



FAIRFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Isaiah 49:16 'I have written your name on the palms of my hands'.

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is loved and known by God.

Term 1 Newsletter – October 2025

Dear Families

As Term 1 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the school year so far and celebrate the amazing things the children and staff at Fairford have accomplished this term. It is never easy returning to school after 6 weeks away and beginning the school routine once again.

Our visits to school, the day before school officially starts for everyone (we call this 'ice-breaker' time) for some children, helps to support any anxiety for children who may feel a bit overwhelmed with doing that on the official first day of school. A quieter space, with some time to explore the classroom and meet the adults who will be supporting their learning for the forthcoming year, is sometimes all that is needed to make the first day of school more successful.

The 3rd of September feels a lifetime ago now as we head in to the eighth and final week of Term 1. The children have achieved so much this term and it has been great to see them settled in to new routines and progress towards achieving their learning goals.

We have had some amazing art work produced by the children; joyful singing and music making; fantastic excitement when giants were trying to get on to the school site and I was interviewed by the children about how we could all be safe from capture; superb science investigations across all year groups; maths activities daily in developing understanding of place value and number; a beautiful day of Prayer Space in the Eleri Hall; learning to type on a laptop from some of our youngest pupils, to coding with some of our oldest pupils; PE activities involving netball, tag rugby, yoga and much, much, more! It has been a busy term for everyone.

Our new Apple children have coped marvellously with a full school day and they always smile and say hello when adults greet them either in their class or when walking around school – we are all super proud of them and know they deserve a fabulous half term rest!

For the staff team there has been weekly professional development across a number of curriculum subjects and including the new Ofsted Inspection Framework for schools, which is live in November 2025. We will publish the Ofsted Inspection Framework on our school website when we return in November. At the beginning of term, sadly some of our staff had to deal with bereavement of close family. They would not want me to mention them by name and I respect their privacy, however, when grieving the loss of those we love, the energy we need just to get through the day can be exhausting and all the while they have been ultimate professionals and done their absolute best for the children each day in their care. I know that half term will give them further respite in their healing journey and I personally want to thank them for all that they have done this term, alongside the team around each one of them who have been their support. You are and have all been amazing!

Next term we return on November 3rd and Term 2 is always filled with excitement as we near Christmas. We have fireworks to look forward to at the cricket club, Christingle led by Year 1 at St Mary's Church, Nativity led by Apple



Fairford C of E Primary School, The Park, Leafield Road, Fairford, GL7 4JQ

www.fairford.gloucs.sch.uk




class, Christmas lunches, including a Victorian Christmas by Year 5 and lots of singing and musical opportunities. We are all looking forward to a magical term at Fairford.

One aspect of our work that we need further help with is in volunteering to hear readers, to practise spellings, to practise times tables and support art, DT and science learning activities and investigations in class. If you think you could volunteer for an afternoon a week or more then please do get in touch with the school office and we will contact you to come and visit school and learn more about what we need.

Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all on 3rd November for the start of Term 2.

Best Wishes



Julie Fellows

Head teacher

Term 2 Events

Please check the weekly diary date sheets for further details of the events and activities taking place in school.

Fri 31st October	Bookings for Treetops and clubs opens at 6:00pm on the School Portal Deadline for application to Secondary Schools for September 2026
Sat 1st November	Come and Sing event at Fairford Community Centre 2-5pm
Mon 3rd November	until Midnight 15 January 2026 Applications for Reception September 2026
Tues 4th November	Yr 6 Sponsored Silence
Wed 5th November	School Nurse visit Yr R and Y r6 Height and Weight Measurements
Fri 7th November	Rainbow Day Children can wear bright or rainbow clothes to school on the day, Sat 8 th
Sat 8th November	PTA Firework Evening
Mon 10th November	Remembrance Service 11:00am – Families Welcome, please sign in from 10:45am the office will close at 10:55am

Choir Dates

Thurs 27th Nov	Hilliers Garden Centre, Lechlade - Special Christmas Opening. Choir to perform 7.15 - 7.45pm.
Sat 29th Nov	Fairford Choral District Society Concert w/ Fairford Primary Choir, St Mary's Church, Fairford. Dress rehearsal: 3.30 - 5.30pm. Concert 7pm.
Tues 2nd Dec	School Governor's Christmas Meeting, School. 4 - 4.15pm.
Wed 3rd Dec	School Y1 Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, Fairford. Choir to perform from 5pm.
Wed 17th Dec	Farmor's School Christmas Concert, St Mary's Church, Fairford. Choir to perform 7-9pm.

School Office Hours

The School Office is open from 8:15am to 3:30am. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message on the answerphone or email us at school@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk.

You can report you child's absence from school on the day of absence by emailing absence@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk or school@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk Alternatively you can do this on the School Portal before 9am. Login to the School Portal <https://portal.thesystem.cloud/>

Treetops Booking for Term 2 2025_2026

Bookings for Treetops will be available from 6:00pm on Friday 31st October

Please note the number to contact Treetops between 3:00 and 5:30pm is **07508 866554**. Please do not contact the school office

Swimming – Year 4

Swimming for Year 4 pupils will take place on:

November 03/10/17/24

December 01/08

Please make booking and payment on the School Portal before the first session.

Music Tuition in School

If you are interested in Music lessons in school the contacts are:

Rob Cooper – Drum Instructor info@drumsense.com

Lindsay and Jim Bateman – Guitar, Piano, Keyboard jim@batemanmusic.co.uk

iRock School of Music – Rock and Pop Band info@irockschool.com

Kitchen Club in School

The Kitchen Club, with Meliny and her team, work with all children from Reception to Year 6 for two sessions from term 2 through to term 6. The children learn so many important skills about nutrition, where our food comes from and about seasonal produce as well as hygiene and safe practice.

As a school, we subsidise up to 2/3 of the cost per child for cooking with the Kitchen Club, which covers the teaching element. On an annual basis, we ask for a contribution towards the cost of food ingredients. This year we ask for a contribution of £10 per child to cover the cost of food ingredients for both sessions.

You will see that the £10 has been added to your portal under the 'School Shop' section. We would be grateful if you were able to pay this at your earliest convenience.

The children are thrilled with the food that they create in school and are much more inclined to try new foods when they have been involved in the preparation of it.

Thank you for your support

After School Clubs Booking for Term 1 2025_2026

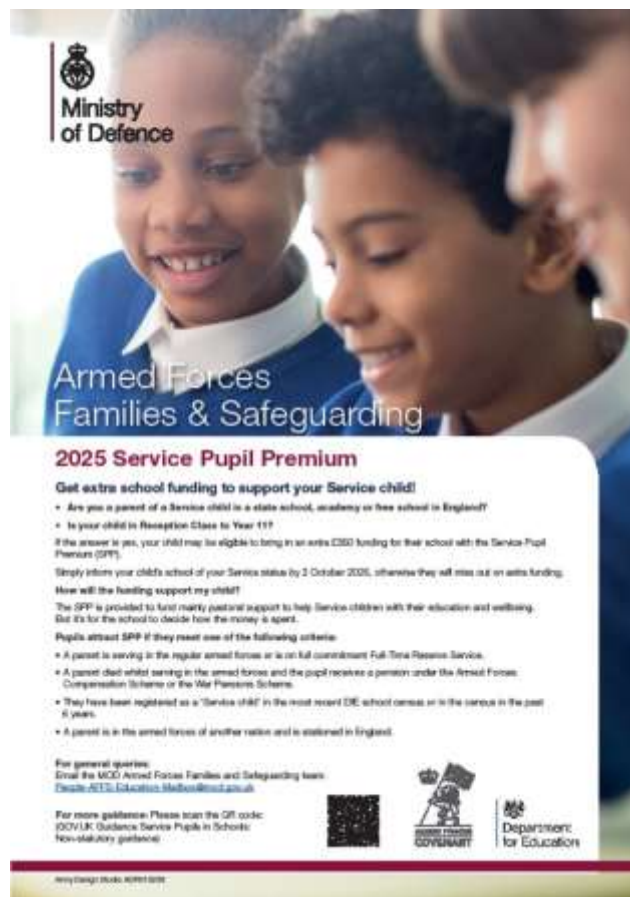
A range of sports clubs will be running in Term 2. **Bookings for Before and After School clubs will be available from Friday 31st October**

Sports Clubs and Afterschool Clubs 2025/2026 Term 2								
	Before School Club	After School Club	Coach Location	Dates	Year Group	Max	Cost	Notes
Monday		Street Dance	Megan Weeks Eleri Hall	03/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 01/12 & 08/12	Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5, Y6 3:00- 4:00pm	25	£36.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit
Tuesday		Hula Beans - Hooping and fun	Mel Field Eleri Hall	04/11, 11/11, 18/11, 25/11, 2/12 NOT 09/12	Yrs 1,2,3 &4 3:00-4:00pm	20	£30.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit
		Crochet	Mrs Coxhead Hawthorn Class	NOT 04/11, 11/11, 18/11, 25/11, 2/12 & 09/12	Year 6 3:10-4:10pm	6	40.00 £8.00 per session	No experience needed - just bring your enthusiasm and imagination!
		Tag Archery	Josh Cox School Field	NOT 04/11, 11/11, 18/11, 25/11, 2/12 & 09/12	Y4, Y5,Y6 3:00pm- 4:15pm	20	£30.00 £6:00 per session	
Wednesday		Forest School Club	Hannah Garbutt	05/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 02/12 ,10/12	Y1 - 6 3:00-4:30pm	15	£60 £10 per session	
		After School Cooking Club	Meliny Timms Atrium	5/11, 12/11, 19/11, 26/11, 3/12, 10/12, 17/12	Yrs 1-6 3:15-4:30pm	24	£89.25 £12.75 per sessions	Christmas Cooking
Thursday	Early Bird Fencing		Kevin Nelson	06/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 04/12 & 11/12	Y4, Y5,Y6 7:30-8:30am	16	£51:00 £8.50 per session	Long trousers and top
		Gymnastics	Rachel Rogers Eleri	06/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 04/12 & 11/12	Y1 & Y2 3:00-4:00pm	20	£36.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit
		Gymnastics	Rachel Rogers	06/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 04/12 & 11/12	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 4:00pm- 5:00pm	20	£36.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit
		Choir	James Driscoll	Not 6/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 02/12 Tuesday , 11/12	Y3,4,5,6 3:00-4:00	Existing Choir Members only	£30.00 £6:00 per session	

Newsletter Survey

Please help us improve the information, Newsletters and Weekly Diary Dates we send out to everyone. We would love to hear your feedback. This is completely anonymous, thank you for your support. Please follow the link below to access the Portal Survey.

<https://tt5.io/p/a415304c7998f1815282fb525d65b5e>



The leaflet features the Ministry of Defence crest and logo at the top left. The background is a photograph of three young children in school uniforms looking down together. The title 'Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding' is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, the heading '2025 Service Pupil Premium' is followed by the sub-heading 'Get extra school funding to support your Service child!'. The text provides eligibility criteria, including being a parent of a Service child in a state school in England and the child being in Reception Class to Year 11. It also explains that the funding is used for pastoral support and that parents must inform their child's school by 2 October 2025. A list of criteria for pupils without SPP is provided, such as parents in the regular armed forces or on full-time reserve service. Contact information for the MOD and the Department for Education is included at the bottom, along with logos for the MOD and the Department for Education.

Save the date - Year 1 Christingle - Wednesday 3rd December at St Mary's Church

Year 1 parents have been given advanced notice of our Christingle date this year. Our wonderful school choir are also invited to perform at our event, led by Mr Driscoll.

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 4.45pm start, St Mary's Church, Fairford.

Further details will be messaged by Mrs Miles in November.

At this stage, there is not a ticketing system, so grandparents and family are most welcome. We will likely design a sign up system so we know how many guests to expect. There will be a suggested £2 donation which will go towards our collaborative church projects.

Prayer Space 2025 - Multi-faith Prayer Space

Our Prayer Space annual event at Fairford C of E Primary School has been running for over 11 years and took place this year in October. We made our indoor spaces dark, calm and added many thought provoking stations. Prayer Space always aims to inspire our pupils with an immersive space which instils a deep reflection of not only God's glorious world but also to give our children a shared spiritual experience where they can begin to gain a true sense of their own place within it – helping them feel 'their truest selves' (Year 6 pupil quote).

This year, we focused on our 'multi-faith' theme. We looked at not just Christian prayer, but also how other religions use prayer or gain a sense of wellbeing from prayer, from across the other major world religions we have studied in KS1 and KS2. We thought about the peacefulness of Shabbat and Kiddush (a special prayer or blessing) and how we are renewed by prayers to God. We considered how both the Bible and the Guru Nanak teach about love and

why is important to all of us. In thinking about Islam and a Muslim mosque, we considered which places are 'a thin veil between heaven and Earth' and who we visit these places with. Our Henna hand activity was very popular and demonstrated how the trinity appears in different religions and how team work brings solidarity and unity and how we want to live this out as a community.

Our Year 6 Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Prefects ran our prayer stations, where they were also able to capture pupil voice of our younger learners in the moment. The Year 6 pupils diligently adapted written tasks to suit younger children which highlighted to our RE Leader the innate inclusivity and creativity which is instilled in our children at Fairford Primary School.

If you would like to visit our next Multi-faith Prayer Space in June event please email our RE Leader:

hmiles@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk.



Year 1 Pupil: 'I like to write down what I think about the most. My big questions'.



Year 3 Pupil: 'Prayer Space makes me think about love. Who I love and why I love? When we have this space, it is like a church and it makes me think more deeply'.

Pre-school pupil: *I drew my special place with Mummy – I am peaceful.*

Staff: Prayer Space is always calm, reflective and welcoming. It excites and inspires our children in a very different and diverse way. It makes me feel grateful for all the things we have and who we have – what we have been blessed with and how lucky we are to belong to our wonderful school and to belong together in God's care'.

Year 5 Pupil: *I always think about the little donkey at Christmas. He bares the load and struggles but he makes it through because he has to – using God's love.*

Year 6 Pupil: *I really miss my Granny. I write a letter to heaven for her every year and it's one of the first stations I visit because it makes me feel connected.*

Year 6 Pupil: *The beauty of prayer space is inspiring and gives me a sense of wonder and hope.*

Year 6 Pupil: *If the space is calm and special, my thoughts are calm and special.*

Year 1 Pupil: *I feel like my heart belongs in here with God.*

Healthy Eating/Lunchbox Policy

Our Healthy Lunchbox Policy, has been written jointly by our pupil Communication Team and GHLL/PinK (Health, Safety and Wellbeing) leaders. In Term 2, we will have a further focus on healthy eating but especially with snacks at break times, in the first instance. We appreciate that some children have specific dietary requirements and our greatest concern is that each child is feeling happy, full and ready for learning. However, if families are able to make some swaps to begin with or can try to introduce more fruit and veg into lunchboxes and for snack time then this will lead to promoting healthy food choices for individual children, as a class ethos and as a wider culture as a school. Thank you for your support.



Our Healthy Lunchbox Policy - Written by Fairford Pupil Communication Team

sandwich/wraps/pasta fresh fruit or veggies dried fruit yoghurts



- If you do have a treat (biscuit bites, cereal bar, crisps or packaged/processed food) that is fine as long as it is in moderation! Just make sure that your whole lunch box isn't full of treat food.
- Remember to always drink plenty! Water improves concentration in learning.
- If you need support with preparing a healthier lunch box or getting more ideas, please get in touch with your teacher.
- Snack at break time should be: fruit/veg, yoghurt, cheese, cereal bar or crackers/breadsticks.

Free School Meals

Infant free school meals in England

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they are in: Reception, Year 1 or Year 2

We still ask that you apply for free school meals to prevent your child's school missing out on additional funding.

Why should I apply?

For every child that is entitled to free school meals the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for children. So please apply even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you are in receipt any of the following:

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

To apply or find out further information please follow the link below:

[Apply for free school meals | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

News from the Classrooms

Apple - Reception

What a busy term full of firsts for our Reception children in Apple class. The children have settled amazingly well into school life and although they are getting a little tired now, they have had a brilliant start. We spent the first few weeks of term teaching the children all about their new classroom, where everything is, how to use resources and how to tidy things away. The children have been fantastic at being independent to lead their own learning and set up painting and playdough themselves when they want to use the resources.



We started our phonics journey and have learnt our sounds so well that we are reading lots of words in our books; our teachers are very proud of our hard work. Do keep looking at these over the half term break though as there will be more to learn when we come back!

We launched 'Drawing Club' which is our special way to develop language, vocabulary, imagination and mark making, inspired by stories. The children have loved wearing their drawing club capes and drawing the character and setting from the stories of *The Hairy Toe*, *Whatever Next* and *Christopher Pumpkin* books so far.



Our trips to Forest School have focused on looking for signs of Autumn and safety in Forest School. We have been learning the Forest School chant and the Forest school Rules- No pick, no lick, be careful with that stick! We have been learning how to safely manage transporting sticks and branches and how to manage our safety when climbing trees.

We are really looking forward to term 2 with our Pebble Assembly and our celebrations on the run up to Christmas including our Nativity play. We wish you all a relaxing half term break and look forward to seeing the children back in school after the break.

The Apple Class team



Key Stage 1 – Cherry, Lime and Sycamore

What a fabulous start we have had to this new academic year.

This term, our main focus has been on nurture and settling-in activities to help the children feel happy, confident, and ready for learning in their new classes. Through engaging morning tasks, role play, and games, the children have enjoyed building positive relationships and developing their listening and attention skills. We have also continued to explore our school's Christian Values and our school rules; reminding ourselves of what it means to be ready, respectful, and safe.



In all classes we have been working on our letter formation. The Year 2s have also been introduced to cursive script. We are pleased to report that all the children are making good progress, however, this continues to be a focus in all of our classes. Please do continue to encourage handwriting activities at home as practice makes perfect!



In English this term, the children in Key Stage 1 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the wonderful stories of Julia Donaldson and Oliver Jeffers. These engaging texts have inspired some excellent writing across the classes. Our Year 1 children have been working hard to form sentences independently, both orally and in writing, while our Year 2 children have been developing confidence in using a variety of sentence types to make their writing more interesting. Through these much-loved stories, the children have deepened their love of reading, storytelling, and creative expression.



In Year 1 Maths, we have seen strong counting to 20 and clever subitising from the children. We love to be musical and we have enjoyed learning mathematical terminology through songs, especially about left and right and shapes.

In Year 2, we have been working on our understanding of place value; using practical apparatus to explore 2 digit numbers. We have been partitioning into tens and ones and ordering and comparing numbers to 100. We have also been practising counting forwards and backwards 10s – please keep practising this at home too.

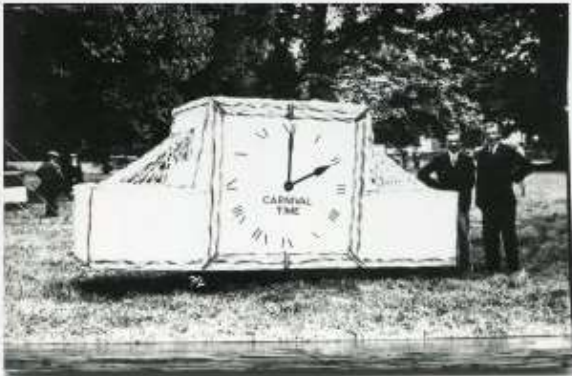


in 2s, 5s and



For information on all KS1 learning objectives/targets, please visit our website page:

Year 1 <https://fairford.gloucs.sch.uk/year-1-targets/> Year 2 <https://fairford.gloucs.sch.uk/year-2-targets/>



1934 Carnival Time

In History this term, we travelled back in time to explore Fairford's past, using a range of sources to ask questions and learn about significant events in our local area. The children discovered how transport has changed over the years and learned about Fairford's old train station, the arrival of Concorde, and the Fairford Carnival, which, before the creation of the NHS, helped raise money for Fairford Hospital. In DT next term, we will be designing and making our very own carnival floats! Please keep an eye on the portal for a request for cardboard donations to help with this exciting project.

(Photo from Fairford History Society)



In Art, we have been finding out about the artists Robert and Sonia Delaunay and Molly Haslund. We have been exploring shape, spirals and pattern.

The children enjoyed going out onto the playground where we worked together to create large pieces of art.



"... The focus is on the physical action, on the movement of the circles, and the patterns emerging and disappearing again – and of course the effect grows with the number of participants. On the other hand, if you want to draw alone, you can just withdraw a little from the rest. A bit like on the dance floor." Molly Haslund

As well as developing our artistic skills, we have also been fantastic scientists finding, identifying and sorting everyday materials and investigating their properties.



Another highlight this term was our planet ordering activity for Space Week, where we learnt about 'orbiting' and the names of the planets. This involved challenging some misconceptions e.g. Mrs Miles taught Cherry children that the sun is a star and that the moon isn't really made of cheese!



In Year 1 computing, we have been learning how to type our names on a laptop keyboard (tricky when the keys are capital letters only!) and using paint to create a picture from shapes - every child enjoyed doing this and, when asked, many of the class said it was one of their favourite parts of the learning this term. In Year 2, we have been looking at what IT means and what examples of technology we can find in a school. We also looked at how we can use technology positively and safely.



We have loved thinking 'Pink' (People in the Know/safeguarding/wellbeing curriculum) across all of our learning - especially in RE. Mrs Miles is an RE leader at Fairford and she is leading a project across school with Mrs Coxhead (Year 6 HLTA) which is called 'Noah's Ark'. Cherry and Lime classes were allocated insect panels for our school ark and Year 2 were given land animals. We read the story of Noah's Ark and looked at the animals God decided to save. We thought about endangered animals today and which we believed needed saving - if there were an Ark today, which insect/animal would you save? Each child designed artwork and we combined all of these ideas as a class so that an element of every child's work was represented, with perhaps a colour used or a shape used, into one whole class design. Cherry's panel features the endangered carder bees and jewel beetles, Lime Class included butterflies and dragonflies, and Sycamore's panel includes some big cats and an orangutan – a class favourite. This work was very special and we will share the completed whole school art project with all parents in the New Year, so please watch this space.

Thank you ever so much to all parents who attended settling in parents evening/meetings or came to meet with us in Term 1 - we appreciate your time, feedback and all that you do to build on learning with your children at home.

Have a wonderful half term and we will see you all in Term 2 where amongst other fun learning activities, the Year 1 Christingle practice will begin! Another very special time of year will soon be upon us...

The KS1 Team 😊

Year 3 & 4 Olive, Birch and Willow

What a fantastic start to the new school year it's been for our Year 3 and 4 children! The classrooms have been buzzing with excitement, curiosity and creativity as everyone has settled beautifully into their new routines.

English

Our English lessons have been inspired by *The BFG* by Roald Dahl — and what an adventure it's been! The children have wowed us with their imaginative character descriptions and brilliant newspaper reports. We have also used our descriptive writing skills to write our own versions of a story, inspired by the exciting chapter, 'Dream Country'. When giants were spotted in Fairford, our young journalists jumped straight into action! They gathered evidence from a "crime scene," interviewed the police, and even attended a press conference with Mrs Fellows before publishing their very own news articles. What a scoop!



Maths

In Maths, we've been exploring number — developing confidence with place value, understanding the importance of digits, and sharpening our skills in addition and subtraction. The children have shown wonderful perseverance and enthusiasm as they've deepened their number sense through games, challenges and problem-solving tasks.

Geography

In Birch and Willow, our topic this term has been Rainforests, and the children have loved discovering the wonders of these vibrant ecosystems — from towering trees to exotic animals and fascinating tribes. We've discussed the importance of conservation and the impact humans have on these precious habitats.

In Olive Class, the children have been exploring the human and physical characteristics of the UK. The children have really enjoyed using atlases to research rivers, mountains and to help them understand the significance of the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circles.

RE

The whole school has been working together on a creative project called Noah's Ark. The children researched endangered animals and created stunning individual pieces that will form part of a large collaborative artwork. We can't wait for you to see the final result!



PE

PE has been full of energy and fun! The children have been mastering fundamentals such as running, balancing, jumping and skipping — before moving on to games like dodgeball, dancing and kickball. Great teamwork and sportsmanship all round!



Computing

In Computing, we've been learning the difference between the Internet and the Web and exploring websites and their features. The children are becoming confident digital explorers, learning how to navigate safely and effectively online.

French

Bonjour! In French, we've been practising numbers, days of the week and months of the year — building solid foundations through songs, games and lots of fun repetition. We've also been learning how to talk about our families, building on previous learning where we learned to talk about ourselves, to talk about family members' names and ages.



Music

Music has been all about rhythm and notation! The children have enjoyed learning how to read and perform basic rhythms and are beginning to compose their own pieces. It's been wonderful to see (and hear!) their creativity shine.

Whether it's cracking codes in Computing or chasing giants in English, from counting in French to dodging in PE, the children have started the new academic year with energy, imagination and joy — and we couldn't be prouder.

Warm regards,

The Olive, Birch and Willow Teams

Year 5 Maple and Mulberry

What an amazing first term it has been in Year 5: the children are settling in well and they are working hard in class; there has been laughing and learning across the whole curriculum.

As you know, during the first term, we have been reading Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell in class. This has been the inspiration for our writing of information texts and descriptive narratives, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the creative planning process in preparation for writing their texts. They were excited to learn that a sequel, "The Poisoned King", was released in September and that there will be five books in total in the series, in addition Disney have now acquired the rights to turn Impossible Creatures into a film!

The children have demonstrated their creative talents through our art topic this term, where they have studied and practised the sketching techniques used by artists, such as Van Gogh. With a focus on line, shape and form, they used the grid method to enlarge drawings then applied their knowledge of tone to create an enlarged collage of their chosen animal.



The children have really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in PE as a year group so they could have full teams in netball. They are now beginning to develop the skills required to be successful with Tag Rugby. We will also have occasional Yoga sessions to provide an opportunity to be peaceful and build on their mindfulness strategies.



In Term 2, we will explore and read 'A Christmas Carol'. During this term, the children will continue to develop their creative writing with scene and character descriptions. We will be watching clips from different film versions of the book, as well as looking at a variety of texts including poetry. One of these films will be the Jim Carrey version, which is a PG. If you do not want your child to view these clips, please contact your child's class teacher. Continuing to develop reading fluency and comprehension remains a key priority in year 5, to enable all children to access the increasingly complex novels we will be reading this year.



To further embed the children's understanding of the context of A Christmas Carol, our topic In History will be The Victorians, specifically around the key question, "Should we remember the Victorian times as a Golden Age of change for the better, or a dark age for the poor?" Further details of our themed immersion day will follow shortly.

In Maths, the children have worked hard to develop their understanding of statistics and place value. We will continue to visit these domain areas throughout the year in other subjects and as part of Practice Makes Skilled in Maths.

During term 2, Year 5 will learn the specific methods for solving problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. If you are interested in seeing these methods they are already available on the school's website in our calculation policy. If at any stage you would like support with these methods to support your child's learning at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

Next term, in Science, the children will continue to explore the properties of materials. During term 1, the children have already started to learn about performing a variety of experiments and investigations, the relevant scientific vocabulary for this broad topic and using results to support their conclusions. This knowledge and understanding will be built upon next term with a range of experiments including: separating materials and the effects of temperature on different materials. We will then begin our second topic of Earth and Space, looking at the solar system, planets and the cycles of the moon. This work will be reinforced by our visit to We The Curious! on Friday 28th November.

In Computing, the children will be learning to become video editors and film makers. This will include story-boarding their ideas, preparing a script, recording clips and editing them into a final movie!



We are delighted that our website provides the opportunity to continue to share the children's learning with you more regularly – do take a look if you haven't visited the Year 5 class page yet this year.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning or experiences at school, please contact your child's class teacher (maple25@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk or mulberry25@gloucs.sch.uk).

We look forward to seeing you all in the next term after a calm and relaxed break.

The Year 5 Team

Year 6 - Hawthorn and Hazel classes

What a jam-packed term it has been for our Year 6 Hazel and Hawthorn classes!

We began the term with our Macmillan Coffee



Morning, raising an incredible £311 for the charity. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event – your generosity made a real difference.



In English, we've loved diving into Letters from the Lighthouse and exploring how to build rich narratives using figurative language and descriptive techniques. Our WWII topic in History has linked perfectly with this text, helping us investigate key enquiry questions and deepen our understanding of life during the war.



In Maths, we introduced long division, which the children have tackled with real perseverance and success. Please continue to support your children with times tables at home – they really are the foundation for all maths learning!

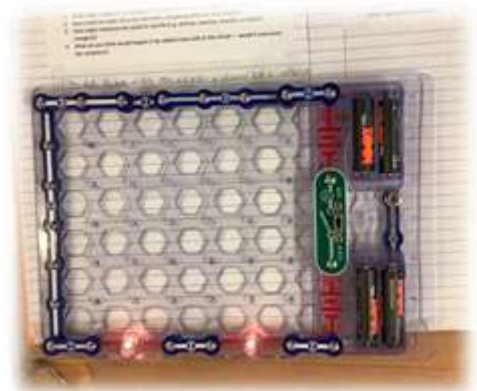
Our PE lessons have been great fun this term, with pupils enjoying netball, rugby, and even a little yoga to finish off. It's been fantastic to see the children working together in new teams, supporting one another and developing their understanding of different rules, passes, and tactics.



In Science, our topic on electricity sparked some real creativity! Tasked by the one and only Lord Sugar, the children designed and built their own festive lights, creating complex circuits before pitching their ideas to our "boardroom."

We ended the term by taking part in

'Wear it Red' Day. The children joined important discussions around anti-racism and equality, creating powerful posters to display around school and remind everyone to Show Racism the Red Card.



It's been a fantastic term of learning, teamwork, and creativity. We're already looking forward to next term, when we'll be reading Shackleton's

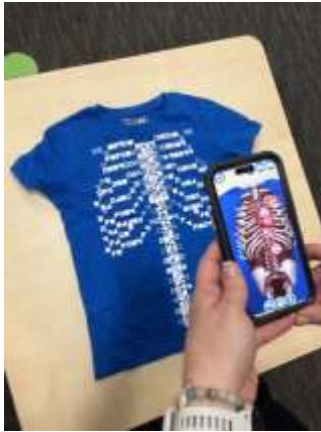
Journey by William Grill in English.

Have a wonderful and well-deserved half term break, everyone!

Little Explorers

What a wonderful term of discovery Little Explorers have had.

We have spent time learning all about ourselves, our similarities and differences and what is inside our bodies. We have made our own height flowers and 'mini' people as well as discussed how we are all different but special and how we all fit together and form our Little Explorers community. We have viewed the inside of our bodies using an app and discovered how our lungs and heart work.



Inspired by a rock, one of our children found while out and about, we collected rocks from the garden and had fun painting and decorating them to hide around the local area.



Little Explorers enjoyed taking part in Prayer Space both alongside the whole school and within our room where we took time to reflect relax and blow our fears away.



What a busy and exciting term we have had and we cannot wait for our next adventures in term two.

The Little Explorers Team

Dates for your Diaries 2025-2026

Please note these dates may be subject to change. Please check the weekly dates and reminders and Portal Messages for updates.

	2025_2026	Month Activity
Term 2 3/11/2025-19/12/2025	November	
	03/11/2025	Start of term 2 Application window opens for Reception SEPTEMBER 2026
	04/11/2025	Year 6 Sponsored Silence
	05/11/2025	School Nurse Yr R & Yr6 Height & Weight Measurements Football training session after school 3-4pm for event on 10/11
	07/11/2025	Rainbow Day Children can wear bright or rainbow coloured clothes Donation and Cake sale after School
	08/11/2025	PTA Firework Evening https://www.fairfordprimarypta.com/
	10/11/2025	Remembrance service 11:00am Families welcome to sign in from 10:45am. Office will be closed at 10:55am Year 5/Year 6 Mixed Football Tournament At Cirencester Primary School 13:30 – 16:30
	12/11/2025	Apple Pebble Assembly 1:30pm St. Mary's Church
	13/11/2025	Year 4 Author visit - Stuart Reid
	17/11/2025	Mock Y6 SATs
	20/11/2025	Bag2School
	27/11/2025	Choir to sing at Hilliers 7:15-7:45pm
	28/11/2025	Year 5 We the Curious Trip to Bristol
	29/11/2025	Choir at St Mary's Church 3:30pm - 5:30 Concert at 7:00pm
	December	
	01/12/2025	Apple Class Dress rehearsal 2:00pm in school
	02/12/2025	Apple Class Nativity 2:00pm Choir to Sing at Governor's Meeting 4:00pm
	03/12/2025	Year 1 Christingle at St Mary's Church - with Fairford Primary School Choir 4.45pm
	w/c 08/12/2025	Christmas Lunches in school – details to follow
	08/12/2025	PTA Present room
	09/12/2025	Christmas Crafts and Carols – EYFS 1:30pm-3:00pm
	w/c 15/12/2025	Christmas parties in classrooms
	16/12/2025	iRock Concert for Parents 9:00am Eleri Hall
	17/12/2025	Farmor's School Christmas Concert, St Mary's Church, Fairford. Choir to perform 7-9pm
	19/12/2025	End of Term finish 2:00pm Little Explorers usual time
Term 3 05.01.26 – 13.02.26	January	
	05/01/2026	Start of Term 3
	w/c 12/01/2026	Year 5 Bikeability
	February	
	09/02/2026	Progress reports to parents
	10/02/2026	Safer Internet Day
	11/02/2026	Parents' Evening 3-7pm

Term 1 Newsletter October 2025

	12/02/2026	Parents' Evening 3-5pm
	16-20/02/2026	Half Term
Term 4 23.02.26 – 27.03.26	March	
	w/c 02/03/2026	Year 6 Mock SAT's
	05/03/2026	World Book Day
	27/03/2026	End of term main School finish 2:00pm
Term 5 13.04.26 – 22.05.26	April	
	13/04/2025	Return to School
	May	
	w/c 11/05/2026	Year 6 SAT's
	w/c 18/05/2026	Maths Week Year 6 Activity Week
	June	
	05/06/2026	Class Photos
	14/06- 05/07/2026	Quenington Fresh Air Sculpture Festival
	July	
	17/07/2026	End of term main School finish 2:00pm

**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
2025/26**



SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues	7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25		
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30
DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues	6	13	20	27	Tues	3	10	17	24		
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur	5	12	19	26	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22	
MARCH					APRIL					MAY							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	7	14	21	28	Tues	5	12	19	26		
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	3	10	17	24	31
JUNE					JULY					AUGUST							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	31	
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues	7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25		
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET	

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2025
	26 th December 2025
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2026
Good Friday	3 rd April 2026
Easter Monday	6 th April 2026
Early May Bank Holiday	4 th May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	25 th May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	31 st August 2026

Term 1: Mon 1 st Sept – Fri 24 th Oct 2025	40 days
Term 2: Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec 2025	35 days
Term 3: Mon 5 th Jan - Fri 13 th Feb 2026	30 days
Term 4: Mon 23 th Feb – Fri 27 th Mar 2026	25 days
Term 5: Mon 13 th April – Fri 22 nd May 2026	29 days
Term 6: Mon 1 st June – Mon 20 th July 2026	36 days
Total	195 days*

*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2025/26 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend). Academies and free schools are not legally bound by school day and school year regulations; however, the DiE has stated they should be working towards a minimum of 32.5 hours per school week by September 2024 at the latest.

Please Note: As per the Governance handbook, academies and free schools can choose to set their own term dates. Schools

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
2026/27



SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER								
Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues		3	10	17	24	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur	3	10	17	24	Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur		5	12	19	26		
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri		6	13	20	27		
Sat		5	12	19	26	Sat		3	10	17	24	31	Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun		6	13	20	27	Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	
DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY								
Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22		
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26	Tues	2	9	16	23		
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur		7	14	21	28	Thur	4	11	18	25		
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26			
Sat		5	12	19	26	Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		6	13	20	27
Sun		6	13	20	27	Sun		3	10	17	24	31	Sun		7	14	21	28
MARCH					APRIL					MAY								
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Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur	4	11	18	25	Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur		6	13	20	27		
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Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues		3	10	17	24	31
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Thur	3	10	17	24	Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur		5	12	19	26		
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri		6	13	20	27		
Sat		5	12	19	26	Sat		3	10	17	24	31	Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun		6	13	20	27	Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

Term Time	Holidays	Bank Holiday	INSET
Term 1: Tue 1 st Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct 2026			39 days
Term 2: Mon 2 nd Nov – Fri 18 th Dec 2026			35 days
Term 3: Mon 4 th Jan - Fri 12 th Feb 2027			30 days
Term 4: Mon 22 nd Feb – Thur 25 th Mar 2027			24 days
Term 5: Mon 12 th April – Fri 28 th May 2027			34 days
Term 6: Mon 7 th June – Wed 21 st July 2027			33 days
Total			195 days*

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2026
	26 th December 2026
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2026
Good Friday	26 th March 2027
Easter Monday	29 th March 2027
Early May Bank Holiday	3 rd May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	31 st May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	30 th August 2027

INSET Days 1st, 2nd September, 22nd, 23rd October 2026, 21st July 2027