



NEWSLETTER 8

12th December 2025

VALUE OF THE TERM – RESPECT

"When we treat people merely as they are, they will remain as they are. When we treat them as if they were what they should be, they will become what they should be." Thomas S. Monson



Dear Parents and Friends,

Football Focus



Edward writes "On Monday a team of Year 5 and Y6 children from Oak class went to the Football Area in Cirencester to play matches against 2 other schools – Down Ampney and Lechlade. Although we ended up with the 'Bronze Medal' position, I really enjoyed it. One memorable moment is when Wynn was in goal and he did a spectacular dive to save a goal, but unfortunately the ball went under his dive!" Mr Pugh was really please with the team's work and their attitude to the other schools.

Nativity – WOW!

Parents and friends were entertained and enthralled by a modern retelling of the Christ-story. Along with familiar characters, celebs and celestials shared the stage with a TV studio as Willow and Maple Classes presented "Bethlehem Bake-Off". The children were in good voice, words and movements learned, props and costumes at the ready. Thank you so much, children, for filling us all with the spirit of Christmas. And thank you to the staff too, for the extra hours of work which I know was undertaken in the preparation of this festive treat.

If you ever wondered about the social media 'ban' on videos, here's the reason –

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1DbZGxAK71/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Please join us for traditional carols at the Christmas Carol Service, Holy Rood Church, on Wednesday 17th at 9:45 a.m.



Hedgehog Boxes, Bird Boxes and Planters

A team at The Churn Project's "Men's Shed" (based in Cirencester) have built for the school a variety of sturdy wooden structures which are destined for the Forest School area, at the rear of the school. Helping the local community is an important part of any school's work and we were delighted to be able to commission these items which help us, help the environment and help them too.

Goodbye and Thank You

We were sad to say goodbye to Miss Gardiner this week. Miss Gardiner had been of great help to the team and we wish her every good wish for future work in education.

Playground



This week saw a major upgrade to our playground! We have a new roadway (with safety messages!) two hopscotch patterns, a netball court, a multiplication square, a target for e.g. beanbag throwing and an alphabet snake. The children were fascinated by the installation process itself, which saw the thermoplastic playground markings melted on to the tarmac. The coloured plastic should ensure the designs last for many, many years. We have used the funds generously provided by our FRIENDS (for the two hop-scotch patterns and the two zebra crossings) and funds from other sources, to enrich playtimes and provide a vibrant space for outdoor play. THANK YOU to everyone who helped this project come together in a timely way.



Oracy project

With the announcement of the new National Curriculum last month, and the increasing importance of oracy for children, we are pleased to once again promote the “Look Who’s Talking” project. Full details are in the poster below.

Chocolate

As part of our science and DT work this term oak class have made their own chocolate bars. All the children researched the different types of chocolate bars available, tasted different ones (yum!) and designed and made their own chocolate bars. We also researched, designed and created our own wrappers.



We are a nut free school

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

First aid staff in the school are trained to use the Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens. We cannot have nuts in school in any form. So please can we ask that you have no nut products in the lunch boxes or brought into the school as treats.

For example:

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Peanut butter cakes
- Some Asian food, including satay
- Sauces that contain nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely.

We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check, and we know that you recognise the importance of it. We do have to insist we are a nut free school. I know if this was your child you would expect that we all help, especially as it is a life-threatening condition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Christmas Countdown

A quick word about school uniform and the Christmas period. Unless detailed differently below, school uniform is expected. The exceptions are...

- On Monday 15th we are expecting Christmas Jumpers for the 20 or so children making up this year's school choir (Community Carols).
- On Wednesday 17th children can **ADD** to their school uniform an item of Christmas fun – a sprig of holly or a small bit of tinsel, for example – for the Carol Service at the church. 09:45 a.m.
- On Thursday 18th, the day of our Christmas lunches and parties, it's **Christmas Jumpers for All**.
- On Friday 19th children, again, can wear a Christmas jumper and we finish after registration at 1:30.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING! 2026

An Oracy Competition for Gloucestershire's Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

WHAT IS ORACY AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language.

By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

HOW WILL THE COMPETITION WORK?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools! The grand final will be on 17.04.26, which you can come to, if your child is a representative for our locality.

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoint slide shows please.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM AT HOME?

- ★ First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It really can be anything at all!
- ★ They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- ★ Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



December – Autumn 2025

Important Dates

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

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 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.
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