

Friday 15th September 2023

Our Christian Value for the term: **Courage**

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. I hope you all had fantastic summer holidays. I have enjoyed hearing about what the children have been up to - it sounds like so many of them have enjoyed holidays, camping trips, days out and fun at home with friends and family.

We have welcomed Mrs Hamilton into school as our new Lime class teacher and Head of Early Years and we also welcome Mrs Doherty who has joined us as a teaching assistant. Our new Reception children have really settled in well and they have been having lots of fun learning and playing with their friends and getting to know our school. I am so impressed at how well they come into the hall to eat their lunches, sitting together and chatting away!

We have introduced a new phonics scheme this year. We no longer use Read Write Inc and we have switched to Essential Letters and Sounds. Mrs Hamilton and the teachers have held an online phonics meeting for parents - if you were unable to attend and you would like more information about the new phonics scheme, we will be holding some reading breakfasts later in the term when we can show you some of the resources.

We will be saying goodbye to Mr Knight at the end of the month. Mr Knight has been a huge part of St. Mary's School for many years and we would like to thank him for everything he has done for the children over the years. We wish him every success.

Please can parents ensure that children who are riding bikes to school are encouraged to show consideration to pedestrians. Some children are cycling on the pavements and are not behaving safely. Also, I would ask parents who are dropping off at school to show consideration to other road users. Please do not stop in the middle of the road and hold up other traffic as we get complaints from residents. Thank you.

Can I remind parents that all children need wellies and a coat in school. The weather is slightly unpredictable at the moment, but we still like to keep them out on the field.

We would like to congratulate Miss Browning who is expecting a baby! Miss Browning anticipates starting her maternity leave at Christmas and I will be recruiting her replacement in the coming weeks. I understand that parents will naturally be worried when children have a change of teacher in the middle of the year, but please be assured we will do everything possible to make it a smooth transition.

Mrs J Woolley, Head Teacher.

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## Flu (nasal) immunisation

The Immunisation team will be in school for 3 days from Wednesday 25th October to Friday 27th October. This programme is open to every child in our school.

Please take time to read through the information sent home and return the Vaccination Consent Form with the chosen consent box ticked for **Yes you do give consent** or the **No you do not give consent**. please remember to sign the form.

We do require all parents to complete the form with their chosen yes or no box ticked and **return to the class teacher by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.**

If your child's has not brought home a letter please collect a letter from the school office.

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## Swimming lessons

Swimming lessons will now be on Wednesday afternoons, taking place at Malmesbury Leisure Centre. The voluntary contribution for swimming is £4.75 per week.

Elm class children will start swimming lessons on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September **for 6 sessions as follows: 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October.**

Swimming is part of the National Curriculum for PE which says each child should be able to swim at least 25 metres by the end of Key Stage 2.

## Dates for your diary

Ash class lessons will start Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - 13<sup>th</sup> December 6 weeks  
Maple class lessons will start on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – 21<sup>st</sup> February 6 weeks  
Oak class lessons will start on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> April 6 weeks  
Rown class lessons will start on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> June 6 weeks

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## Secondary School Transfer Year 6

You should now have received your child's Secondary School Transfer Letter, please be aware that applications must be made no later than the closing date of **31st October 2023**. This is extremely important as any applications received after this date may not be considered until after all the first round of allocations have been made.

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## School Photos

Children will be having their individual school individual pupil photos on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

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## Parents Evening

We will be holding parents evenings over two evening. This is an opportunity to come and meet your child's class teacher, you will also get a chance to view your child's books in their classroom.

- **Parents evening will be on Wednesday 24th October 3.30pm - 6pm**
- **Parents evening will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 4.00pm - 7.00pm**

Information on how to book a slot will be out shortly.

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## Milk

Reception Children whose parents/carers have registered them for Free school milk (under 5's), are receiving milk in class at the moment, it is not an automatic registration. If you would like to take advantage of the free school milk scheme (for under 5's), please register your child at [www.CoolMilk.co.uk](http://www.CoolMilk.co.uk).

As your children turn five this will become chargeable and an invoice will be sent to the parent/carer from Coolmilk.

If you do not want your child to receive milk in school, the parent/carer will need to cancel it. This should be done via Coolmilk. We are unable to do this in the school office. For further information please look at the coolmilk website or contact the school office.

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## Free school Meals (FSM)

If your child is not receiving free school meals at the moment and you think you may be eligible – apply now!

Please do not reapply if you are already receiving FSM.

All children in KS1 receive Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) which you do not have to apply for. However, it is worth checking if your child is eligible for FSM. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, we will received extra funding if your child is eligible there is a deadline for school funding so please apply now, you will need your National Insurance number to hand and your childs date of birth.

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FSM continued..

Parents can apply for free school meals via the following link-  
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

We receive extra funding for each eligible child registered. So even if you don't want your child to have school lunches, you still need to apply to make sure our school receives all the government funding to which it is entitled – helping us provide your child with the best education and support. If you need any help please contact the school office.



Apply online for  
**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website  
[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

Your child's school receives extra funding for each eligible child registered.

If you do not have internet access speak to your child's school.

You may also be able to get extra support for free milk, reduced contributions for school trips and uniform grants – check with your school.

You could save up to **£437** per year

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

## EYFS, KS1 & KS2 information and class newsletters

Please remember to look on our website for information regarding your child's class/year group - there is a lot of information provided - more information will be uploaded on Monday.

**Please follow the link and choose your child's phase:**

<https://www.stmarystetbury.com/life-at-st-marys/>

## Club News

Please register on-line via the parent evening website <https://stmarystetbury.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/>

KS2 clubs out now

KS1 clubs information to follow in the coming weeks

Please note - We will update parents via email as and when new clubs become available to book notice will be given.

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## French club

*Bonjour tout le monde ! We are excited about starting French club. Year 1 & Year 2 club will be on Tuesdays from 3.10 - 3.50pm. Children will learn French through targeted games and fun activities. We aim to boost their confidence in the spoken language and give them a headstart on their language learning journey. The cost is £6/lesson but they are welcome to try out the first lesson without having to commit to the full term. Please email [admin@clubs4kids.com](mailto:admin@clubs4kids.com) or a booking form.*

KS1 (Yr1/2) - French club with Madame starting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September

**FRENCH CLUBS**  
learn a language whilst having fun!

FRENCH CLUBS TO INSPIRE CHILDREN'S LOVE OF LANGUAGES AND BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE THROUGH STORY-TELLING, GAMES, SONGS, COOKING, CRAFT & FUN ACTIVITIES

**ST MARYS TETBURY**  
**YEAR 1 & 2 FRENCH CLUB**  
**TUESDAYS**  
**3.10PM - 3.50PM**  
**£6**

Term time school clubs - packed full of fun activities!

Club de Cuisine - learn to cook real French dishes - weekly zoom lessons

Holiday Clubs - spend the day immersed in French with cooking, craft, sport & drama

Zoom French clubs - for those who prefer to continue learning from home

Book a taster session or for more information about our weekly zoom clubs contact Anna-Kate on 07375306881 [admin@clubs4kids.com](mailto:admin@clubs4kids.com)

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([ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk))

We hope you have all had lovely summer holidays and that the return to school has gone well.

Welcome to all our new reception children and their families. It was lovely meeting some of you at our coffee morning and seeing the smiling faces of children having their pictures taken in our 'Class of 2023' frame. We look forward to continuing to getting to know you.

As parents, the PTFA are easing ourselves back into school life, before starting to arrange lots of exciting fundraising events. Please see below for details on our first meeting of this school year, where you can come and share your ideas, and keep an eye out for further details on what's to come this year. We are hoping to run our popular school discos and fayres again this year along with other fun-filled events.

Supporting St. Mary's PTFA is a great way to be involved with your children's school and to meet other parents. We are a friendly committee with a fantastic group of helpers. The money we raise will provide a lot of great resources and fun experiences for all of our children, improving and enriching their school journey.

Please contact us if you have any questions, would like to know more or feel you are able to help out.

St. Mary's PTFA

([ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk))

(Facebook: @wearestmarys)

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## St. Mary's PTFA AGM

All parents, guardians, friends and supporters of St. Mary's Primary School community are welcome to attend the PTFA AGM on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7:30pm in the school hall.

This is our first official meeting of the year, where we will be discussing fundraising ideas for the current school year, as well as providing an update on last year, finances and expenditure.

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Our AGM is a great opportunity to meet your PTFA committee and our helpers, for us all to share ideas on how we can best support and provide for our wonderful school.

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## Ice Cream Fridays are back!!

We will be selling ice creams after school every Friday in front of main reception.

- Cones, rocket lollies and Fabs are £1.
- Mini milks are 50p.
- We accept cash or card.
- We start selling at 3pm so please consider buying before you collect your child/ children.

If you are ever able to help sell ice-cream's, please contact us on [ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk), it only takes half an hour of your time.

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## Easyfundraising.com

Easyfundraising is another easy way to support your child's school at no cost to you!

When you are doing any online shopping, click via Easyfundraising.com to support St Mary's school without it costing you a penny.

Do your online shopping via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarystetbury/> and the retailer pays a percentage of your total without any charge to you.

**Friends and family can also use Easyfundraising as an easy way to support your children's school.**

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## Donate my school

You, your family and friends can continue to support St Mary’s School Parents, Teachers & Friends Association by making donations here: <https://donatemyschool.com/st-mary's-ptfa-tetbury-2345>

## Textile Recycler

The bin is located in the carpark by the Yr3/4 playground. All funds raised by St. Mary's PTFA go directly towards benefiting each and every child that attends our school.

Please let the school office know if you find the bin full.






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## Community



You are invited to

# CELEBRATE

Returning this Autumn to St Mary's School Hall ... You are invited to



## CELEBRATE

For all the family, on Sunday afternoons (see dates below).  
St Mary's School Hall, 4.00-5.30pm

Explore best-loved Bible stories and ask questions, big and little.  
Enjoy time together with crafts, chatting,  
sharing iSingPOP songs and prayers.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult please.

**Celebrate** is run by our churches in Tetbury:  
St Marys', Christ Church,  
Five Valleys Christian Fellowship & St Michael's Catholic Church.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Celebrate** this autumn:  
Sunday 24th September &  
Sunday 22nd October

Then at St Marys' Church for  
Christingle:  
Sunday 10th December

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## Atlas Camp

Our October camps are just around the corner! Atlas Camps will be running their award-winning holiday clubs this half term with a selection of places still available to book!

Rating Outstanding by Ofsted, Atlas Camps specialise in multi-activity clubs for children ages 4-14.

With a focus on fun, activities on offer span everything from arts and crafts to sports and active play, all in a safe, enjoyable environment designed to cater for all.

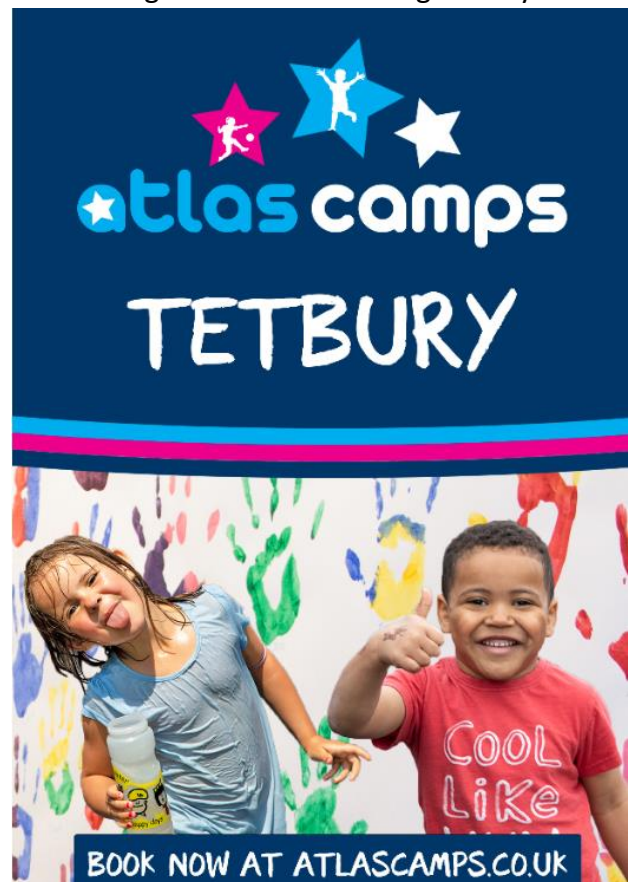
Highlights include:

- Ofsted rated 'outstanding'
- Childcare vouchers accepted from a variety of providers
- Early drop-off/ late pick-up options
- Sibling discount available

For further information, please watch this video

<https://atascamps.co.uk/promo/generic-16x9.mp4> or check out the poster.

Head to the Atlas Camps website at [www.atascamps.co.uk](http://www.atascamps.co.uk) to book.



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## Community



COME & PLAY  
RUGBY!!

AGES 2-15  
BOYS & GIRLS

**Tetbury**  
**Minis & Youth Rugby**

**SEASON STARTS: 3 SEPTEMBER**

Sessions every Sunday morning: 10:30am to 12pm  
Sir William Romney School, Tetbury, Glos, GL8 8AE  
2x free intro sessions  
Beginners to experienced players, all welcome

[www.tetburyrfc.com](http://www.tetburyrfc.com)    [clubsecretary.tetburyrfc@gmail.com](mailto:clubsecretary.tetburyrfc@gmail.com)

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## Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Here is the [link](#) to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Sep/Oct 2023](#) for you to **share with your parents**.

Our **September/October 2023** issue is loaded with useful information for local parents including:

- Free Halloween Activity Pack
- Making the most of Parents' Evenings
- Best new adventure books for kids
- How can AI support dyslexia?
- Celebrating different learning styles
- Phonics resources to assist with reading
- Fun role play ideas for kids
- Autumn outside activities
- Top family friendly museums
- and loads more.....

Copy and paste the link into your parent communication and parents can choose to click on the link to view the magazine.

Please reply to this email to let us know when you have shared the link and we will enter your School in the draw to **win a £100 book voucher**.



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citizens  
advice

Stroud  
& Cotswold  
Districts

## Would you like to help people in your local community who are struggling?

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost-of-living crisis.

We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding. We are looking for people who can give 8-10 hours per week, and are currently recruiting for the following roles:

**Administration/Triage Assistants.** You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment - identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

**Volunteer Advisers.** You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 18 October 2023 (2-3.30pm) in Stroud and on 8 November 2023 (1-2.30 pm) in Cirencester. Our next training programme will start on 24 January 2024.

Elizabeth Hall, our Chief Executive Officer said:

“Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We’re seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We’ll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you.”

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at [training@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:training@ca-scd.org.uk). You can also find further information on our website [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

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## Gloucestershire Boys' Choir are holding an Open Rehearsal on Sunday 24th September

Gloucestershire Boys' Choir are holding an Open Rehearsal on **Sunday 24th September**. The session will be led by me, Ben Sawyer, and I will take the boys through a series of singing games and songs in this fun and interactive session. There's no audition, just an enjoyment of singing and an ability to carry a tune!

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/dyWsVeVMZDdYnkt06>

The Open Rehearsal is free to attend for boys from year 4\* up to year 11. The Junior session (years 4-6\*) runs 4.30pm-5.20pm and the Senior session (years 7-11) runs 5.10pm-6pm. There is a short crossover session at the end of the Junior and beginning of the Senior sessions.

Parents are welcome to stick around for a cup of tea and listen to how the boys are getting on.

Gloucestershire Boys' Choir brings confidence to boys through a love of singing. Regular rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons at dates specified on Ben's website and they take place at Gloucestershire Academy of Music, Barbican Road, Gloucester.

The choir has been running for nearly five years and regularly takes part in performances both locally and further afield, highlights including events at Cheltenham Town Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall. We also have fun in our socials - most recently going tenpin bowling.

You can find out more about the choir here: [www.bensawyermusic.co.uk/boys-choir](http://www.bensawyermusic.co.uk/boys-choir)