

13<sup>th</sup> September  
2024

Issue No 1

# Newsletter



## MESSAGE FROM MRS MILES

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year where we have many wonderful opportunities planned for the children and families of CPS. A special welcome to those families who are new to our school — I am sure that before long you will feel settled. I look forward to working alongside you as we make our way through the year and ask that if you have any questions, comments or queries, that you come and chat with me at any point throughout the school day. If I am unavailable for any reason, I will happily call you back if you leave your query at the school office. Should you need to discuss something urgently when I am unavailable, please ask to speak to Mrs Baggus our Deputy Head.

Good luck for the year ahead as we start out on our 2024-25 adventure.

Best wishes

Mrs Miles

Head Teacher

### **Looking very smart**

The children have returned to school looking very smart in

their uniforms - this is lovely to see. Thank you so much for your support with this. All belongings including uniform, PE kit, coats, bags, water bottles and lunchboxes should be labelled with your child's name so that, if lost, we can return it.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

The school entrances are closed at 8.50am each day so please ensure that your child has arrived at their assigned entrances by this time so they can enter their classrooms with their peers. Many children find arriving late through the office entrance, even by a couple of minutes, a disruptive start to their day and this can affect their learning in class. Pupils arriving after 8.50am will be recorded with a late mark and after 9.00am this is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Persistent lateness can result in a penalty notice.

Parents/carers must let the school know by telephone on 01285 658550 or e-mail:

[receptionist@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:receptionist@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk) before 09:00 on the first day of absence if their child is absent, with a valid reason as to why they will be absent and when they are expected to return. If your child returns to school later than first expected then please update the office with this information.

## **FSM Holiday Vouchers**

The holiday vouchers are designed to support eligible children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, as well as children who receive universal free school meals, as they are not eligible for this scheme.

Gloucestershire County Council is committed to supporting families with 1 week of vouchers at £15 per child, per week for the October 2024 holiday.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for October 2024 holiday will be open from midday 2 September 2024 until midday on 20 September 2024. We will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers will be distributed to families the week commencing 30 September 2024.

If parents do not receive their vouchers by 7 October 2024, please encourage them to check their spam/junk mailboxes for an email from [selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk](mailto:selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk), as well as ensure their mailbox settings allow junk mail.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by 13 October 2024, so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.**

To find out more about the scheme, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## **Extra-Curricular clubs for autumn term**

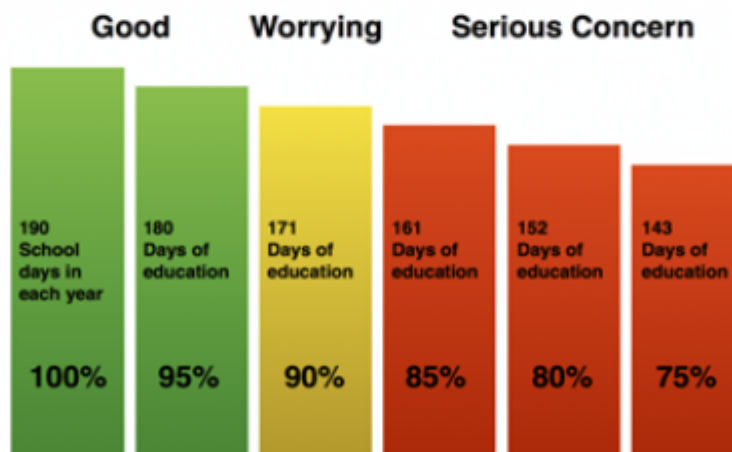
A link to sign up for after-school extra-curricular clubs was emailed to parents on Wednesday:

- Clubs will run from the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> September until week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> December (No clubs in week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> October due to Parents' Evening).
- KS2 (Year 3-6) clubs will run 3.15pm-4.15pm
- KS1 (Years 1-2) clubs will run 3.15pm-4.00pm (No clubs for Reception in Autumn term)
- The form closes on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. You will receive an email after school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September to confirm which club/s your child has a place in.
- We will try to accommodate pupils in their chosen club but it will be on a first response basis.
- All pupils will be released through the pupil entrance door on Victoria Road at the end of their club.

## School attendance – September 2024

At Cirencester Primary School we are totally committed to promoting the welfare and learning of your child through regular school attendance. We know that every day lost to education can have a serious impact on your child's attainment and overall progress in school. If your child is to reach his or her full potential it is important that they attend regularly and are punctual. Please make non-essential appointments out of school hours and try to avoid absences for illness unless completely necessary. Children usually cope fine in school with coughs and colds so please send them in and we can send them home if they are too unwell and not coping with the school day. Please see the guidance entitled 'Is my child too ill for school?' on our school website.

Pupils whose attendance is below 90% are classed as a 'Persistent Absentees' and Gloucestershire County Council are aware of who these pupils are. The school Attendance Officer will contact parents of children whose attendance falls below this percentage, or pupils whose punctuality is a concern, to offer support to raise the attendance of the pupil involved. If the pupil's attendance does not improve to a satisfactory level after this support is offered a more formal process will begin due to the risk of prosecution for poor attendance.



The 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' guidance, released in August 2024, emphasises a 'Support First' ethos, and recognises that *'the barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families... [It] is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances.'*

If you are concerned about your child's attendance, then please contact Mrs C Baggus [ceribaggus@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ceribaggus@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk) (Attendance Champion) or Mrs C Walsh [cwalsh@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:cwalsh@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk) (Family Support Worker) as soon as possible so that barriers to attendance can be understood, and appropriate support can be put in place to support you, your family, and your child to prevent further absences.

### Punctuality

The school entrances are closed at 8.50am each day so please ensure that your child has arrived at their assigned entrances by this time so they can enter their classrooms with their peers. Many children find arriving late through the office entrance, even by a couple of minutes, a disruptive start to their day and this can affect their learning in class. Pupils arriving after 8.50am will be recorded with a late mark and after 9.20am this is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Persistent lateness can result in a penalty notice.

### **Reminder of how to report a pupil absence**

Parents/carers must let the school know by telephone on 01285 658550 or e-mail: [receptionist@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:receptionist@cirencester-pri.gloucs.sch.uk) **before 09:00** on the first day of absence if their child is absent, with a valid reason as to why they will be absent and when they are expected to return. If your child returns to school later than first expected then please update the office with this information.

If a pupil is absent from school and a reason has not been given by the parent/carer by 09:00 the process below is followed. Due to the findings from serious safeguarding case reviews, unexplained absences are likely to result in a welfare check to the pupil's home by the school and potentially even the police.

Office staff to attempt calling the parent/carer by 9.30am



If there is no answer office staff will attempt to call all other contacts listed for pupil



If school staff are unable to make contact with parents/carers by 10.30am a member of school staff will visit the pupil's home to carry out a welfare check.



If the whereabouts of the child has not been determined after a home visit, a member of SLT will call Gloucester Inclusion Service for advice (01452 328761)



If the pupil's location is still unknown then school will contact the local police station on 01452 907200 and highlight any existing safeguarding concerns. Police may then complete a 'safe and well check' for the child.

### **Holidays in term time**

The law (The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006) states that parents/carers do not have a right to take their child(ren) out of school for a holiday in term time. As a school, we follow this law along with guidance from Gloucestershire County Council with regards to holidays in term time.

Holidays in term time will only be approved in exceptional circumstances such as:

- For service personnel and other parents/carers who are prevented from taking holidays outside term time by their employers;
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis.

Holidays requested for the following reasons will not be authorised. Penalty notices are likely to be issued by GCC in these instances:

- The availability of cheap holidays;
- The availability of the desired accommodation;
- Poor weather experienced during school holiday periods;
- An overlap with the beginning or end of term.

If the parent/carer wishes to apply for permission from the Head Teacher, a leave of absence form must be completed well in advance of the proposed dates. Holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively.

**Please read an important attendance letter which will be emailed out to you which details the changes to Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences and the inclusion of a new 'Notice to Improve' system.**

### Dates 2024-25

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	2.50pm	Y1/2 Meet the Teacher 2.50pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	2.50pm	Y5/6 Meet the Teacher
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	2.50pm	Y3/4 Meet the Teacher
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	9am	FOTS meeting
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	9am	FOTS AGM
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September		Whole school nasal flu sprays
Week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> September		Extra-curricular clubs start
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	2pm – 3.15pm	Macmillan coffee morning/parent social
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October		Y1/2 trips to Lea Wood
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October		Y1/2 trips to Lea Wood
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October		Art and science day
Week beginning 21 <sup>st</sup> October		no after-school clubs
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	3.30 -7pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October		School photos
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October		Last day of term
Week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> November		Anti-bullying week
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	9am	Reception phonics talk for parents
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November		Children in Need
Week beginning Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December		Last week of clubs
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December		Pantivity at the Baptist Church KS2 1.30pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December		EYFS production to school 9.30am and to parents 2.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December		EYFS production to parents 9.30am
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Discos in hall: EYFS 2.15pm-3.00pm (classroom), Y1/2 3.30pm-4.15pm, Y3/4 4.15pm-5.15pm, Y5/6 5.15pm-6.15pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas lunch
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>		INSET
** KS1 Christingle, KS2 carol concert TBC		

## General Information and Updates

**Bikes and Scooters** – Please can you remind your child these should not be ridden on the school site.

**Naming school uniform** - We have lots of uniform without names on, we cannot return items if we do not know whose it is. Please can you name (even if it is with a biro), your child's name or initials.

**Sickness** – Please can we remind parents that a child that has had sickness or diarrhoea should not return to school or nursery until 48 hours after the last incident.

**Headlice** – Please check your child/ren's hair regularly for headlice and treat immediately if necessary. Supermarket own brand conditioner and a headlice comb should remove the lice.

**Parent Pay** - A kind reminder to all families that we are a zero-debt policy school, please ensure that your school dinner balances are topped up.

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Macmillan Bake and Buy Sale

We will be having a coffee afternoon/bake sale on Friday 27th September from 2pm.

Please could we ask that children bring in cakes they have made rather than bought. As it would be great for them to bake some cakes at home and it would save on lots of unnecessary plastic waste.

If they would like to wear something green on that day for Macmillan, we would ask for a charity donation of £2.

Thank you,

Mrs Miles

If you would like to support children in school as a reading volunteer please could you pop into the office to let us know what days & times you might be available.



W/E 13.09.24

Biggest improvement in accuracy over the past 2 weeks

Years 1 & 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1. Eduard 2. Grace 3. Gwilym	1. Elliot 2. Hayley 3. Owen	1. Lorenzo 2. Harry D 3. Oscar	1. Dillon 2. Lucy 3. J.J.	1. Blake D 2. Emils 3. Millie
<b>Whole school top 3:</b> 1. Elliot 2. Lorenzo 3. Blake D				

Value Awards

13th September

Class	Values Award
Nursery	Amelia L Elodie
RA	Cleo Eliza
RB	Reign Oliver
1/2A	Aissa William
1/2B	Prince Kyla
1/2C	Hector Eduard
3/4A	Autumn Nathan
3/4B	Casey Dexter
3/4C	Harry D Kayler
5A	Bracken Florence
5B	Emily Dillon
6A	Bethan Gracie
6B	Theo Maysa



**CIRENCESTER PANTRY**  
Love Food, Hate Waste

Cirencester Pantry brings neighbours together to help reduce food waste.

Come and join us for a drink and a chat each week whilst collecting good quality food saved from landfill.

**Watermoor Church Hall every Friday from 3.30pm**

Membership £14 a Month



**LOVE FOOD  
HATE WASTE**

To join our waiting list please scan the QR Code below or for more information email- [cirencesterpantry@gmail.com](mailto:cirencesterpantry@gmail.com)





 Follow us on Facebook 'Cirencester Pantry'

We also run Children and Adult Courses alongside our partners at Roots and Seeds Kitchen Garden in Cirencester





A brand-new history festival is coming to town this October half term

**26 OCTOBER–3 NOVEMBER 2024**

Join us for talks by some of the country's most respected speakers, writers and thinkers in beautiful historic venues around Cirencester. Headliners include:

**JONATHAN DIMBLEBY,  
REV. RICHARD COLES, CAT JARMAN,  
CHARLES SPENCER, MARC MORRIS,  
NATALIE HAYNES,  
JANINA RAMIREZ, RONALD HUTTON  
& MAX HASTINGS**

FULL PROGRAMME & TICKETS ON SALE FROM 6 SEPTEMBER AT [cirencesterhistoryfestival.org](http://cirencesterhistoryfestival.org)




in association with 




**Cirencester  
History Festival**

We've teamed up with Corinium Museum, New Brewery Arts, The Barn Theatre, Octavia's, Waterstones, Cotswold Cookery School, The Library and the National Trust to bring you a full programme of family activities and Halloween fun over October Half Term!

**CRAFTING COOKERY STORYTELLING  
WORKSHOPS TALKS WALKS &  
HALLOWEEN DRESSING UP**

... ALL WITH A HISTORICAL THEME.

SIGN UP TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS @cirenhistoryfest FOR UPDATES



FULL PROGRAMME & TICKETS ON SALE FROM 6 SEPTEMBER AT [cirencesterhistoryfestival.org](http://cirencesterhistoryfestival.org)