

Friday 26th January 2024

Our Christian Value for the term: Curious

'Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who
gain understanding' Proverbs 3:13

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe it is only 2 weeks to half term! This is a very short term but we are packing a lot in! Mr Hainsworth, Miss Beckett, Miss Keen and Mrs King took the Young Voices children up to Birmingham on Tuesday evening and were joined by a number of parents. Everyone came back absolutely buzzing with excitement and the Year 5's have already signed up for next year. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who makes this trip possible - Mrs Glover for organising parents, the staff who accompany the children and the PTFA for paying for the coach. Thank you all.

Thanks you to all the Reception and Year 1 parents who came along to the Reading Breakfast last week. It was lovely to welcome so many parents to school and to talk about the importance of reading at home. We hope to put on some similar events over the remainder of the year for other year groups.

From Monday, we will be closing the gate to the main school carpark during school drop off and pick up times. Parents are not permitted to drive into the school during this busy time.

Mrs J Woolley
Headteacher

Upcoming Diary notes:

5th February – 9th February Yr 5 Bikeability
9th February – Last day of term
19th February – Inset day
20th February – First day of term
20th February – 23rd February Yr 5 Bikeability continues

29th February – PTFA school Disco
7th March – Scholastic Book fair 3.15 – 4.00pm
8th March – Scholastic Book fair 3.15 – 4.00pm
11th March – Scholastic Book fair 3.15 – 4.00pm
12th March – Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
14th March – Parents Evening 4.00 – 7.00pm

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Young Voices (2024)

We had an amazing time in Birmingham performing as part of the Young Voices choir. Highlights included performing the pop and Matilda medleys as well as watching special guest stars MC Grammar – whose World Book Day rap had everyone dancing – and Nandi Bushell, a thirteen-year-old drummer who had everyone captivated by her talent.



Quotes from the children:

"The atmosphere was electric!" – Theo B.

"The drummer was brilliant" – Dylan S.

"The acts were really good" – Elsie S.

"It was absolutely phenomenal!" – Sib L

"Urban Strides were really good and the singing was exhilarating!" – Isla C.

"It was one of the best places I've been!" – Lucy M.

"Best night of my life, I can't wait to do it again!" – Shaneah T.

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Reading Breakfast



On the 19th January we welcomed our parents into school for a Reading Breakfast. We started the reading breakfast by introducing our new Phonics Scheme Essential Letters and Sounds and discussed our reading expectations as a school.

If your child is in EYFS or Year 1 they will be bringing home 2 books. 1 book is a library book and this is a book for you to share with your child, this is perfect for a bedtime story! The other book will be a fully decodable book and we ask that you read this with your child 4 times a week.



At the end of the reading breakfast the children were invited into the hall to read with their parents. It was fabulous to see all the children enjoying a story.



For further information on how you can support your child with reading at home please visit the ELS website:
<https://essentiallettersandsounds.org/>

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Hamilton



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Clubs

Faith Explorers

This term our Faith Explorers after-school club have been thinking about the big question - Who is Jesus?

In one of the sessions, they explored The Baptism of Jesus. They went on to draw around themselves to highlight the fact that they too are God's beloved children, just as Jesus heard his Father say to him. Here we are...



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Swimming lessons

Maple class last Wednesday 10th January – 21st February 2024

Next class swimming;

Oak class Wednesday 28th February – 17th April 2024

Rowan class Wednesday 1st May – 12th June 2024

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

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 EYFS & KS1 receive Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) which you do not 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 receive extra funding if your child is eligible, you will need your National Insurance number to hand and your child's date of birth.

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/>



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

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

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Ice Cream Fridays

We will be selling ice creams again 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, it only takes half an hour of your time.

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.

(Facebook: @wearestmarys)

Textile Recycler

The bin is located in the carpark by the Yr 3/4/5/6 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 Atlas Camp

Book now for February half term;

Atlas Camps February Half-Term Camps (www.atlascamps.co.uk)

With half-term now just 3 weeks away, Atlas Camps will be back with a bang with our award-winning multi-activity camps running every day during the February break! Joining them will be two fantastic new Atlas Camps Sports Academies, too – ideal for football and netball lovers – allowing sports-mad All-Stars aged 7-14 to hone their sporting skills over a fun-filled two day camp session.

Rated Outstanding by Ofsted, Atlas Camps specialises in multi-activity clubs for children aged 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.

- Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding'
- Childcare vouchers accepted from a variety of providers
- Early drop-off/ late pick-up options
- Sibling discount available
- Multi-activity and sport-specific camps available

For further information, please watch [this video](#) or check the attached poster.

Head to the Atlas Camps website at www.atlascamps.co.uk to book our multi-activity camps. Atlas Camps Academies can be found at <https://www.atlascamps.co.uk/sports-camps>.

atlas camps
HERE FOR YOU IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE
EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

LOTS OF HOLIDAY FUN
WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S
AWARD-WINNING
CHILDCARE PROVIDER
FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 - 14*
RUNNING 8AM - 5PM DAILY

WWW.ATLASCAMPS.CO.UK
*SPECIALIST EYES CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AGED 3+ ALSO AVAILABLE

SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO JOIN THE
SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

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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
TUESDAYS
12.30 - 1PM
YEAR 1 & 2

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

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Community

St Mary's Church are holding their Sunday morning services temporarily in the school hall every Sunday until Sunday 11th February. The service begins at 10am and lasts about an hour.

All are welcome

The last service in the school hall will be Sunday 11th February.

We are doing this as we are seeking a little respite from the cold in the depths of winter and to explore further what it means to be church together.

Lots will be familiar.

LITTLE FISHES (our Sunday school) continues to meet ... and there's tea & coffee after the service

So please do come along and join us in the school hall!!

Poppy, Steve and Pauline



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You are invited to
Reflect breakfast
for women
Saturday 27th January
9.30-11am
Christ Church, The Chipping.
*Time to chat & be encouraged
as we share a simple craft activity,
listen to someone sharing their faith and enjoy
breakfast including:
hot drinks, pastries, granola,
fruit & yoghurt...*

Please book your place: email
office@Tetburychurch.co.uk
01666 500088
If you can, we suggest a £5 donation on the day.

Organised by TACT (Tetbury Area Churches Together)

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Let's declutter sustainably!

Declutter your wardrobe:

Still wearing it? ---- Keep

Needs attention? ---- Fix

Doesn't fit? ---- Charity shop / swap

Hate it? ---- Move it on....



Find 10 things to pass on:

- Books
- Clothes
- Kitchenware
- Tools
- Gadgets
- Toys



For more ideas, see:

www.greeningtetbury.org

 **Greening Tetbury**

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I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult, and crucially there is support available.

The first step is to **collect all the information you have about your debts**, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, **make a list of your debts and write down the details of each**. This could include who you owe the money to (this person or company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you are sorting them out.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you are looking at money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you are entitled to, including support with your energy and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, plus further advice on dealing with debts, on the Citizens Advice website – www.citizensadvice.org.uk

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers. You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone. If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

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Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Please follow the [link](#) to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Jan/Feb 2024](#) ;

Our **Jan/Feb 2024** issue is packed full of useful information for parents including:

- How to make pancakes downloadable
- The importance of art in curriculum
- Best new books for kids around the world
- Helping your child with spelling
- and much more.....

