



# 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 2 Newsletter December 2025

Dear Families

As Term 2 draws to a close there is much to celebrate about the last term. Children across the whole school have been immersed in some fabulous learning, across all subjects!

In **November**, we remembered those who have sacrificed their lives in service for our country. We all enjoy the freedoms we have today due to the sacrifice they made. Learning about **Remembrance Day**, is an important aspect of our work in school and one we take very seriously. Each class made poppy chains this year and each poppy chain was made in to a large class poppy. As always it was our preference to join together on the playground, but adverse weather meant that for the first time in many years we had to bring the Remembrance Service in to the Eleri Hall. This was a big change for the children but their behaviour was impeccable! Thank you to everyone who came along to support.

Thank you also to our **Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls**, along with prefects, who represented the school with absolute respect at St Mary's Church and as part of the town parade. Thank you to Mrs Blythe for also supporting the children.

Each Autumn Term in school is an annual opportunity for the whole school to see democracy in action. **Children in Year 6**, have the opportunity to apply for a number of responsible positions across the school, and for some of these positions, the whole school gets the opportunity to vote for their preference based on the school house they belong to.

It is a very exciting day, filled with many different approaches to presenting to their peers, followed by an opportunity to vote. Children understand it is a first past the post system with the candidate with the highest number of votes winning.

Once the votes have been counted, the winners are told and then it is announced in front of the whole school. Each **House Captain and Vice-House Captain**, is then presented with their badge. It is wonderful to see the children wearing their badges proudly around school and carrying out their duties to a high standard.

**This year the House Captains and Vice-House Captains are:**

**Eagles: House Captain** - Finn Bennett    **Vice-House Captain** – Dakota Bell

**Hawks: House Captain** - Iris Gilbert    **Vice-House Captain** – Laurie Masterman

**Kestrels: House Captain** - Isabel Stratford    **Vice-House Captain** – Seb Akala

**Falcons: House Captain** – Lola Field    **Vice-House Captain** – Finn Marsh-Phillips

Well done to all who applied for the roles and to all of the children who voted. Democracy is so important and the children learn every vote counts.



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

[www.fairford.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.fairford.gloucs.sch.uk)



Once the **House Captain and Vice-House Captain positions** have been filled, children in Year 6 are able to apply to be **Head Girl and Head Boy**. The application process entails writing a letter to me and preparing a presentation. A governor, member of staff and members of the school communication pupil team then hold interviews.

The quality of letters and presentations were amongst some of the strongest we have had and really demonstrated each child's passion for their school and their desire to want to make a difference – well done to all of the candidates. In announcing to the applicants, who had been successful, we acknowledged the bravery it took to put yourself forward for something. Whilst it is disappointing if not successful, there is always something to learn from going through the process and we told the children they should all continue to put themselves forward for things they want to do and believe in.

Once the applicants had been told the outcome, they were presented with their badges in front of the whole school. Due to the quality of applicants, **this year we have 2 Head Girls and 2 Head Boys as well as a Deputy Head Girl and a Deputy Head Boy.**

**Head Girls:** Matilda Rao and Eleanor Indge

**Head Boys:** Aaron Pravin and Byron Williams

**Deputy Head Girl:** Lily-Rose Stokes

**Deputy Head Boy:** Chase Lane

All applicants for Head Girl and Head Boy, if unsuccessful in obtaining these positions have the opportunity to be prefects. Our new school prefects are:

**Prefects:** Olivia Parades, Arianwen Woodward, Issy Jones, Zara Rahman, Erica Palmer, Lucy Robinson

**Apple Class** children performed the most magical Nativity; every single child had the opportunity to perform on stage, sing their hearts out and be in the right place at the right time to either dance or sing with their class. Just seeing them in their costumes made us all smile and we all loved their Wiggly Nativity! Great job Apple Class and to all of the adults who helped them shine.

Along with the **Nativity Apple Class** also held a special festive event for families by performing **carols and making crafts**. It really was like Santa's workshop along the Apple Class corridor and in their classroom. From the parent's faces, I think it was also a welcome break from their normal routine, to be immersed in the craft experience with their children – thank you to everyone who came along and to all who helped with materials, it is very much appreciated by us all!

**Little Explorers** also held a **carols and crafts** session for the children and families in nursery and pre-school. Every single child had a wonderful time immersed in all things festive. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and to the Little Explorer's team for holding the event.

The **school choir** have been building up a fabulous reputation and as such have a busy performance schedule! They have performed at the **Choral Society's** event this term, the **Garden Centre**, and the **Christingle Service**. They are developing their singing and performing skills in abundance and it is wonderful for all to see. Most recently prior to a Full Governing Body meeting, they performed a series of songs to governors who smiled throughout the whole performance. In celebration of their hard work, they have watched **A Christmas Carol** at

the Barn Theatre in Cirencester – well done Fairford Primary School Choir. Thank you to the adults that support choir each week and by attending the events outside of school – they couldn't do it without you!

**Year 1** led our **Christingle Service at St Mary's Church** this year and did a magnificent job in sharing the meaning behind Christingle and the Nativity story. As previously mentioned, school choir did a fabulous job leading in the singing. It is always the most magical part of the service when we all stand around the church, light our Christingles and turn off the lights. This year's candles burnt a little more quickly than usual so it was a race to get them lit and sing our song before the lights in the church were turned back on! Thank you to everyone who came along to support Christingle and to all of the school adults who prepared and supported the children so well.

**Christmas lunches** were very well received and the hall looked brilliant with festive covers and decorations on each table. **Year 5** once again held their Victorian Christmas lunch as part of their reading of **A Christmas Carol**. The paper chain decorations they made were fantastic and everyone enjoyed eating their lunch with special guests in attendance too. Thank you for coming to the lunch **Year 5** families, I know it is a busy time of year for everyone. Thank you also to the Year 5 team in all the preparation for your special Victorian Day.

**Year 6** had their **final Christmas lunch** in school and it was great to see them share it with their friends and families. Hard to think they will be in Year 7 this time next year!

The **kitchen** do a magnificent job cooking for so many children and the children have really appreciated all of the Christmas decorations our kitchen team have placed on the serving hatch. Well done to the whole team in **creating a wonderful Christmas lunch for the children**.

Term 2 is a busy time for **Fairford PTA** as **Fireworks** and Christmas events are planned for. Our Fireworks were phenomenal and a superb opportunity for the whole community to come together to celebrate Bonfire Night. The fireworks were spectacular and lit up the sky magically! PTA members worked really hard to put the event together and **raised a phenomenal £10 000**. Our school is so grateful and as already shared, the money will be used to support the purchase of computing equipment for children in our school; thank you to everyone in raising vital money and continuing to support our school.

Alongside Fireworks and launched at the Firework event, a new fundraising endeavour developed – **Christmas Golden Baubles at £10** a Golden Bauble. A less labour intensive way of fundraising, which is important for everyone at this time of year. Don't forget to purchase one and share the link with your families (Fairford PTA website).

In school, we have received lots of amazing donations for the **Christmas Hamper Raffle** – thank you so much and I am sure the lucky winners will appreciate the festive items in each of their baskets. I did the draw with the children on **Monday morning (15<sup>th</sup> December)** and class teachers and the office will ensure all of the winners are contacted.

In **Term 3**, we will be launching a new appeal to support the development of an all-weather pitch on the grassed area near the pond at our school. This will support all year round play for the children and after school clubs. Watch this space in January for further information about how you could get involved in supporting with fundraising.

A huge **thank you to Donna Bull for running the Christmas Present experience** across all of the classes. The children get so excited purchasing gifts for family members. We know it is a financial request of families and we continue to be humbled each year when so many families participate – thank you!

For any family struggling with the expense and expectation of Christmas, we are supported by some members of our local community in providing all of the elements that make up Christmas Day dining. Thank you as always to **Mr and Mrs Cully** and to **Little Bundles** and the **Foodbank** for their continued support and generosity – it is truly appreciated by all those in receipt of support.

Some year groups have had the opportunity to attend **trips and sporting events** this term. They have always represented our school impeccably whilst out and about and it is lovely to be in receipt of positive comments from others about the children – well done to all of you!

We are fortunate to have a very stable staff team at Fairford but from time to time, opportunities to develop further from within the school are not always possible at that precise moment. **At the end of this term, Mr Perryman will be leaving** to work in another school in a Key Stage 2 position and **Mrs Field will be leaving** us at the end of the first week in January, to work in an SEMH school. We can't thank them enough for what they have brought to the school team and for the care and support they have given to the children in their time with us. We wish them both the very best in their new roles – we are sure they will be brilliant.

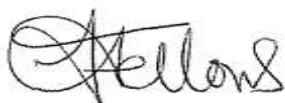
Mrs Evans will be the new TA in Lime Class (moving from Mulberry class), Miss Hartshorn will be the new TA in Apple Class and Mrs Whitmarsh will be the new TA in Mulberry Class. We wish them well in their new roles in our school, we know they will be great additions to the team.

**This academic year** has and will continue to see new developments on the educational landscape. A **new Ofsted Framework** has been in place since November 2025 and whilst new **SEND reforms** have been delayed, they will impact this current academic year when they are finally in place. A **new National Curriculum** is also promised, with a timeframe to be fully implemented by September 2028.

We are hopeful that all of these considered changes, will improve experiences for all children nationally and especially those most vulnerable. We will update, as and when the developments are shared fully with schools.

Finally all of us would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and hope that you get to spend time with those most precious to you. There are many pressures on families at this time of year and I wish you some respite from day to day routines and hopefully some time to relax in amongst the busy build up to Christmas. We all wish you and your families a happy, healthy and peaceful 2026. We look forward to seeing the children again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Best wishes



Julie Fellows

Head teacher

## Term 3 Events

Please check the weekly update for further details of the events, activities and clubs taking place in school. This is sent out to parents every Friday.

05/01/2026	Start of Term 3
06/01/2026	Year 5 Immersion Day – Treasure Island
07/01/2026	Cherry Class Cooking
08/01/2026	Tag Rugby Competition Yr 5&6 Cirencester Rugby Club 15:45pm
w/c 12/01/2026	Year 5 Bikeability
13/01/2026	Young Leaders in Service presentations Bowmoor Sailing Club 6:00pm
14/01/2026	Cherry + Lime Class Cooking
15/01/2026	Look Who's Talking School Heat
21/01/2026	Lime Cooking
27/01/2026	Mad Science Assembly
28/01/2026	Sycamore Cooking

For more diary dates please see the Diary Dates at the end of this Newsletter or click the link below

## [Diary](#)

### Treetops Booking for Term 3 2025\_2026

Bookings for Treetops will be available from 6:00pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

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 selected Year 4 pupils will start on 05/01/2026. Please see swimming letter for further details. 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](mailto:info@drumsense.com)

**Lindsay and Jim Bateman** – Guitar, Piano, Keyboard [jim@batemanmusic.co.uk](mailto:jim@batemanmusic.co.uk)

**iRock School of Music** – Rock and Pop Band [info@irockschool.com](mailto: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. Without contributions towards the food element it makes it increasingly difficult to run activities like this in school.

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.

Thank you for your support

## New KS2 Musical Theatre Club

There is a new Musical Theatre after-school club launching at Fairford Primary from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for KS2 children. Initially, the club will be open to pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6, running every Wednesday from 4:45–5:45pm and is run by Ama Performing Arts

Led by industry experts and professional performers, every session is designed to build confidence, creativity, teamwork and self-expression. The club is already hugely popular in multiple schools across the area, regularly oversubscribed, and consistently one of the most talked-about activities children take part in.

The club costs £8.50 per session, paid via a monthly subscription of £21.25 (January–August). This covers 20 sessions across 8 months, with a one-month cancellation policy.

If you'd like your child to be part of this exciting new opportunity, please register your interest below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Vet8YcMxCM>

or email [info@amaperformingarts.co.uk](mailto:info@amaperformingarts.co.uk)

There is also a possibility of a KS1 club, details to follow.



## Free School Meals

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.

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

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

## After School Clubs Booking for Term 3 2025\_2026

A range of clubs will be running in Term 3. **Bookings for Before and After School clubs will be available from 6:00pm Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

Sports Clubs and Afterschool Clubs 2025/2026 Term 3									
	Before School Club	After School Club	Coach Location	Dates	Year Group	Max	Cost	Notes	Collection
Monday		Yoga and Mindfulness	Mrs Blythe Old Hall	05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Yr 4-6 3-4pm	30	£36.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit Old Hall	Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
		Street Dance	Megan Weeks Eleri Hall	05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5, Y6 3:00-4:00pm	25	£36.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	Eleri Hall
		Crochet	Mrs Coxhead Hawthorn Class	NOT 05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Year 6 3:10-4:10pm	6	£40.00 £8.00 per session	No experience needed - just bring your enthusiasm and imagination!	Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
Tuesday		Debate Club	Mrs Bruce Maple Class	06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, Not 10/02	Year 5 and 6 3:00-4:00pm	12	£30 £6.00 per session		Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
Wednesday		Forest School Club	Hannah Garbutt	07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02	Y1 - 6 3-4:30pm	15	£60 £10 per session		Outside the Branch Classroom
		Performing Arts Theatre Club	Ama Performing Arts Eleri	Starting 14/01 Book Direct see flyer	Yrs 3 - 6 4:45 - 5:45pm	Book Direct	Book Direct	Eleri Hall	Eleri Hall
		After School Cooking Club	Meliny Timms Atrium	07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02	Yrs 1-6 3-4:30pm	24	£76.50 £12.75 per sessions	New Year Celebrations and Festivals	Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
Thursday	Early Bird Fencing		Kevin Nelson Eleri	08/01, 15/01, 22/01, 29/01, 05/02, 12/02	Y4, Y5, Y6 7:30-8:30pm	16	£51:00 £8.50 per session	Long trousers and top	
		Gymnastics A	Rachel Rogers Eleri Hall	08/01, NOT 15/01, 22/01, 29/01, 05/02, 12/02	Y1-6 3:00-4:00pm	20	£30.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	Eleri Hall
		Gymnastics B	Rachel Rogers Eleri Hall	08/01, NOT 15/01, 22/01, 29/01, 05/02, 12/02	Y1-6 4:00-5:00pm	20	£30.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	Eleri Hall
		Choir	Mr Driscoll Old Hall	08/01, 15/01, 22/01, 29/01, 05/02, 12/02	Y3,4,5,6 3-4pm	Existing Choir Members	£36.00 £6:00 per session		Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)

## School Office Hours

The School Office is open from 8:15am to 3:30pm. 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](mailto:school@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk).

Please note that emails or messages left after 2.30pm may not be picked up in time for 3.00pm pick up as it is a busy time.

You can report you child's absence from school on the day of absence by emailing [absence@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:absence@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk) or [school@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto: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/>

## Eco News Term 2



Thank you to the families who have started to bring in items for the bug hotel project.

As we mentioned in our portal message, we are going to be working with Fairford Church to produce a bug hotel which will be placed in St Mary's Churchyard. The Men's Shed, a local community group, have planned it out and will be putting it all together for us in the shape of the church itself!

### What is a bug hotel?

A bug hotel is a man-made structure, often built from natural materials like wood, bamboo, and pinecones, that provides shelter and nesting sites for beneficial insects such as ladybirds, solitary bees, and lacewings. These hotels are designed to support biodiversity by attracting pollinators and natural pest controllers, while also giving these insects a place to rest or hibernate, especially during colder months.



### How you can help...

Our involvement in the project is to 'fill' and prepare some bug boxes and this is where we need your help. We need a variety of natural objects to place into some pallets which will then be inserted into the bug hotel. We would like every child to bring in at least 1 object (more are welcome) to put into their class collection box. Ideas would be: corks (with holes already inserted please) bamboo, pinecones, small sticks, small pebbles/stones (although not too many of these or too big as they would be too heavy) any natural materials that would last.

There are 3 collection boxes located in school in the following locations:

Pallet Bug Box 1 – To be filled by Little Explorers, Apple, Cherry – kept in Cherry's outdoor area

Pallet Bug Box 2 – To be filled by Lime, Sycamore, Olive, Birch – kept in Sycamore's outdoor area

Pallet Bug Box 3 - To be filled by Willow, Maple, Mulberry, Hazel, Hawthorn – kept in the sheltered area outside Willow

Please bring your items into school and place them directly into your allocated box.

### Benefits to this project:

- Enabling every child to feel part of a project of bigger purpose and lasting impact on the natural world
- Developing a sense of school community and cohesion as we work together to create something beautiful to represent our pupils love of nature
- Working with our local community and charities on joint projects
- Direct eco link between church and school
- Living out our School Christian Vision as caretakers of God's world



## Summary

1. Go for a walk in the holidays
2. Collect natural objects
3. Save corks from bottles and put holes in them
4. Bring the items into school



Many thanks in advance for your support and contributions 😊

## News from the Classrooms

### Apple - Reception

What a busy term it has been for our wonderful Reception children.

Our Term began with a week of thinking about the seasonal celebrations of Diwali and Bonfire night. We then thought about Remembrance and held our 2 minute silence on 11.11.

Our Reception children were officially welcomed into the Fairford School community through our Pebble Assembly which is always a very special event at Fairford. Each child placed a pebble into the bowl to represent joining our school community. The children were each presented with their Children's Bible and have enjoyed looking at them during reading time.



We have continued with drawing club this term using the stories 'Not Now Bernard', the TV clip 'Willo the Wisp' and 'The Snowman' as stimuli for our own imaginative pictures and writing. Maths this term has been focusing upon composition and we have been learning all the pairs of numbers which total 3, 4 and 5.

Our thoughts then turned to our preparations for Christmas with rehearsals for our Nativity play 'Wriggly Nativity'. The Reception children put on two amazing shows to the whole school and their families and showed how confident they have become in school to perform in front of such a big audience; what superstars they are! We are so very proud of them.



In a departure from previous years, we invited our wonderful parents in to join us for a crafts and carols afternoon instead of Christmas lunch. This was a wonderful afternoon where the children made 5 crafts with their parents. We finished off the afternoon with a rousing Christmas sing song with our Nativity songs and festive favourites.



We were blessed with perfect weather for a campfire at our final Forest School session of the term. We were joined in the forest by 'Library Lisa' who read Christmas themed stories in her own unique style.



What a wonderfully festive and busy term for all of us!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas

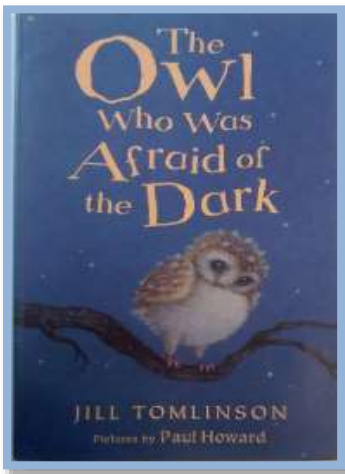
**Apple Class.**

## Key Stage 1 – Cherry, Lime and Sycamore

As we reach the end of a wonderfully busy and joyful term in Key Stage One, we wanted to share some of the fantastic learning experiences the children have enjoyed across the curriculum. The children have worked incredibly hard, shown great curiosity, and demonstrated so many of the Key Stage One learning objectives through hands-on activities, discussions, problem-solving and creativity.



This term in English, we have absolutely loved reading 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. The children immersed themselves in Plop's adventures, learning how he gradually overcomes his fears with the help of kind and interesting characters. We've been developing our reading comprehension skills—predicting, retrieving information, and discussing characters' feelings—and we even extended our learning by finding out more about real barn owls, their habitats and behaviours.



To bring part of the story to life, we took our learning outdoors and played the Boy Scout game in Watkins Woods, just like one of the characters teaches Plop. This helped us build descriptive vocabulary, practised giving and following instructions, and deepened our understanding of the story.

Throughout the term, children have continued to develop their spelling, punctuation and grammar skills—writing sentences with capital letters and full stops, using conjunctions such as, and, if and because, and expanding their noun phrases to add detail. We are very proud of their progress!

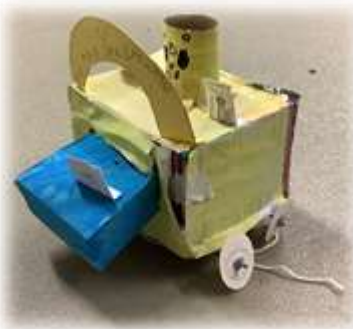
In Maths, the Year 2 children have been focusing on addition and developing efficient strategies to add two 2-digit numbers. They have learnt how to partition numbers into tens and ones and have used number lines to make jumps in tens. The children are becoming increasingly confident in explaining their mathematical thinking, spotting patterns, and checking their answers. Year 1 have been exploring part whole models, looking at addition and subtraction and investigating patterns when counting to 100. Remember to login to Mathletics at home and practise some of the new concepts they have been learning at in school.





In Science, we have continued our topic on Everyday Materials. The children carried out a wide range of simple investigations—including deciding which materials would make the best curtains, testing which would be most suitable for fixing a hole in an umbrella, and exploring absorbency to choose the best material for an “astronappy”! These practical activities helped the children develop their enquiry skills: predicting, observing, comparing and recording results.

We have also been finding out about recycling and have been sorting different materials. Some children were super keen and went out with the litter pickers and collected some rubbish which they then sorted into the correct recycling bins. Aurora in Lime Class, noticed that paper towels were being wasted as they were getting wet by the sink. She had a fabulous idea to make ‘paper towel holders’ out of old milk bottles to keep the paper towels dry.



DT has been a highlight this term! Building on our History learning from last term, where we travelled back in time to explore Fairford’s fascinating past. The children designed and created their very own carnival floats. We were inspired by Fairford’s old carnival, which once raised money for the hospital before the creation



of the NHS.

The children chose a cause they wanted their float to represent, sketched design ideas, and selected suitable materials to bring their visions to life. We also explored wheeled toys and used K’nex to investigate how wheels and axles work before adding our own wheels and axles to our floats. We are hoping to have a carnival parade before the end of term.



Our Geography lessons have focused on developing children’s understanding of our local area, Fairford. We explored maps and aerial photographs, identified human and physical features, and discussed how these features shape the character of a place. The children have been building their “sense of place” by sharing and sketching their favourite local landmarks from photographs.



In RE, we have been learning about Christmas and the Christian belief in Incarnation—God coming to Earth as Jesus. We explored how Christians in Gloucestershire and around the world celebrate this festival. As a school, we have also enjoyed preparing for Christmas with decorations, class parties, festive lunches, and of course the magical Year 1 Christingle Service. The moment the lights went out in church and the candlelight filled the space was truly special.



In Computing, Year 1 have enjoyed exploring the programme Paint. They learned how to use different tools to create digital images, experimented with colour and shape, and built confidence navigating simple software. In Year 2, we have been photographers, using the ipads to take pictures of our surroundings. We have been exploring what makes a good picture, thinking about lighting, shadows, position, background and subjects.



We have been very lucky to welcome some wonderful visitors into KS1 this term:

The wonderful Lisa from Fairford Library, who brought plenty of festive sparkle as she read us Christmas stories in her brilliant character voices.

Author Emily Lloyd-Gale, who came to share her book 'The Moose That Saved Christmas'. The children loved hearing the story and asking her questions about being an author.



These visits really helped to inspire our reading, imagination and love of stories.

Thank you all for your support throughout the term. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2026! Best wishes,

The KS1 Team 🎄 ✨ 😊

## Year 3 & 4 Olive, Birch and Willow

What a fantastic and busy term we've had in Olive, Willow and Birch Class. The children have shown such enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity across all of their learning.

In English, we explored biographies and focused on the fascinating life of Marcus Aurelius. The children enjoyed learning about his achievements and writing their own biographies. We also learnt the myth of Romulus and Remus, diving into the legendary origins of Rome, and the children produced wonderful storyboards to retell the myth in their own words. Next term, our class book will be *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S Lewis, and we are very excited to explore this magical world together.



This linked well with our History topic of the Romans, and we ended the term by designing and making our own Roman shields before heading outside to practise authentic Roman battle formations. The teamwork and creativity the children demonstrated were brilliant.

In Maths, we focused on multiplication and division, and we want to say a huge well done to all the children who have been working so hard on their times tables; we love seeing your dedication and watching your confidence grow.

In Art, the children have been experimenting with a range of materials as part of their still life work, developing fantastic observational skills and enjoying the chance to try out new techniques.



The Children have also loved visiting Lime Class to read to the younger children. It was lovely to see their kind and caring nature shine when interacting with the younger members of the school. What brilliant storytellers you all are!



They also enjoyed their cooking session with Chef Mel, where they made Roman inspired food, including Roman chicken and Caesar salad. The Atrium was full of delicious smells and the children had a wonderful time preparing and tasting their creations.

We have loved seeing the children get their dancing shoes on as they choreographed and performed a range of dances - from a lively samba to expressive interpretive dance. Their energy, confidence, and teamwork have been a joy to watch. We are also very proud of all the children's hard work in swimming this term; their confidence and skills continue to shine each week. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have helped take the children swimming and to all parents for your continued support.



In Science, our topic has been States of Matter, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. One of the highlights was our VERY messy chocolate experiment - we loved seeing all the children's beaming faces and hearing their cheerful laughter as they explored how materials can change state.



We all wish you a wonderful and magical Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Warmest wishes,

Miss Forman, Mr Mobey, Mrs Nuthall, Mrs Bell, Mr Driscoll, Miss Gibbons, Mrs Lee, Mrs Fellows, Mrs Clayton-Gale and Mrs Hill.

## Year 5 - Mulberry and Maple Classes

Another very busy term in Year 5, and already we are in full Christmas flow! It has been wonderful to immerse ourselves in a Victorian Christmas through our study of 'A Christmas Carol' and our exploration of Victorian Britain. The children have loved following Scrooge's transformation from money-pinching miser to a generous lover of Christmas and even summarised this change in some beautiful Kennings, a few of which were shared at our Christmas meal.



We have also spent the term describing the atmospheric settings in the book and writing a letter to Scrooge trying to convince him to change his miserly ways.

Reading this book has massively helped our understanding of History this term too. We have been considering whether the Victorian Era should be remembered as a Golden Age of progress, or a Dark Age for the poor and the novel has really helped us to understand both sides of this. In History lessons, we have studied the positives and negatives of the British Empire;

explored the impact of the Industrial Revolution and the many Victorian inventions; and considered how the expansion of the railways affected life in Britain, focusing in on our own local area.



In Maths, we have focused on formal written methods this term, and understanding the maths behind these to develop our mastery. If you are interested in seeing these methods they are already available on the school's website in the calculation policies. If at any stage you would like to discuss these methods to support your child's learning at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

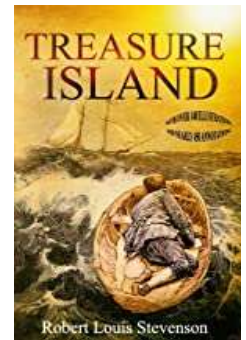


In DT, the children have demonstrated their practical and design talents over the term through the creation of a tote or memory bag. The children have worked hard, thinking of the audience, purpose and then applying a range of stitching techniques to construct it. I'm sure many of these may appear as gifts shortly.

Our Science lessons have been especially fun this term as we have investigated Space, focusing on our Solar System. We now know how we get night and day, seasons and years and why these all vary between planets. We have asked so many questions, some of which the teachers have been able to answer and some of which are far too big for even the greatest Scientific minds to have answers to yet! A real highlight was our trip to 'We the Curious'. We had such a brilliant day and learnt a great deal more about Space. The planetarium was a real highlight, especially as it was all in 3D! We will be continuing our study of Space at the start of next term, before moving on to Forces.



Also in Term 3, we will explore and read 'Treasure Island'. The children will begin by continuing to develop their creative writing with scene and character descriptions and applying these through diary entries, before moving on to a balanced argument to consider whether Jim should join the pirates! Obviously the original text is fairly challenging, and so we will be watching clips from different film adaptations and using from simpler versions of the book, as well as reading extracts from the original. As part of English, we will also be doing a big push on Reading Comprehension and spelling as these are both areas we would like to develop. Lots of spelling practise and reading at home would be brilliant for supporting this!



In Geography next term our topic is trade. The children will learn about national and international trade, both in the past and present. This will explore the importance of trade historically (linking well to Treasure Island and pirates!) and moving onto what the UK offers to the global market and why we need to import certain products.

In Maths, Year 5 will continue to learn and practice the specific methods for solving problems in multiplication and division. Children should continue to practice their times tables to 12x12 if they are still not secure, as they will need fluent times tables knowledge to be successful with multiplication, division and fractions. Later in the term, the children will start to develop their understanding of fractions from Year 4. This will include building their understanding of what fractions represent, ordering and adding and subtracting them.

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](mailto:maple25@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk) or [mulberry25@gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:mulberry25@gloucs.sch.uk)). We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Have a wonderful Christmas!

**The Year 5 team**

## Year 6 - Hawthorn and Hazel classes

As we come to the end of a busy and productive Autumn term, our Year 6 pupils have continued to build on their excellent start at the beginning of the year. Their maturity, focus, and growing sense of responsibility have been evident throughout the term, and they should feel immensely proud of the progress they are making as leaders of our school community. From September onwards, the children have embraced the challenges of Year 6 with determination and enthusiasm, demonstrating curiosity, resilience, and teamwork in all areas of their learning.

With Christmas approaching, we have paused to celebrate and reflect on the season. Year 6 have shown great kindness and joy in preparing for festive activities, like visiting the Hyperion House and have continued to work with good focus right up to the final days of term.



Hyperion House Visit:  
talking to residents.

### Mathematics

Much of our mathematical learning this term has centred on fractions—a topic that can be complex but highly rewarding. Pupils have explored equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. We have also begun to make meaningful connections between fractions, decimals, and percentages, helping children understand the links between these representations.

Alongside fractions, we have revisited core operations to strengthen fluency and accuracy in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Regular practice ensures that these essential skills remain secure as the children progress through the year.

**Parent tip:** Fractions can be challenging at home too! If you would like guidance or resources to support your child, please contact us: we are always happy to help.

### English

In English, we have been captivated by the extraordinary true story of Shackleton's doomed Antarctic expedition which is a remarkable tale of endurance in an icy wilderness. Pupils have explored this text through guided reading, developing comprehension and inference skills while reflecting on themes of courage, leadership, and resilience.



Freeze frames and acting in English: Shackleton encouraging his demoralised team.

Shackleton's journey also inspired creative writing. The children wrote journal entries from the perspective of crew members aboard the Endurance, capturing both the physical and emotional challenges of life in extreme conditions. They further developed descriptive language to evoke the vast, freezing landscapes, demonstrating growing confidence in crafting vivid imagery.

As the term closes, pupils have applied their research and organisational skills to produce non-chronological reports on Antarctic fauna, structuring information clearly and using formal, accurate language.

Next term, our English work will be inspired by *Brightstorm*, an exciting adventure novel by Vashti Hardy. The story follows twins Arthur and Maudie as they journey across the sky in search of their missing father. It is filled with mystery, exploration, and imaginative settings, offering a rich stimulus for creative writing.



It may be beneficial for children to have their own copy of *Brightstorm* to read alongside the class. This will allow them to engage more deeply with the text, explore characters and settings at their own pace, and use it as a reference when planning their own writing.

#### Book details:

Author: Vashti Hardy

Publisher: Scholastic (UK)

ISBN: 9781407181707

#### Science

In Science, pupils have studied the circulatory system and healthy living. They conducted practical investigations, measuring how exercise affects heart rate and discussing the body's responses to physical activity. Children also created models to understand how blood circulates and the roles of the heart, lungs, and blood vessels.

Alongside practical work, pupils carried out research into the components of a healthy lifestyle, exploring how diet, exercise, and rest work together to support long-term wellbeing.

#### History and Geography

In History, we extended our work on the Second World War. Pupils explored the Battle of Britain in depth, examining the challenges faced and the impact on everyday life. They analysed wartime propaganda and studied the leadership of Sir Winston Churchill, which inspired them to write their own motivational speeches, reflecting his determination and tone.

In Geography, the children have investigated mountains and how these landscapes influence human life, including settlement, climate, and culture. Next term, this topic will continue as pupils compare locations in the UK and the USA, developing a broader understanding of geographical diversity and global perspectives.



Active learning:  
searching for facts  
about mountains

As the term draws to a close, we wish all our families a peaceful and joyful Christmas, filled with rest, togetherness, and celebration. Thank you for your ongoing support: your involvement makes a real difference to the children's learning and wellbeing.

**We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year for another exciting term in Year 6.**

## Little Explorers

This term Little Explorers have been immersed in the world of Julia Donaldson. The children voted on which books we would cover and then enjoyed exploring each book in depth, discovering the different characters, settings and the meaning behind each of the stories. We did this through role play, craft, listening to and watching the stories being brought to life. The stories the children choose were the Gruffalo, The Ugly 5, Superworm, The Smeds and the Smoos, Zog and the Flying Doctors and Stick Man.



We ended the term exploring all things Nativity and Christmas and covering ourselves in glitter. We read and learnt about the birth of Jesus and made some lovely Christmas crafts for our families to take home and enjoy.



**The Little Explorers Team wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.**

**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.

	<b>2025_2026</b>	<b>Month Activity</b>
<b>Term 3 05.01.26 – 13.02.26</b>	<b>January</b>	
	05/01/2026	Start of Term 3
	06/01/2026	Year 5 themed day. Treasure Island Pirate attire welcomed,
	07/01/2026	Cherry Class Cooking
	08/01/2026	Tag Rugby Competition Ys 5&6 Cirencester Rugby Club 15:45pm
	w/c 12/01/2026	Year 5 Bikeability
	13/01/2026	Young Leaders in Service presentations Bowmoor Sailing Club 6:00pm
	14/01/2026	Cherry + Lime Class Cooking
	15/01/2026	Look Who's Talking School Heat
	21/01/2026	Lime Cooking
	27/01/2026	Mad Science Assembly
	28/01/2026	Sycamore Cooking
	<b>February</b>	
	04/02/2026	Sycamore Cooking
	09/02/2026	Progress reports to parents
	10/02/2026	Safer Internet Day Maple Parents evening 3-5pm (also 11/02)
	11/02/2026	Apple Cooking Football Fun Factory trial Session for Little Explorers 10:00am Parents' Evening 3-7pm
	12/02/2026	Parents' Evening 3-5pm (Not Maple)
	<b>16-20/02/2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Term 4 23.02.26 – 27.03.26</b>	<b>March</b>	
	25/02/2026	Willow Cooking
	w/c 02/03/2026	Year 6 Mock SAT's
	04/03/2026	Willow Cooking
	05/03/2026	World Book Day
	17/03/2026	Year 5 Trip to the Houses of Parliament
	25/03/2026	Apple Cooking Year 4 In The Net – Down Ampney pm
	27/03/2026	<b>End of term main School finish 2:00pm</b>
<b>Term 5 13.04.26 – 22.05.26</b>	<b>April</b>	
	13/04/2026	Return to School
	15/04/2026	Willow Cooking
	22/04/2026	Birch Cooking
	29/04/2026	Maple Cooking
	23-28/04/2026	Book Fair
	<b>May</b>	
	06/05/2026	Maple & Mulberry Cooking
	13/05/2026	Mulberry Cooking

	w/c 11/05/2026	Year 6 SAT's
	w/c 18/05/2026	Maths Week Year 6 Activity Week
	20/06/2026	Hawthorn and Hazel cooking
	<b>June</b>	
	03/06/2026	Cherry Cooking
	05/06/2026	Sports Day
	10/06/2026	Cherry and Lime Cooking Yr 6 Cathedral Service
	12/06/2026	Reserve Sports Day
	19/06/2026	Class Photos
	24/06/2026	Sycamore Cooking Prayer Space
	26/06/2026	Yr 1&2 to Westonbirt
	27/06/2026	Armed Forces Day
	14/06- 05/07/2026	Quenington Fresh Air Sculpture Festival
	<b>July</b>	
	01/07/2026	Sycamore Cooking
	w/c 06/07/2026	Take on picture week
	06/07/2026	Yr 6 Dress Rehearsal
	08/07/2026	Olive Class Cooking Year 6 Show
	09/07/2026	Year 6 Show
	10/07/2026	Year 3 & 4 to Harry Potter
	13/07/2026	End of year Reports to Parents Open Classrooms
	14/06/2026	Change over morning
	15/06/2026	Hawthorn and Hazel Cooking
	17/07/2026	Year 6 Pizza Lunch <b>End of term main School finish 2:00pm</b>

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

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

\*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								
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues		4	11	18	25	
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		
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat		6	13	20	27	Sat		3	10	17	24	Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun		7	14	21	28	Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
JUNE					JULY					AUGUST								
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	31
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	

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

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

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