

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 3 Newsletter February 2026

Dear Families

I hope you enjoy reading about all of the wonderful activities and learning that has taken place this half term. The term has tested us all with the weather; rainy days and school days don't mix well but the children have been fantastic if there have been wet play days and teachers have been brilliant about seizing a moment to go out when there has been a break in the weather!

Again this term it has been wonderful to see participation in after **school clubs** with new additions in Science and Drama! We are always on the look-out for a wide variety of activities to offer children, as we recognise not all interests are the same. We also have to quality assure any club that takes place at school so it is high quality and good value for money. Our after school Forest School is a prime example, along with Kitchen Club of children across all years participating together, learning new skills and having a lot of fun! Thank you for continuing to support clubs at our school.

Mrs Blythe has spaces in her Yoga club for Term 4, please book in your child if you think this is something they would love to do. We have opened it up to Year 3 pupils for next term.

We continue to look for wonderful **volunteers** who could help with reading in our school. Giving children the opportunity to be listened to whilst they read and to hear an adult read to them, supports a child's learning in so many ways. When fluent reading is unlocked, there is so much more that is understood and to be accessed across the whole curriculum.

If you have an afternoon free or an hour before pick up on any day, please contact the school office, where they will give you a short form to complete and details of any documentation you will require for safeguarding checks. You can then meet with Mrs Cotton and myself and providing all checks are completed we can support you in volunteering at our school.

Term 3, saw a lot of **illness** with chickenpox, coughs and colds and tummy upsets across several year groups. At peak periods of illness we continue to operate good ventilation and hand hygiene, along with Catch it, Bin it, Kill it messaging. Whole **school attendance** is currently at 95.7%. Illness can't be helped but please note, additional holidays in term time will also impact overall attendance. Let's hope some good quality R&R for everyone will mean less illness for all over half term.

School funding has been an ongoing concern for schools across Gloucestershire for many years.

Gloucestershire is in one of the lowest funded areas for education! As such, many of the lowest funded Local Authorities work together in a group called F40 (F40 work together to lobby government to raise awareness of the lack of funding and the impact of that lack of funding in our schools, in comparison to



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

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other local authorities). F40 seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live. The difference between per pupil funding in Gloucestershire and Hackney is £5 000; between Gloucestershire and Westminster is £4 000 per pupil and Salford is £1 500. High Needs Block funding is £1 197 per pupil in Gloucestershire compared with £3 831 in Camden and £ 2 851 in Westminster and £1 775 in Blackpool.

This financial inequality has an impact across all our schools in Gloucestershire! As part of my role as Co—chair of GAPH (Gloucestershire Association of Primary School Headteachers), I was invited to the **Houses of Parliament** on 19th January to attend a meeting of the F40 group. Alongside this, we attended the Education update in the Houses of Parliament and then F40 hosted a meeting in Portcullis House for MPs to attend. We were thrilled that so many MPs attended, many of whom didn't realise this inequity even existed! Grateful also to some of our local MPs who were able to attend.

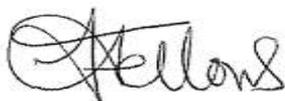
We are going to keep up the campaign and will look to each of our school communities to lobby their MP on this matter. Every child deserves fair access to funding and the equal opportunities that provides. Geographical location should not impact in this way. Watch this space for further information on how you can help and support.

Treetops (After School) will not run after school on Monday 9th March. We have to hold statutory training, which can only take place by the provider after school. It is very rare that we have ever had to not run After School Treetops and we would only do so if absolutely necessary. We are truly sorry for any inconvenience caused but all staff have to complete the training at the same time.

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' **Evening** this week. If you were unable to schedule an appointment, e-mail your child's class teacher and arrange for a meeting/phone call for the first week back after half term.

Don't forget to check **diary dates** at the end of the newsletter, along with **2026/2027 term dates**. Have a fantastic half term holiday and we will **see you all once again on Monday 23rd February 2026**.

Best wishes



Julie Fellows

Head teacher

Term 4 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.

For more diary dates please see the Diary Dates at the end of this Newsletter

or click the link [Diary](#)

Treetops Booking for Term 4 2025_2026

Bookings for Treetops will be available from 6:00pm on Friday 20th February.

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

Treetops Monday 9th March – Important update

Please note that After School Treetops will not be running on Monday 9th March. This applies to the Pre-School, Reception and Year 1-6 clubs.

This is due to a whole school statutory staff training session that is taking place after school on that day. Breakfast club will be operating as usual in the morning

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Swimming – Year 4

Swimming for selected Year 4 pupils will start on 02/03/2026. 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

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. 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.

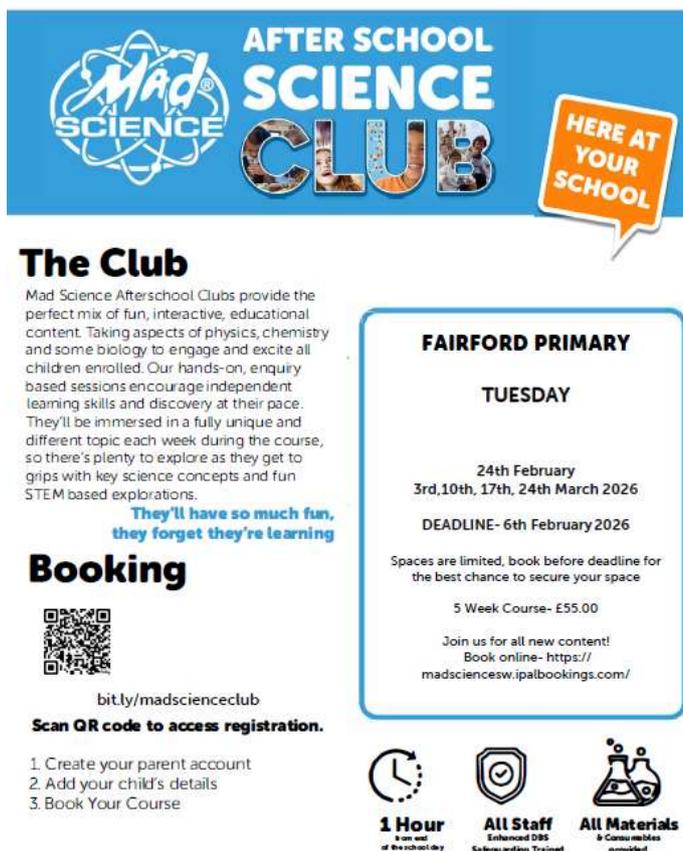
New After School Club – Mad Science

The Mad Science after school club is now full for Term 4 but they will be running another club from April – June. If you would like to go on the waiting list, please follow the link below. They will be holding another Mad Science assemble in March for the children to engage in science.

The link for booking is <https://madsciencesw.ipalbookings.com/>



The poster features the Mad Science logo at the top, followed by the text 'AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'Spark Their Curiosity REGISTER & BOOK TODAY!' and includes a QR code. At the bottom, there is contact information: 'office@madsciencesw.co.uk + 01792 346205 + www.madsciencesw.co.uk' and social media icons for WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.



The registration page has a blue header with the Mad Science logo and 'AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB' text. A speech bubble says 'HERE AT YOUR SCHOOL'. Below the header is the section 'The Club' with a description of the club's activities. A quote reads: 'They'll have so much fun, they forget they're learning'. The 'Booking' section includes a QR code and the URL 'bit.ly/madsclenceclub'. A box for 'FAIRFORD PRIMARY' specifies 'TUESDAY' sessions on '24th February' and '3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March 2026', with a 'DEADLINE- 6th February 2026'. It notes 'Spaces are limited, book before deadline for the best chance to secure your space' and '5 Week Course- £55.00'. A link to 'Join us for all new content! Book online- https://madsciencesw.ipalbookings.com/' is provided. At the bottom, three icons represent '1 Hour' (1 hour of the school day), 'All Staff' (Enhanced DBS, Safeguarding Trained), and 'All Materials' (Concessions provided).

Forest School – After School Club term 4

Hannah G will be running Forest School Club in Term 4 from 3:00- 4:30pm for Years 1-6. Here is some of the things the children will be doing in Term 4:

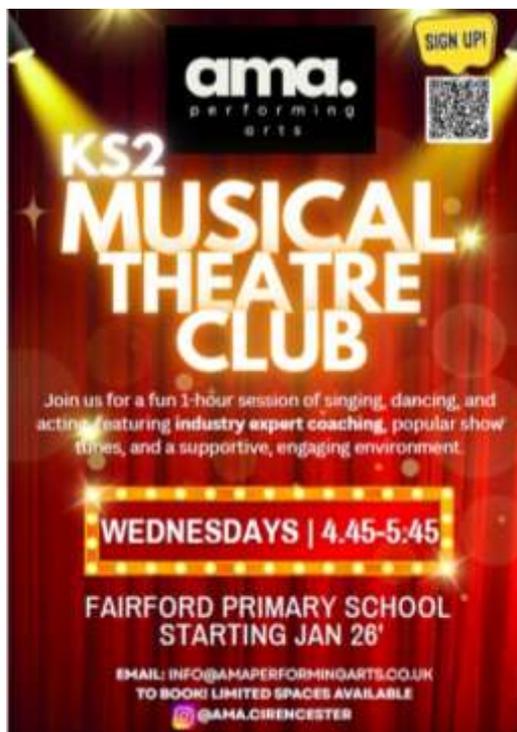
'During the spring term at Forest school, we will be doing some pond dipping, investigating aquatic life, sowing a wildflower area and using the Science Dome to do some planting. As the weather improves, we'll also be doing some crafts using natural materials and learning how to use tools safely.'

Musical Theatre Club

AMA KS1 Musical Theatre Club for children in Years 1–2 will be starting on Tuesday 24 February and will run through to the end of the school year. The club will take place after school on Tuesdays from 3:00–4:00pm and will be led by Emily Apps, a professional West End performer. Sessions will include singing, dancing, and acting, and are designed to encourage confidence, creativity, and self-expression in a fun and supportive environment.

Club details:

- Start date: Tuesday 24 February
- Year group: KS1 (Years 1–2)
- Duration: 15 sessions (running until the end of the school year) (24th Feb – 30th June)
- Cost per session: £8.50



To book email: info@amaperformingarts.co.uk
@ama.cirencester

After School Clubs – Timetable for Term 4

A range of clubs will be running in Term; booking will open on the Portal at 6:00pm on Friday 20th February

	Before School Club	After School Club	Coach/ Location	Dates	Year Group	Max	Cost	Notes	Collection
Monday		Yoga and Mindfulness	Mrs Blythe Old Hall	23/02, 02/03, Not 09/03, 16/03, 23/03	Yr 3-6 3-4pm	30	£24.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit Old Hall	Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
		Street Dance	Megan Weeks Eleri Hall	23/02, 02/03, 09/03, 16/03, 23/03	Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5, Y6 3:00-4:00pm	25	£30.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	Eleri Hall
		Crochet	Mrs Coxhead Hawthorn Class	Not 23/02, 02/03, Not 09/03, 16/03, 23/03	Year 6 3:10-4:10pm	6	£24.00 £8.00 per session	No experience needed - just bring your enthusiasm and imagination!	Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
Tuesday		Performing Arts Theatre Club	Ama Performing Arts Eleri	24/02, 03/03, 10/03, 18/03, 24/03	Yrs 1 & 2 3:00-4:00pm	Book Direct	Book Direct	Eleri Hall	Eleri Hall
		Mad Science Club	Mad Science UK	24/02, 03/03, 10/03, 17/03, 24/03	Years 1-6 3:00 - 4:00pm	22	Book Direct £12.00 per session	Willow Classroom	Willow Classroom
Wednesday		Forest School Club	Hannah Garbutt	25/02, 04/03, 11/03, 18/03, 25/03	Y1 - 6 3-4:30pm	15	£50 £10 per session	We will be pond dipping, investigating aquatic life, sowing a wildflower area and using the Science Dome	Outside the Branch Classroom
		Performing Arts Theatre Club	Ama Performing Arts Eleri	25/02, 04/03, 11/03, 18/03, 25/03	Yrs 3 - 6 4:45 - 5:45pm	Book Direct	Book Direct	Eleri Hall	Eleri Hall
		After School Cooking Club	Meliny Timms Atrium	25/02, 04/03, 11/03, 18/03, 25/03	Yrs 1-6 3-4:30pm	24	£63.75 £12.75 per session		Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)
Thursday	Early Bird Fencing		Kevin Nelson Eleri Hall	26/02, 05/03, 12/03, 19/03, 26/03	Y4, Y5,Y6 7:30-8:30pm	16	£42.50 £8.50 per session	Long trousers and top	
		Gymnastics A	Rachel Rogers Eleri Hall	26/02, 05/03, 12/03, 19/03, 26/03	Y1 -6 3:00-4:00pm	20	£30.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	Eleri Hall
		Gymnastics B	Rachel Rogers Eleri Hall	26/02, 05/03, 12/03, 19/03, 26/03	Y1 -6 4:00-5:00pm	20	£30.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	Eleri Hall
		Sports Leaders Club multi-skills/multi-sports club - different team games and skills.	School Grounds Miss Addey and Farmor's Pupils	26/02, 05/03, NOT 12/03, 19/03, 26/03	Y 3 and 4 3:00-4:15pm	15	£24.00 £6:00 per session	PE Kit	From Hazel Classroom (Miss Addey's Class)
		Choir	Mr Driscoll Old Hall	26/02, 05/03, 12/03, 19/03, 26/03	Y3,4,5,6 3-4pm	Existing Choir Members	£30.00 £6:00 per session		Rear Entrance (Same as used by Treetops)

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](#)

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.

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 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/>

News from the Classrooms

Apple - Reception

What a fantastic term we have had in Reception this term. Our theme has been 'Magnificent Journeys' and started with a mystery letter and a map. We followed the map to find clues about our new story which is The Gingerbread Man. We learned to tell the story by heart and had lots of fun learning about building bridges and boats to help the Gingerbread man to not have to rely on the fox! We also did a fantastic science experiment to find the best fabric to waterproof the Gingerbread Man so that he could swim across the river.

We had fun baking our own Gingerbread men but a couple of them escaped from the oven before we could eat them!



They have kept on running and travelling and very cheekily keep sending us postcards from where they are. Every day we look on Google earth to find their location and see whether we can spot them. We have been adding their postcards to our world map each day. They have been to New York, Paris, Germany, Sydney, Egypt and many other places that we have enjoyed finding out about.



This week the Gingerbread men arrived in China just in time for the Lunar New Year and we are enjoying finding out how New Year is celebrated. We have made Chinese lanterns, dragons and have had a go at speaking and writing in Mandarin We will be cooking some Chinese treats with Meliny from the Kitchen Club and are planning to build a giant dragon big enough for us to all fit under which we can take for a parade around the school to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Our love of drawing club has continued with the stories 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane, The Hundred Decker Bus and the 1960s cartoon 'Wacky Races,' the children have absolutely loved drawing pictures from these stimuli and coming up with their own sentences to write about their vehicles. We are getting really good now at hearing sounds in words and writing them ourselves.

In maths we have been securing our number bonds to 5 and thinking about number order and knowing that as we say each number in order, there's 1 more each time. This week we have been thinking about more than, fewer than and the same as. We have been using the language to describe groups and also learned how to use the more than sign $<$ $>$ and the equals sign $=$.

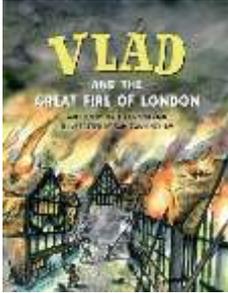
We have loved our Forest School sessions when we have managed to dodge the rain to go and have enjoyed making bird feeders to look after our feathered friends.



Have a lovely half term break, Love from Apple Class x

Key Stage 1 – Cherry, Lime and Sycamore

We can't believe we're already halfway through this academic year! Despite being a shorter term, we've still managed to fit in lots of exciting activities.



In English, we have been focusing on Vlad and the Great Fire of London. This included lots of storyboard work where we organised the story into the correct order, writing from the perspective of Vlad (our main character who is also a flea!) and using lots of adjectives and noun phrases to make our work as detailed and descriptive as possible. We have also continued to work on our handwriting and the presentation of our work – all of that hard work is paying off now!

We also worked on our oracy skills this term with our Look Who's Talking competition. We heard lots of interesting presentations about everyone's interests and even though it made some of us feel quite nervous, we managed to face our fears.

In Year 1 Maths, we have been matching numbers and developing number sense. We have also been using the symbols for more than, less than and equals to, help us compare numbers. We also started to explore terms such as 'odd' and 'even' and use the numicon to help us learn more about these concepts.



In Year 2 Maths, we have been carrying on with our work on addition and subtraction. This has included using empty number lines, hundred squares and a range of manipulatives. We have started our new topic of multiplication and division. It will be important now to start using Times Tables Rockstars to improve our recall facts and embed these core skills. <https://trockstars.com/>

In Science, we have started our new topic on plants. We have learned about the difference between bulbs and seeds, what the parts of a plant are and how to identify different trees by looking at their leaves. As part of our learning, we planted daffodil bulbs and we have loved watching them grow! We've been making sure we look after them by watering them whenever we can.



In History this term, we linked our knowledge from our English work into learning about the Great Fire of London in 1666. We worked a lot on putting the events in chronological order, learning about people such as Samuel Pepys who wrote a diary giving us lots of information about the event, and learning about why the fire spread so quickly across London.

We were also lucky enough to explore a box containing replicas of artefacts from a local museum. We had great fun looking through the contents and finding out how each item linked to what we had been learning. We even enjoyed dressing up as 1666 fire fighters!



In DT, we also linked our History learning to our topic of freestanding structures. We learned about different jobs and buildings that were around in 1666 and created structures based off one of these jobs. Some children chose to make a bakery (hopefully not the one on Pudding Lane that started the Great Fire of London!) whilst others chose to build a carpenter's workshop. We also had the chance to cook with Chef Mel this term where we made delicious Tudor pastries.



In Computing, we have been learning how to programme by using the Beebots. It's been great fun learning how to make them move in a certain direction and even using our own mats to create different routes.



In RE, we have continued learning about Christianity, with our key question being 'What do Christians believe God is like?'. We have explored many stories and parables from the Bible, thinking about how God acts in each one and what he wanted to teach people. We have even acted some of these stories out to think about how each person felt.



Overall, it's been another fun filled term for all of us in KS1. We hope you all enjoy a lovely break and we will see you again in Term 4!

The KS1 Team 😊

Year 3 & 4 Olive, Birch and Willow

What an action-packed Term 3 it's been across Year 3 and Year 4 — we've loved every moment! The children have worked incredibly hard and have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to:

English This term, Willow and Birch have been exploring **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** by **C. S. Lewis**. A real highlight was our immersive “visit” to **Narnia** — where we stepped through a wardrobe into a snow-covered land! During the day, the children: met the **White Witch** and created snowflake art using beads and pipe cleaners. Spent time sewing with **Mrs Beaver**. Met **Aslan** and created snowflake artwork. Made music with **Mr Tumnus**

It was a brilliant day and a wonderful way to bring our reading to life. Following this, the children produced instruction writing, creating clear step-by-step guides to help other visitors navigate their way through Narnia.



Olive class have been reading **The Ancient Egyptian Sleepover** by **Stephen Davies**.

Using the thrilling story as inspiration, the children have been writing diaries in the style of **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**, creating their own humorous and exciting version: “*The Diary of a Wimpy Explorer!*” We focused on writing with voice and viewpoint, organising ideas into diary “days”, and adding detail to entertain the reader.

Look Who’s Talking

We also enjoyed a fantastic speaking event this term called **Look Who’s Talking**. Each child prepared and delivered a **two-minute presentation** on a topic they felt passionate about and it was wonderful to see such a wide range of interests, confidence and creativity. Every child did incredibly well, and we were so proud of each and every one who bravely presented in front of their peers—showing real courage, enthusiasm and excellent speaking skills. Congratulations as well to the children who were selected to go through to the next round!

In Maths this term, we have been building confidence with **multiplication and division**. Across the classes, children have been:

- practising times tables and related division facts

- using fact families and the inverse relationship between multiplication and division
- developing written and mental strategies (including arrays, grouping, sharing, partitioning and chunking)
- applying these skills to reasoning and problem-solving questions, explaining methods clearly and checking answers

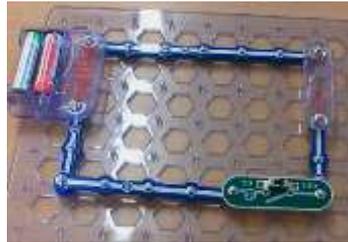
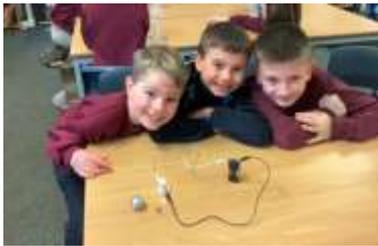
We've been really pleased with how much progress the children have made in both fluency and confidence. We would also remind children to use Times Tables Rockstars to help with their recall speed and continue to build confidence.

In R.E. we have been learning about **Islam**, including:

- exploring some of the **99 names of Allah**
- understanding the importance of the **Qur'an**
- learning about prayer and why it is important to Muslims
- creating Islamic calligraphy-inspired artwork and patterns

The children have approached this learning thoughtfully and respectfully.

In Science, we have been exploring **electricity**. The children have enjoyed building and investigating circuits, including:



- identifying and using components such as cells/batteries, bulbs, buzzers, motors and switches
- building working series circuits and finding out what makes them complete
- investigating how changing components affects what happens in the circuit
- making predictions, testing ideas and recording results like real scientists

We have also been studying light, investigating how it reflects (or doesn't reflect) on different surfaces, how shadows are created, and how light can affect our eyes. The children have also learned the importance of keeping their eyes safe, particularly when out in the sun.

Art Willow and Birch have been studying the work of **Henri Rousseau** and using his style to inspire their own paintings depicting Narnia. The children explored bold composition, rich detail and imaginative scenes, and the finished pieces have been fantastic.

In Olive, the children have been learning about Impressionism, practising their painting skills in the style of artists Claude Monet and Hanson. They have experimented with brushstrokes, colour, mood and contrast, and their final piece will bring all of these skills together in a beautiful landscape painting.



In P.E. this term we have focused on:

- **gymnastics:** creating simple routines using balances and travelling movements, working on control, stability and smooth transitions
- **handball:** developing throwing and catching skills, moving into space, learning rules and applying teamwork in small-sided games

It's been great to see confidence and coordination improve over the term.

Swimming (Year 4) some of our Year 4 pupils have continued their swimming sessions this term and have been doing a brilliant job — showing improved technique, confidence, and perseverance.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a truly busy and brilliant term, and we are very proud of everything the children have achieved.

Warm regards,

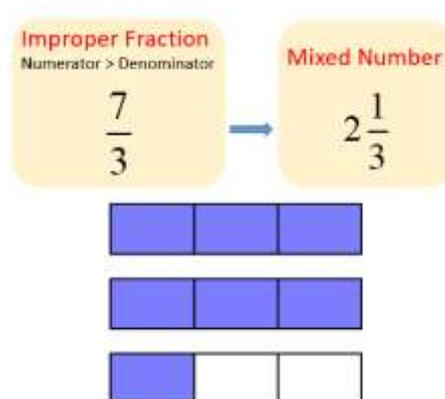
The Year 3 & Year 4 Team

Year 5 - Mulberry and Maple Classes

As we come to the end of a busy and brilliant term, we'd like to share some of the fantastic learning that has taken place in Year 5. The children have worked incredibly hard across the curriculum, showing curiosity, creativity and growing confidence. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to.

This term in English, our reading and writing journey has been centred on *Treasure Island*. The children have loved diving into the text, particularly exploring how authors create vivid **settings** and develop **narrative tension**. Using the novel as inspiration, pupils have created their own setting descriptions, carefully choosing vocabulary to bring places to life. Alongside this, we focused on **writing to inform**, producing clear, well-structured pieces that linked beautifully with our Geography work—such as informative writing about trade routes and goods, much like the journeys taken by ships in *Treasure Island*. Making these cross-curricular connections really helped deepen understanding and purpose in writing.

In Maths, we have been strengthening our knowledge of **fractions**. The children have been busy comparing and ordering fractions, finding **equivalent fractions**, and confidently converting between **improper fractions and mixed numbers**. Practical activities and visual models helped bring these concepts to life, and it has been great to see pupils explaining their mathematical thinking using accurate vocabulary.

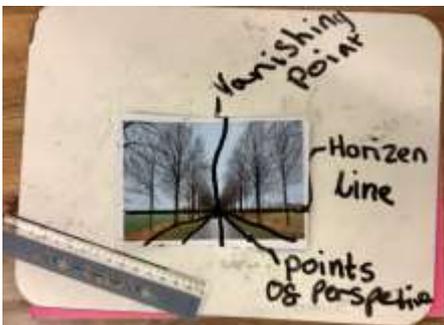


Our Geography lessons have focused on **trade, importing and exporting**, with a particular emphasis on



where our food comes from. The children explored what goods the UK trades, who we trade with, and why trade is so important. This linked wonderfully with *Treasure Island*, as we discussed historic trade routes, ports and the movement of goods across the world—bringing both subjects together in a meaningful way.

Art lessons have been an explosion of colour this term! Inspired by the work of **David Hockney**, the children experimented with **line,**



perspective and horizon lines. They explored how artists can show depth and viewpoint, creating bold and expressive pieces that wouldn't look out of place in a gallery. The results have been vibrant, thoughtful and full of personality.



In Science, we explored the fascinating world of **forces**. Pupils learned that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth due to the force of **gravity**. We investigated the effects of **air resistance, water resistance and friction**, and how these forces act on moving objects.



Next term, we will continue our Forces topic in Science when we explore how mechanisms such as **levers, pulleys and gears** allow a smaller force to have a greater effect—linking nicely to real-life examples and problem-solving challenges.

In RE, we asked the question: *How does Hajj show what matters to Muslims in Britain?* Using a range of methods such as observation, discussion and asking thoughtful questions, pupils learned about the importance of **Hajj** and identified the **Kaaba** as the central focus of Islam. The children showed great

respect and curiosity, developing a deeper understanding of beliefs and practices within the Muslim faith.

Thank you for your continued support this term—it really does make a difference. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved and look forward to building on this learning next term.

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).



Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Warm wishes

The Year 5 Team

Year 6 - Hawthorn and Hazel classes

What another busy and exciting term it has been for our Year 6 Hazel and Hawthorn classes!

In Maths, we have been focusing on measurement, converting between different units and applying this knowledge to solve a range of problems. The children have also worked hard on drawing shapes accurately, using given dimensions and angles, showing great precision and resilience.

Our English lessons have centred around *Brightstorm*, which has inspired some truly fantastic work. The children have produced rich descriptive narratives as well as engaging newspaper reports and we have been especially impressed with their growing creative flair and writing stamina. Next term we are very much looking forward to starting our new class text, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. It would be beneficial for children to have a copy of the text ready for our work throughout Term 4.



This term also saw our 'Look Who's Talking' competition, and it was a pleasure to listen to the wide range of presentations and speeches created about the children's passions and interests. A huge well done to everyone who took part and a special congratulations to Laurie in Hazel class, who won the UKS2 round of the competition.

In addition, the children took part in a British Red Cross CPR and First Aid workshop, where they learned how to respond in a medical emergency – a valuable and empowering life skill.

In Art, the children created their own self-portraits, carefully considering shape, texture and shading. The finished pieces look fantastic and are proudly displayed in classrooms for parents to drop in and see.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our Football and Dance topics in PE this term. Football saw the children building on their team work skills, with all children having a go at playing in different positions and in mixed teams, it was great to see them helping and giving advice to each other, as well as showing respect to their opposing teams during matches. We have learned some Bhangra moves in Dance, which was at first a little daunting to some, but we have had so much fun learning about the background of the dance and some key moves to put together in to short sequences in small groups.

Finally, in Geography, we have completed our Mountains topic and have now moved on to Earthquakes and Volcanoes, where we will be learning about the structure of the Earth and tectonic plates.

Information about our Y6 Activity Week has been sent via the Portal. Please ensure you have read the information regarding the dates, activities and payments. We are sure it will be a memorable week for all involved.

Well done to Hazel and Hawthorn for another brilliant term of hard work and creativity, see you next term!

Little Explorers

This term has taken Little Explorers on an Animal Adventure, starting in the Polar Regions and ending in the African Savannah.

As we have made our journey we discovered the habitats, animals and cultures of the people that inhabit these areas. The children have spent time comparing and discussing the different environments, climates and animals and have loved recreating the many different animals that live in these regions through different craft media.





Alongside our animal adventures, our Nursery children have been working on their fine and grossmotor skills developing these through a series of fun activities.



The Little Explorers Team hope you have a lovely Half Term and we look forward to continuing our adventures in Term 4.

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
	16-20/02/2026	Half Term
Term 4 23.02.26 – 27.03.26	March	
	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
	w/c 09/03/2026	Career and Aspirations Week Mother's Day Gift Room
	17/03/2026	Year 5 Trip to the Houses of Parliament Mad Science Assembly
	24/03/2026	iRock concert for parents 9:00am Choir to sing at Farmor's Spring concert St Mary's 7:00pm
	25/03/2026	Apple Cooking Year 4 In The Net – Down Ampney pm
	27/03/2026	End of term main School finish 2:00pm
Term 5 13.04.26 – 22.05.26	April	
	13/04/2026	Return to School
	15/04/2026	Willow Cooking
	22/04/2026	Birch Cooking Outdoor Learning Year 5 to Lea Woods 8:30am
	26/04/2026	Bug Eco Church Unveiling w/ Fairford Primary Choir, St Mary's
	28/04/2026	Outdoor Learning Year 4 to Lea Woods 8:30am
	29/04/2026	Maple Cooking
	30/04/2026	Outdoor Learning Year 3/4 Lea Woods
	23-28/04/2026	Book Fair
	May	
	04/05/2026	Bank Holiday
	06/05/2026	Maple & Mulberry Cooking
	08/05/2026	Bag2School collection
	13/05/2026	Mulberry Cooking
	w/c 11/05/2026	Year 6 SAT's
	16/05/2026	Summer Fete 12:00pm
	w/c 18/05/2026	Maths Week Year 6 Activity Week
	20/06/2026	Hawthorn and Hazel cooking
	June	
	w/c 01/06/2026	Year 4 MTC - Multiplication tables check
	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

Term 3 Newsletter February 2026

	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
	26/05/2026	Year 1/2 Trip - TBC
	July	
	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 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								
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 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