



NEWSLETTER 7

5th December 2025

VALUE OF THE TERM – RESPECT

"It's not only what you say but also how you say it."



Dear Parents and Friends,

Christingle

Many families chose to join us at Holy Rood Church for our annual Christingle Service. Jackie Colburn took us through the meanings of the different parts of the Christingle (meaning "Christ-light") – orange, ribbon, sticks, fruits/sweets and candle. The candles were lit, the lights turned off and we sang. Thank you to the Year 5's who led us in prayer (Year 6 are leading our Christmas Carol Service), the church for hosting us, the staff, families and children for being there.



Recorder Recital

Parents were also on site for the final Whole Class Tuition course in playing the recorder. The children played many tunes, from a tune with one note (and rests) to tunes with different parts for Year 3 and Year 4. The class did really well and were rewarded with many rounds of applause.



Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree

How lovely are your branches! Thank you to Mrs Ponting for donating a Christmas rainbow tree for our Maple class and for our real tree, now in the lobby donated by the T Barn - where Eloise (Seph and Ralph's' Mum) sells lovely Christmas Trees. They are open 12-4pm during the week and 1-4pm at weekends. Church Farm, Barnsley, GL7 5EF – opposite the pub. @thebarn

Credit where Credit's Due

A HUGE thank you to the Friends committee and ALL those who have raised funds for the school. All work hard to ensure that the children benefit. Recent expenditure has included significant contributions towards the cost of class trips. Without this help school would be asking families for far more, so we all have reasons to be grateful – and to play our parts in their fund-raising efforts.

New Member of Staff

I'm pleased to confirm that, following an observed session with children and interview with Miss Jackson, Governor Mrs Roughton and myself, Miss Duncan – an experienced Teaching Assistant - has been appointed to join the school from January onwards. The team look forward to having an extra set of eyes and hands to share the workload.

Traffic delays

We do appreciate parents planning ahead to avoid lateness to school. I thought you'd like to know we temporarily moved the close of Registration a little later, to account for the roadworks on the London Road, when they were there.

Reading Allowed!

We took an amazing £255.81 at the Book Fair. Thank you for your custom. Rewards associated with the sale of books, will be used to purchase additional books for school.

The Write Stuff!

Our Writing Ambassadors have launched a competition across the school where children are asked to write a story of 500 words or less, about anything they like! The deadline is Monday 15th December. Children entering can be assured of a mystery 'something' by way of a reward. There are also prizes for each class. The ambassadors themselves will be the judges, so sharpen those pencils, put on your thinking caps and 'entertain' our judges!

INSET – What do they do all day?

Our School Development Plan details areas where we have identified the need for school improvement. In any school an SDP is usually informed by Ofsted's priorities, national changes in education, external test scores and self-assessment. During the two days, Mrs McKay lead on aspects of English we wish to strengthen, Miss Jackson led on SEN, remote training took place on developing spirituality, Mr Pugh lead on Problem Solving and I led on Assessment and (separately) the safe and ethical use of AI to support teaching. What an amazing team you have here! Mrs Balloch was able to join us on Friday, which was useful for us all. I hope your long weekend was also useful for recharging batteries, ready for the remainder of the Autumn Term.

Other News

Things are moving forward on the 'Playground Markings' project, we have a new sound system in the hall, courtesy of parent Mr Petrov, and hopefully we'll have a new fibre connection to the internet by Christmas!

FREE!

Could anyone make use of the two wooden pallets in front of the school (one in questionable condition?) Please help yourself as free to takers.

December – Autumn 2025

Important Dates

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

Friday 12 th December	Christmas Disco	As information already sent out on School Spider
Tuesday 16 th December	Whole School Panto	As information already sent out on School Spider
Wednesday 17 th December 9:45am	Christmas Carol Service	Spread the word, all invited
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas lunch for all Christmas parties too!	As information already sent out on School Spider
Friday 19 th December	Carols around the tree	An in-school event, children only (sorry!)
Friday 19 th December	Last day of Term 2	Finishing at 1:30 p.m.