

NEWSLETTER 4

20th October 2025

VALUE OF THE TERM – RESPECT

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John's Gospel, Chapter 13 verses 34 & 35



Dear Parents and Friends,

Harvest Thanksgiving



It was great to see the church packed on Tuesday. Adults and children were in good voice, and my thanks go to the church folk for opening up for the decorations and the heating (!) which made the place very welcoming. Thanks also go to Rev. Tim Hastie-Smith, for leading us. Thank you, parents and friends for your generous donations, which were collected from the school on Tuesday morning. Hidden in the van are another 15 or so boxes and bags full of food which will be used by Cirencester Food Bank to help others less fortunate.

Well done Oak class for leading us in the church. Did you know – Year 6 children also take turns lighting the candle in our Whole-School Worship on Mondays! As soon as I can sort the hall technology out, there will be extra roles for more children too.



Autumn Days

Willow Class have been hard at work creating seasonal masterpieces – paper 3D sculptures and Leaf-Wreaths in glorious autumnal colours.



Songs Of Praise Top 50 School Songs!

All things may be bright and beautiful, but only one school assembly hymn can be the nation's favourite – and the matter will be put to a public vote...

Hopefully everyone remembers their primary school as a 'singing school' Perhaps you have a favourite song from that time? The BBC is conducting a public vote – and you can vote here - [BBC One - Songs of Praise - The Big School Assembly Singalong](#)

Pumpkin – Guess the weight!

The Friends have installed a pumpkin in the entrance hall and if you can guess its weight (or are the closest to it) – you'll win a £10 Lego

voucher! £1 per entry. We will take it out for your perusal next week.

"Wonderful Things"

(That's a quote. A House Point to the first child who can tell me who said it!)

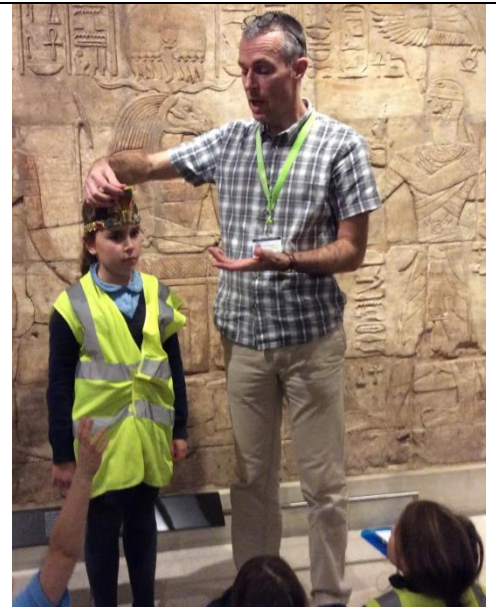
Mrs McKay writes: "On Friday, Chestnut Class embarked on a fantastic adventure, visiting two of Oxford's museums. First stop was the wonderful Story Museum, where we were enthralled and entertained by storytelling in the Whispering Woods, before doing activities in the Dragon area of the museum. Next, we explored the Enchanted Library, which led us through the wardrobe into Narnia, and into the topsy-turvy Wonderland, of Alice's adventures, amongst other magical places. The children were also treated to a creative session of how to begin stories, in readiness for writing our own portal stories, after half term.



After a walk through the city centre, we arrived at The Ashmolean for the Egypt Detectives session. Here, the children went on a treasure hunt to find a variety of artefacts, such as make up and tools, before learning about Pharaoh Taharqa's 2700-year-old tomb, which resides in the museum. We learnt about the king and how his tomb came to Oxford, as well as reading the pictures which adorn the outside. One of the highlights of the museum, I think, was handling artefacts from 3000-4000 years ago!

The children behaved impeccably all day, and the adults involved are incredibly proud of them. Thank you to Lizzie and Andrew, two of our governors, who joined Mrs Chadwick, Mrs Paxford and myself. I think it is safe to say that a brilliant day was had by all!"

Olivia liked learning about how the history of Ancient Egypt was discovered. Humphery learnt a lot about Egyptian Gods. Nancy really enjoyed the trip. Felix thought the coach ride was fun! Tilly thought the Story Museum was the best place she'd ever been to. Mrs Chadwick said "One of the nicest trips I've ever been on!"



School Wall

Children have been reminded that the wall in front of the school is not safe for climbing on. Can parents please help to remind children? Thank you.



Healthy Eating Try dipping raw vegetables in home-made guacamole. Avocados are great for you because they're low in saturated fat.

What you'll need: Two large, ripe avocados, 3 cloves of crushed garlic, 1/2 finely chopped onion, Juice of a lemon. Cut each avocado in half, remove the stone. Scoop the flesh out and mash with a fork. Add the garlic, onion and juice, mix and season with pepper. If you have a great idea to add, please let me know - head@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk

Great Grapes!

Could I remind parents and carers that grapes and large blueberries need to be halved if your children are bringing them in for snack or lunch. As a potential choking hazard, we need to be extra vigilant and it's not always convenient for an adult to leave the classroom in search of a sharp knife!

Good Readers are made on the laps of their parents!

As a staff we strongly believe that encounters with good quality fiction helps children grow. Stories feed the imagination. Rich vocabulary helps children to develop their understanding of the world, and in turn helps them to express themselves clearly. Ambitious sentence structures support their development as writers. If you haven't read with your child for a while – even (and especially) the older children -please can I encourage you to return to doing so?

Attendance

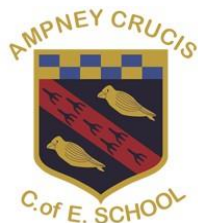
Increasingly I am receiving requests for authorised absence that fall short of the 'exceptional circumstances' threshold, which Head Teachers define as "rare, significant, unavoidable and short". Whilst we all understand that illnesses cannot be avoided, it is our expectation that if a child were well, 100% attendance would be possible.



Making a point!

Chestnut Class each constructed a side of a pyramid and illustrated it with a representation of power and wealth in Ancient Egypt. One individual (usually the Pharaoh) seemed to have it all. Scribes, military leaders and priests came next.

There were more farmers and numerous slaves, who had no wealth and no power at all!



Term 2 – Autumn 2025

Important Dates

Many of the remaining events for the calendar year have been finalised. Why not print them out and put them on the fridge?

The school year dates can be found on our website – <https://www.ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk/>.

Monday 20 th October	Tempest Photography – individuals and sibling groups	Smart please – bring a hair brush!
Monday 20 th October	Parents Evening	Have you booked yet?
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parent's Evening	Have you booked yet?
NEW Thursday 23rd October	Lisa The Storyteller to visit	Maple and Willow classes
NEW Friday 24th October	PJ day – fund-raising for the Friends of AC. Cake sale Pumpkin competition results.	Don't forget to bring your pennies!
NEW Multiple Staff out from Willow	Attending a course	
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st Oct	HALF TERM	Enjoy the break!
Monday 3 rd November	First day of Term 2	It's a Pupil Day, as normal
NEW Monday 3rd November 9:30	Violin Concert for Willow parents	Hope you can make it!
Tuesday 4 th Nov 9:30 – 11:30	Open Morning – PLEASE BOOK	Spread the word! Can you help?
Thursday 6 th Nov 9:30 – 11:30	Open Morning – PLEASE BOOK	Spread the word! Can you help?
Tuesday 11 th November	Willow Class Trip – Bristol Aerospace - ALSO Governors Meeting	You should have the letter already.
NEW Tuesday 11th November	Armistice Day	Head Girl and Head Boy to represent the school at a local war memorial
Wednesday 19th Nov – Weds 26th	BOOK FAIR on site	Perfect timing for Christmas!
Monday 24 th Nov 1:30 – 2:45	Open Afternoon– PLEASE BOOK	Spread the word! Can you help?
Thursday 27 th November	Recorder Concert from Chestnut	Time to be confirm (morning)
Thursday 27 th November 5:30 p.m.	Christingle Service	Holy Rood Church, Ampney Crucis
Friday 28 th November	IN Service Training (INSET)	No school for children – enjoy the day off!
Monday 1 st December	IN Service Training (INSET)	Make the most of the long weekend!
NEW Tuesday 9th December 1:30 p.m. AND Thursday 11th December 3:30	Infant Nativity "Bethlehem Bake Off"	More information to follow
NEW Friday 12th December	Christmas Disco	More information to follow
NEW Monday 15th December	Community Carols	More information to follow
NEW Tuesday 16th December	Whole School Panto	More information to follow
NEW Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Carol Concert	9:45am Spread the word, all invited.
NEW Thursday 18th December	Christmas lunch for all Christmas parties too!	More information to follow
NEW 19th December	Carols around the tree	An in-school event, children only (sorry!)
NEW Friday 19th December	Last day of Term 2	Finishing at 1:30 p.m.