAL PRICE INCREASE

Due to an increase in labour and food costs, it has been necessary to increase to the cost for a paid school meal to £2.71. ParentPay has been updated to reflect this change.

Moles Class



This week in Moles we have started our new class book for this half term. Our book is called Lost Happy Endings; it is about a girl who lives in the woods and every night, she collects all the happy endings for all the stories and sends them off into the world for everyone's bedtime stories. However, from reading the blurb of our story we found out that someone evil is after Jub and steals all the happy endings to stories and so in Moles we used our detective skills to try and think of which fairytale villain we thought might want to steal all the happy endings and replace them with bad endings. Once we had decided who we thought might be the culprit we learnt how to write a letter so we could send a letter to Jub saying who we thought had stolen the happy endings and why we thought it was them.

We have continued to study South America in Geography. This half term we are going to be having a deeper study specifically on the Amazon rainforest. This week we learnt about the different layers of the rainforest and what different animals live in the different layers and why. Over the next few weeks we will be creating our very own shoebox Amazon rainforests in class.

In computing we will be looking at databases and sorting information. In our first lesson we have looked at what questions we can ask databases to sort information. Investigating open and closed questions and how we can most efficiently use questions to find the information we want.

Mr Martin

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 Year 1 and 2 have been working on adding and subtracting two-digit numbers using a variety of methods, including grids and cubes, to separate tens and ones.

In literacy we have continued reading the animal book and researching the different animals in the world, where they live, what they eat, how big they get; we included the animals that we find in our country in the wild and on farms.

In art we have looked at a particular artist, Bridget Riley, and optical art illusions. We created an initial piece of art to see if we can recreate any illusions and motions on the paper.

Reception children this week have been working on representing numbers in maths and learning that 6 is 5 and 1, and 7 is 5 and 2.

In literacy Reception have been looking at the book "5 Minutes Peace" by Jill Murphy. We have read the story and talked about whether Mrs Large was kind to her children or not. Reception children voiced their opinions really well.

In art we've had time to do lots of junk modelling and made lots of lovely models.

And finally, today we did yoga where we journeyed to the jungle and met a monkey and we had to hang onto trees like sloths .

Have a lovely weekend from

Hedgehogs Class Team

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Preston has been appointed to job share the HLTA role with Miss Crowell, so congratulations to both! Mrs Preston will be starting with us on Wednesday next week.

A reminder than if you have any questions or queries, please always contact a member of the class team in the first instance, then Mrs Mclean as our Senior teacher. Mrs Fawkes, as our Executive Deputy Head, is mainly based at Soudley at the moment.

We are delighted with the progress the school is making against the Ofsted recommendation action points, as verified in our regular LA meetings. The inside of the school has been transformed with displays and rearranged learning zones, so if you would like to arrange a time for a tour, please do ask at the office.

There is a lovely buzz around the school! Thanks go to everyone involved in organising all the enrichment activities, such as the upcoming joint federation sessions; Dance Festival; Curling; football tournaments; knitting club; Young Voices concert; World Book Day; yoga sessions etc.

Thank you so much for your continued support and for contributing to our school community.

Best wishes
Mrs Davis

Otters Class



Our week did not get off to the best start thanks to some computer issues on Monday! Despite this, the children were amazing and went with the flow – thank you Otters.

Later on Monday, our week went from strength to strength. In maths, Year 6 children completed their unit of adding fractions and have now moved on to subtracting fractions. They are showing great understanding and are working at a very fast pace – keep it up! Year 5 completed their work on position and direction and today started looking at fractions that are equivalent.

We have started our new class text, 'Skellig'. We were introduced to the main characters this week and have spent time exploring how they are described through a range of word classes, and have written a diary in the role of Michael, the boy who discovers Skellig.

In guided reading, our poem 'The Listeners' is proving a popular choice. Children have enjoyed learning a variety of new (old!) words and discussing their meanings and grouping by word class.

On Wednesday, we began our new music topic 'Happy' by looking at the Pharrell Williams song. We appraised the song by answering questions and then played some instruments concentrating on note A and begun to learn to read music.



In D&T we have started our topic of 'Food from around the world' and explored a sensory tray of different foods.



Mrs Mclean



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/carers 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 26 February 2024

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

Mon Celebration Assembly

Tues Year 6 SATs booster session

Weds Life Education visit

Lunchtime knitting club with Mrs Barnard for children in Moles Class

Thurs 3.15-4.15 pm Touckball 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 Federation Football Tournament at Steam Mills Primary School

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

February 2024

28 Life Education Visit

March 2024

- 6 Otters Class Assembly
- 7 World Book Day 2024 - pyjama day!
- 11 Parents' Evening—4pm-6pm
- 12 Y3/4 Federation Day - reading theme
- 13 Year 5/6 Federation Day - Well-being theme
- 15 Doing Something Funny for Monday Comic Relief 2024 - Go "Red to Toe"
YMM visit - 'Normalising Emotions' for Years 3 and 4
- 18 Parents' Evening—3.15pm-4.45pm
- 20 Year 1/2 Federation Day - Easter theme
- 21 Moles Class Assembly

May 2024

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

June 2024

- 3 Leavers' and Class photographs
- 4 Sports Day at Soudley Recreation Ground
- 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
- 25 Sports Day Reserve Date
- 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.

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)



The Library



Costume Swap

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**[®]

7 March 2024

5 February - 19 February

DONATE a costume to any library (thank you!)

19 February - 7 March

SWAP an old costume for a new one!

- Accessories, whole and part costumes accepted
- Donations will be accepted throughout the swap
- Discover swaps across all county libraries
- Both adult and child costumes welcome
- You can still take a costume home if you don't have one to swap



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL



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
Active Camps**
Be happy, healthy and active!



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!

**FROM £20
PER DAY!**

**20+ SPORTS
ON OFFER!**

**OPEN TO ALL
CHILDREN AGED
5-13!**

**Nerf Wars,
Glow Games
and much
much more!**

**BOOK ONLINE
TODAY BELOW!**

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

**PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS-NORTH-
GLOS.CLASSFORKIDS.IO/CAMP/55**



You have what it takes for a rewarding career in fostering

- Your everyday experiences and skills are transferable into a foster carer role, from providing emotional support to teaching life skills.
- Our fostering roles are suitable for individuals, couples, or families from all walks of life. All children are different, so our foster carers are too.
- We offer many different types of fostering roles, including short-term, parent & child, therapeutic and long-term.
- Be part of our professional team and receive our ongoing comprehensive training.
- Receive generous fostering allowances, benefits and tax relief.

As a foster carer, you could provide a safe and stable home environment for a vulnerable child whilst enjoying a flexible and rewarding career that's literally life changing.



Ashfield Park, RoW



Primrose Hill, Lydney



St White's, Cinderford



Finlay, Gloucester

FULL DAY
FROM
£20

AGES
5-11

ACTIVITY CAMP

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& QUALIFIED STAFF

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UV DODGEBALL

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Play
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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)

FOD FRINGE 24

...A Forest-grown Arts Festival.

THROUGHOUT MARCH 2024

You're invited to enjoy a range of free and low cost events by local and national artists and performers across the Forest of Dean.

MUSIC

THEATRE

COMEDY

ART

CRAFTS

POETRY

DANCE

...AND MORE!

See our website for more details!

www.wyldwoodarts.co.uk

#FODFRINGE



We want to make the Fringe as welcoming and inclusive as possible. Accessibility information at the Fringe events will be available at www.wyldwoodarts.co.uk and in the FOD Fringe 24 brochure. For specific access questions/needs get in touch sarah@wyldwoodarts.co.uk or call 07598 854887

Get ready for the FOD Fringe Festival, a month of performances, exhibitions and experiences taking place across the Forest of Dean throughout March 2024!



Scan here for more information!

WHAT IS A FRINGE FESTIVAL?

A fringe festival is a celebration of arts and culture often featuring new and self-produced performances and exhibitions. They are a great way for new and up-and-coming work to be seen, heard, and enjoyed by a local audience!

The FOD Fringe will be made up of events by Forest-based artists, musicians, and creators alongside some brilliant visiting acts. It will be a real showcase and celebration of the brilliant, diverse, weird, and wonderful creative scene here in the Forest of Dean and a chance to see professional shows from further afield.

WHY PUT ON A FRINGE FESTIVAL?

The Forest of Dean has a rich history of festivals, carnivals, pageants, and community events. After having loads of brilliant conversations with Forest residents in our 2022 community consultation, the idea of a fringe festival for the Forest of Dean emerged!

Here in the Forest, we're a hinterland on the edges of everything - outside of the cities, on the border of two countries and between the banks of two rivers... a collection of idiosyncratic towns and villages, distinct communities and a lot of trees which add up to a whole wonderful thing, just like a fringe festival! We think that makes our Forest of Dean the perfect place for the UK's newest fringe - so please do come out and support your FOD Fringe 24

#FODFRINGE

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.

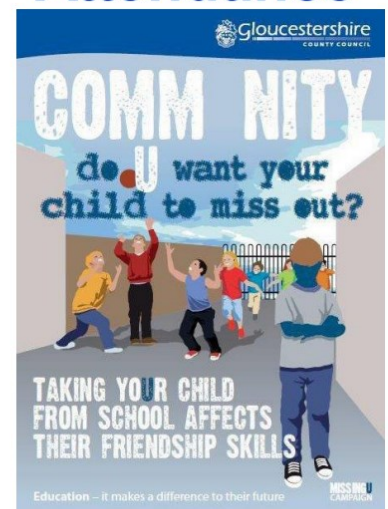


15 minutes late every day = 9 days of learning missed per year.



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.