

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER NO. 1
Friday 4th September 2026



St Lawrence Church of England Primary School
'Achieving together + Learning for life'



Our Christian Value this term is: 'Thankfulness'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer holiday. It has been lovely to have the children back; our first week has passed very smoothly and we are enjoying hearing about the many activities the children have taken part in during the summer break. We have welcomed our 25 new reception children into school, who have made a brilliant start and seem to be lapping up the learning opportunities they have been introduced to. I offer a warm welcome to all our new families and trust you will soon feel part of our school family.

We pride ourselves on being an 'open door' school meaning we are happy to talk with parents about concerns or issues as soon as they may arise. Quick messages can be given to staff members at the start of the day or via the school office. If you need a longer chat, the end of the school day is probably easier. Feel free to make an appointment via the office or catch your child's teacher at home time.

We have returned to some exciting news for two of our class teachers. Miss Honeyborne and Miss Bird are both expecting babies. Our warmest congratulations to them and their partners. I appreciate that this news also brings uncertainty and change and I will, of course, update you as I navigate the maternity recruitment process.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and the experiences and opportunities it will bring for all.

At the start of the week, I refreshed the children's understanding of our school vision. It is printed below for your own familiarisation, as a school we are guided by this in all we do.

***Achieving together + Learning for life:* Our shared vision is to be a joyful and loving school community; rooted in clear Christian values, where every child participates, celebrates achievement and cares for the people and world around them.**

Gordon Soutar (Head Teacher)

Meeting your child's teacher

Our 'Meet the Teacher' event is on the 30th September. Our teachers will be available in their classrooms for 1 hour between 3:30 and 4:30pm for a 'drop in' meeting. Feel free to come and introduce yourself and have an informal chat with the teacher as we start another school year.

Our first formal parents' evenings of the year will take place on **Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th November**. Bookings for the parents' evening will be available online via the Arbor App nearer the time.

New Parent Welcome Meeting

Mr Soutar & Mrs Shippey would like to invite any new parents (reception or other year groups) to a short welcome meeting on Friday 2nd October at 2:00pm. Please do join us in the hall for a chat and a cuppa! Following this meeting everyone is also welcome to join us for Celebration Worship, which will be at 2:45pm.

Class names

This year's class names are as below:

Year group	Class name	Class Teacher
R	Puffin	Mrs Pavlidou
1/2	Kingfisher	Miss Honeyborne
2/3	Kestrel	Mrs Bailey-Candlish & Mrs Earby (Fri)
4	Heron	Mrs Earby (M-T) & Miss Bird (W-F)
5	Owl	Mrs McConnell
6	Kite	Mrs Stevens (M) & Mrs Howard (T-F)

Travel near school

Wharf Lane is a public highway and as such we do not have permission to fully close the road at any time. We would though ask our own parents not to drive up to the school at drop off and pick up times please. Early drop offs for breakfast club or later pick-ups for afterschool club is permitted but we would ask that all pick-ups from school activity clubs follow the same 'no driving' rule. This is to provide safety for our pupils, particularly when larger numbers of children may be leaving the premises. Please could parents ensure this message is clearly conveyed to any grandparents etc. who may be collecting your child.

PE kit and school uniform

Children will continue to wear their PE kit to school on days when they have a PE lesson. We will endeavour to message parents in good time if changes. On non-PE days, please could you ensure your child is wearing full school uniform including school shoes not trainers.

It is our school policy to only allow simple stud earrings as jewellery worn in school and removed or covered with tape on PE days. If child is unable to do it themselves please can we ask parents to do before school. A wristwatch may be worn but this will need to be removed for PE.

Morning Snack

Morning snack time will take place in the classroom at 10am followed by a lesson and then a playtime at 11am. KS1 children are provided with a snack but if your KS2 child would like a healthy snack please provide them with one. Please remember we are a nut free school.

Y3 Swimming

Swimming lessons for children in Year 3 will commence on the 24th September.

School Photographer – Thursday 12th November

The Love Photography photographer will visit school in November to take individual photos of pupils and a joint photo with siblings already at School. If you would like a group photograph taken with younger pre-school siblings, please come to the school hall at 8.30am.

After School Activity Clubs

After school clubs will be starting week commencing 21st September Explorers is starting from 17th September. Booking is via Arbor more information will follow regarding times and club bookings. No afterschool club will be running on **Wednesday 14th October** due to staff training.

Medication

Any outstanding medication, for example Inhalers, needs to be in school and in-date, school asthma card form will need to be completed. Please refer to email sent on Arbor if you would like a hardcopy please come to the office.

Library Challenge

Lechlade Community Library Children's library Challenge – the challenge closes on **Saturday 12th September**. If you haven't completed and received all your rewards, there's still time! Complete your logbook and pop into the library. Not only will you get rewards, but you will also be entered into a Gloucestershire-wide prize draw with some awesome prizes.

Please note, all clubs will finish at 4pm.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Activity
Thursday 24 th September	Y3 Kestrel Swimming lessons commence
Tuesday 29 th September	Y6 Kite Steam education trip
Tuesday 29 th September	Y5 Coleshill trip
Wednesday 30 th September	3:30-4:30pm Meet the teacher drop ins
Thursday 1 st October	9:10-9.40am Harvest Service in School (Due to limited space we can only accommodate 1 parent per child. On this occasion I am afraid that we will not be able to accommodate pre-school children or additional grandparents etc.)
Friday 2 nd October	New parent Welcome Meeting, 2:00 – 2:45pm
Wednesday 14 th October	No Afterschool club (Staff training)
Thursday 15 th October	Kite Class worship, 9.10am (Y6 parents only)
Tuesday 20 th October	Y2/3 Kestrel Coleshill trip
Thursday 22nd October	Last day of term 1, 3:15pm finish
Friday 23 rd October	Inset Day – staff only in school
Monday 2nd November	First day of term 2
Wednesday 4 th November	Parents' Evening, 3:30-6:00pm
Thursday 5 th November	Parents' Evening, 3:30-6:00pm
Tuesday 10 th November	Nasal Flu Immunisations, Reception – Year 6
Thursday 12 th November	Love photography individual and siblings
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 15 th December	10am Nativity performance for community & grandparents 6pm Nativity performance for parents (R, Y1, Y2)
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas jumper day
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas carol and coffee morning 9-10:30am
Friday 18th December	Last day of term 2. School finishes at 1.30pm
Tuesday 5th January	First day of term 3