



Staffing update

This week we said goodbye to Mr Perryman, who, as you know has not been well for the last couple of weeks. We have very much enjoyed having him as part of our team for the short time he has been with us. We also said hello to Mrs Wheeler who has joined the class 1 team and will be working in there each morning, this is due to the rising number of children in class 1 and our dedication to keeping great adult to child ratios. We have advertised Mr Perryman's position and will let you know who will be joining us in class 3 once we recruit, until this appointment is made we are very grateful to Mrs Ford who is providing cover. In addition to this Mr Tew has joined our team as a supply teacher and will also be teaching PE.

Communication with school

Just a little reminder about means of communication at school. If your child is absent please use parentmail, or phone and leave a message on the answer phone each day of absence.

If your child is to be collected by somebody else please email myself and admin@ and phone the school if we have not acknowledged this by 2:30pm.

If you have a question regarding homework or want to share a wow moment from home then please email your child's classteacher using class1@, class2@ or class3@ these email addresses are monitored by the class teachers and Mrs Gray.

If you have a concern about something that has happened at school please contact the school directly rather than any other parents of children who you think might know anything, the best contact for this is me on head@

We will aim to answer all emails within 48 hours, due to our own family commitments these responses might be out of hours but there should be no expectation for a response outside of the school day.

I am also on the school gate at the start or end of each day and appointments can be made to discuss anything in more detail.

Parent whatsapp groups are great to share any information that anyone might have missed or to offer each other any support – if a concern is shared on these groups then please do recommend each other to contact me.

These reminders are meant for clarity and as part of mine and the governors ongoing commitment to staff wellbeing

Christmas Cards

The Christmas Card box is open for business and the children are very keen to play postie! If your child would like to send cards to their friends then please get them to post them in the box in the porch and they will be delivered during the day. If they can write the name and class clearly on the envelope then it makes it easier for the posties to sort. If your child cannot remember the names of their friends or how to spell them then they can bring them into school and copy them from the inclass lists.

Oracy competition

We have once again entered the oracy competition this year. We will be holding the heats in the new year but it would be great if the children could start to think about which topic they would like to speak about. Please see the attached poster. We will be running the competition in the first week of the Spring term.

Young Voices

Please continue to practice the songs and dances with your child at home.

<https://yvmusicroom.com/parentRegisterReferral?code=MzUxNy8xNjk1OTg3Nzgw>

If you would like to order a YV24 Concert video there is currently a discount code '**PREORDER**' please use this link yv24film.co.uk The cost is currently £9.99 (usually £12.99).

A repeat of the information for the next few weeks!

On Tuesday 19th December we are going to the Barn Theatre to watch 'Treasure Island' and then walking to the Salvation Army Hall for a Christmas party. The school will be closed on this day to allow for all staff to attend the theatre and party. We are therefore asking for parents to arrange for their children to be dropped off at the Barn Theatre at 10am and collected from the Abbey Grounds Carpark at 2:45pm. There will not be any before or after school club on this day. If this causes any problems then please speak to me and we will try and find a solution. I am very sad that I will not be able to join the school on this trip as one of my sons is having an operation in Bristol. I have one of the few staff cars with insurance to transport children so our ability to offer transport is severely restricted. **We would be grateful if the £10 payment for this trip could be made ASAP.**

Teacher led clubs - football, choir, construction, science book club will all end on Friday 8th December, this is due to a number of sporting events the following week and the Christmas in the Community event.

There is no after school club for the last week of term Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th or Thursday 21st due to staff training, school trip and early finish times. Again if this causes huge issues please speak to us regarding any support we can offer. Breakfast club will run that week apart from on Tuesday 19th December when we are asking for children to be dropped into Cirencester for 10am.

Wednesday 20th December is our annual Christmas jumper day and our Christmas lunch – you will have been sent a separate email this week requesting you to make choices and payments by **Tuesday 5th December**. If you have any problems with this then please contact Mrs Woodruffe.

Chess club at Meysey Hampton

Meysey Hampton school have kindly opened up their chess club to anyone from Down Ampney in Years 2-6 to join a Chess club that they are hosting which is run by <https://www.uptonchessschool.com/about-us> The club will run on a Tuesday from 3:15-4:15pm at a cost of £4:50 a week and is payable in advance. The club starts on January 16th. If anyone is keen to join please can you let Mrs Woodruffe know by Thursday of this week – places are limited. We will allow children to be collected at 3pm in order to get there for the start of the club.

Swimming and Residential payments.

In order to help you with budgeting for these payments and in order to help us as a school with the cashflow of making deposits and coach bookings we would encourage you to start to make payments towards both swimming and the residential. You will find these in the parentmail shop.

Mosque and cathedral trip – January 15th

All children in class 2 and 3 will be joining children from Ampney Crucis to visit the Mosque in Gloucester before joining many other schools at the Cathedral for the annual Christingle service. Costs of this and timings will be sent out closer to the time.

Key Dates	
1 st December	PTA Santa trail starts
4 th December	KS2 Arctic themed workshop run by the Geographical Assosiation
7 th December	End of teach led clubs for term 2
11 th December	PE leadership skipping

12th December	Boccia after school
19th December	Treasure Island and Christmas party – drop off at Barn Theatre at 10am, collection from Abbey Grounds carpark at 2:30pm
20th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
21st December	Nativity at 1:30pm at the Village Hall – EARLY collection time to be confirmed
22nd December	INSET day
8th January	Term 3 starts
15th January	Mosque and Cathedral Christingle visit
9th February	End of Term 3
19th February	Term 4 starts
11th March	KNEX challenge day KS2 – paid for by PTA
22nd March	End of Term 4
8th April	Term 5 starts
12th April	Swimming starts
13th – 16th May	Y6 SATs
24th May	End of Term 5
3rd June	Term 6 starts
3rd – 14th June	Multiplication Tables Check Y4
10th – 14th June	Phonics Screening Assessments Y1
12th June	Leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral
17th – 21st June	Careers week
22nd June	Small school fundraising event
24th- 26th June	Residential for Class 3 (more details to follow)
6th July	School Fete
10th July	Schoolbeat visit for class 3
11th – 12th July	Deer Park School Induction days
19th July	Last day of term for pupils
22nd July	INSET day