



# newsletter

October 2023

*Inspiring and Growing for Fullness of Life*

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Know the past, shape the future.*

What a wonderful start to term, busy, colourful and great fun! The staff and children have been working hard and the work produced has been of a high quality. I am sure that you enjoyed our poetry afternoon and thank you for your lovely comments full of praise. Reading is an absolute priority for child development - they need to read often, be read to daily and be supported to develop a life long love of reading. We are excited to be taking all children from Y1 to Y6 to Cheltenham Literature Festival again this year and being able to purchase wonderfully high quality books for them to read. As the winter night's draw in what can be better than snuggling up and reading them a goodnight story. Enjoy this time at primary school as it doesn't last forever... As we embark on the celebration of black women in history through Black History Month, I thought I would share this wonderful photograph that shows that reading has always been an important job of all of the adults in a family.

*Lisa Norford*

*Headteacher*





# Important Information

## REMINDERS

### ATTENDANCE

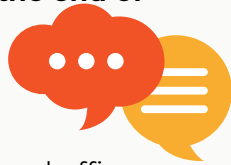
Please ensure your child attends school every day and contact us to let us know if your child will be absent and the reason—this is very useful to track trends in illness.

School gates open daily from 8:25am to 8:40am

Children should go straight to their classroom where staff will be ready to greet them. All children should access the outer class doors rather than the main school doors with the exception of Y5 and Y6 who need to enter school through the door opposite the KS2 toilets and take the near stairs to their classroom.

All pupils will leave school at 3pm and parents may collect them from the playground. Juniors will wait for parents in the area next to the PTA sheds.

**Please say goodbye to your child at the gate if possible, children will then make their own way to class, if you are struggling, need a message passed to the teacher or want something handed over please give it to the adult on the gate. Parents in school need to be signed in via the office. If you would like to talk to a teacher or enter the classroom at the end of the day - please wait for the children to leave first.**



### COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOL

If you need to pass on a message in the morning to your child's teacher please either call the school office or email [admin@st-james-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-james-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)—this is the quickest way to get a response. Mrs Smith and I are also on the gate and are happy to pass on messages, water bottles etc. Please refrain from emailing teachers directly—

Tracy Clarke and Hazel Martindale will be able to help you and ensure a speedy response.

Staff are available to chat with you after school.



# ATTENDANCE!



WEEK 1	97.61%
WEEK 2	97.49%
WEEK 3	98.11%
WEEK 4	97.96%
WEEK 5	98.34%





Class 12 had great fun rising a set of different 'Team Building Challenges!' They were placed in groups and asked to problem solve within the shortest time they could. Bench challenges included, placing themselves in order according to shoe size, alphabetical order, age, bed times! They were not allowed to touch the floor as they ordered themselves - there was some very good negotiating that took place 😊

They then went on to complete 'Circle Sit' whereby they had to work together and trust one another to successfully create a seated circle without a chair in sight!

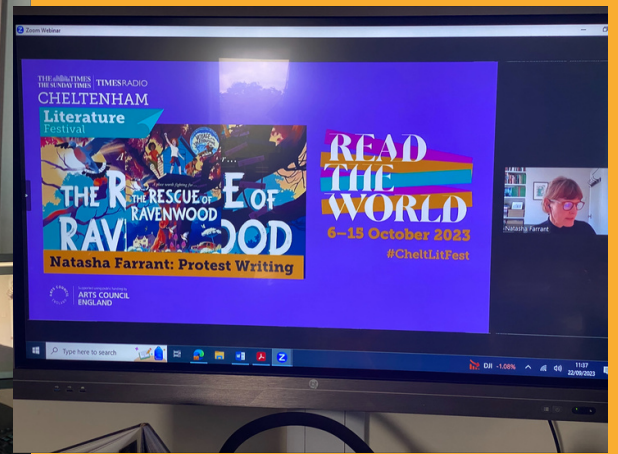
Well done Class 12 - some brilliant collaboration and communication skills were seen!



Year 6 Writers' workshop with best selling children's author Nastasha Farrant- super. We had to imagine of favourite place and write about it then take on another persona and write from that perspective. Eg how we love a special beach and then how a seagull might write about same place with a view to it coming under threat and how we might save it.

First draft has begun, and we will develop this story over the next few weeks.

Thank you for helping to support this with your contribution



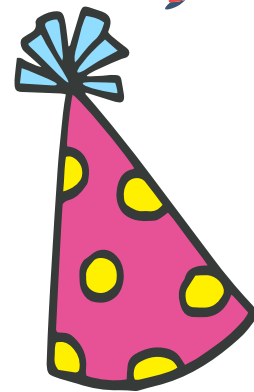
# FOCUS ON CLUBS

Friendzone Club Year 4's – term 1

**FRIENDS ARE THE  
PEOPLE WHO MAKE  
YOU SMILE BRIGHTER,  
LAUGH LOUDER  
AND LIVE BETTER.**



Building friendships, laughing, dancing, creating, talking and just having fun!



*Year 4  
Friendship  
Club*



# Safe Parking

Thank you to those of you that are walking, scooting and cycling to school. It really helps cut down pollution levels, increases our pupils activity rates and keeps our school site and the surrounding roads safe.

Sadly, we have already had communication from local residents and the Merestones Road Association regarding a small number of cars parked on double yellow lines.

Please be mindful and ensure that where and how you park ensures the safety of our community.

This week it has been reported that 6 cars on Billings way and 15 cars on Merestones Drive have parked on double yellow lines.

Please park safely and legally at all times.

Parking enforcement officers will be visiting our site over the next few weeks.

Please note that if you wish to report any parking issues the details are listed below.

## Complaints about Parking

### Complaints about Penalty Charge Notices

We cannot respond to complaints regarding Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) because there is a legally prescribed appeals process already in place. The established legal procedure for contesting parking fines is set out on the back of each PCN and on our website, at the following link : [PCN appeals](#).

### Reports of parked vehicles which are causing an obstruction or which are causing a hazard to other road users / pedestrians

These should be directed to the police. They can be contacted on the non emergency number 101. This is the case even when parking restrictions are in effect.

### Reports of parked vehicles which are in contravention of parking restrictions (i.e. parking on a double or single yellow line, or parking for longer than is permitted in a limited waiting area)

These should be directed to the council's Parking team. They can be contacted by email at [parking@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:parking@gloucestershire.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01452 425610 (please wait until all 5 options have been given as the line will then connect you to a member of the team). Please note that this is not an emergency service, and a civil enforcement officer will not necessarily be available to attend the site the same day as the contravention.



# Parents in Partnership newsletter!

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/families-in-partnership-newsletters/families-in-partnership-newsletter-october-2023/?pageNumber=1>

[Home](#) / [Education and learning](#) / [Families in Partnership newsletters](#) / **Families in partnership newsletter October 2023**

## Families in partnership newsletter October 2023



**Welcome to the Families In Partnership newsletter**  
In October's newsletter, we are sharing the latest news, updates and developments for families in the local area. This includes a 'you said and what we are doing' response to feedback received on SEN home to school transport.

03.10.2023



**Vision screening for electively home educated children in Gloucestershire.**  
In Gloucestershire all children aged 4-5 years old are eligible for a free vision screening test provided by the NHS school nursing service.

03.10.2023



**SENDIASS support through the Children and Family Centres**  
The SENDIASS service is working with the Children and Family Centres in Stroud and Forest of Dean to support families with information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

03.10.2023

There are lots of resources out there to support parents. Please follow the link above





# Should I keep my child off school?



## Yes

### Until..

<b>Chickenpox</b>	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
<b>Diarrhoea and Vomiting</b>	48 hours after their last episode
<b>Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)</b>	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
<b>Impetigo</b>	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
<b>Measles</b>	4 days after the rash first appeared
<b>Mumps</b>	5 days after the swelling started
<b>Scabies</b>	they've had their first treatment
<b>Scarlet Fever</b>	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
<b>Whooping Cough</b>	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

<b>Hand, foot and mouth</b>	<b>Glandular fever</b>
<b>Head lice</b>	<b>Tonsillitis</b>
<b>Threadworms</b>	<b>Slapped cheek</b>



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

## Local Governing Board

### What do school governors do?

As part of the governing board, governors play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give our children the best education possible. Schools with strong governing boards are better equipped to make important decisions that affect the education they provide for their pupils.

School governors have three core functions:

- Planning the strategic direction of the school
- Overseeing financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account

The school headteacher and senior leaders are experts in what they do and in the operational running of a school. Governors are able to support strategic decision making. A strong and diverse board means that strategic decisions can be properly considered, leading to improve outcomes both financially and for children's education.

It's important that boards are diverse so that there isn't a danger of group-think and that decisions are made robustly with input from people with a variety of lived experiences – as well as varied skills. If you're interested in becoming part of the governing board then do get in touch with Andy Goddard (Chair of Governors).

### Appointment of new Headteacher

One of the roles of the governing board is to support the appointment of a new headteacher. On behalf of the governing board, I am delighted to announce that I have asked Caryn Smith to become the new headteacher at St. James' Church of England Primary School. Caryn is an experienced school leader who is passionate about all that we do at St. James'.

As a school we are proud to have a skilled, caring and dedicated team of staff who provide the very best opportunities for your children. I am confident that Caryn will bring her passion for education and love of St. James' to her new role, leading the school to continue to deliver the best education and school experience for your children.

### What were the key issues discussed during the last Governor meeting?

The governors met during October and discussed a number of issues. A key focus of the initial meeting of the academic year is the approval of various school policies (all of which can be found on the school website). We received training on safeguarding of children which is an annual requirement for governors and all school staff to ensure we are best able to support children in the school. We also received a report from the headteacher on key issues including a review of progress against the school development plan. Governors have the opportunity to ask questions and provide challenge. Key issues discussed included the approach to phonics in early years, pupil attendance and also the importance of reading. It is so important that all children have the opportunity to read regularly at both school and at home.

Finally we welcomed two new governors. Rosie Amess joins us as a foundation governor now that Reverend Nick has left for Tewkesbury Cathedral. Jill Arnold also joins us as a co-opted governor, coming with huge experience in the educational sector.

