

23/01/26

Dear parents,

Learning

Learning Through Exploration

Both Chestnut and Sycamore Classes have been busy expanding their learning beyond the classroom over the past fortnight. Chestnut Class braved the cold and wet weather during their visit to Slimbridge Wetland Centre, where they deepened their understanding of rivers and the water cycle. Sycamore Class, meanwhile, enjoyed a fascinating day at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of their work on Ancient Greece, exploring real artefacts and taking part in a workshop led by museum specialists.

A huge thank you to Miss Harrison and Mr Stewart for organising these valuable experiences, and to all the adults who helped accompany the children. The children represented the school brilliantly on both visits, and we are proud of the enthusiasm and maturity they showed throughout.

Willow Class Shine in their Assembly

Willow Class delivered a fantastic assembly this week, showcasing everything they have been learning about the Ancient Mayans and volcanoes. The children shared facts, performed short drama pieces, and even treated us to some wonderful singing – all with great confidence and enjoyment.

A big thank you to all parents for supporting the children with costumes, and to Miss Corrick and the Willow Class staff for their hard work in putting together such an engaging and informative assembly. It was a real celebration of the children's learning and creativity.

Caring

Christmas Church Donations

Thank you to all families for your generous donations during our Christmas church events. Together, you raised over £200 for The Children's Society. Your kindness will support their vital work helping vulnerable children across the country, providing practical help, emotional support and a safer, more hopeful future for those who need it most. We are truly grateful for the compassion shown by our school community.

Attendance Matters

Our whole-school attendance currently sits at 96.6%, which is a strong position for this point in the year. Thank you to all families for doing everything you can to help your children be in school—especially during this season of coughs, colds and general winter bugs. We know it isn't always easy, and we really appreciate those of you who give your children a dose of Calpol in the morning, or bring them in later in the day once they start to feel a bit better.

Being in school makes a huge difference to children's learning, confidence and sense of routine. Often, once they arrive and settle into the school day, children bounce back quickly with the support of their friends and familiar surroundings.

Please be reassured that if a child does not improve, or becomes unwell again, we will always contact you so that you can collect them. Thank you for working with us to help your children make the most of their time in school.

Achieving

Congratulations to Mrs Liddington

We are delighted to congratulate Mrs Liddington, who has secured an exciting new role training EYFS apprentices and teaching assistants at Cirencester College. This represents a wonderful step in her professional development, and we are thrilled that she will remain part of our school, continuing to contribute her skills and experience while reducing her hours to take up the position.

As part of this transition, Mrs Greatrex-Smith, who already works within the school, will be taking on some additional hours and supporting Oak Class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from mid-February. We look forward to working with both colleagues in their updated roles.

Together

Reception Applications Update

The deadline for Reception applications has now passed, and we are pleased to share that we have received a record number of enquiries and applicants for next year. This is an exciting achievement—especially at a time when many village schools nationally are seeing numbers fall—and reflects the strength and reputation of our school community.

We are currently working on our staffing models for the next academic year. Following discussions with governors, we are delighted that the school is in a position to recruit a new teacher, although final details—including whether the role will be full-time or part-time—cannot yet be confirmed. We are awaiting further funding information for the upcoming financial year, but hope to advertise the role in the coming weeks. It is a very positive step for our growing school.

A Chance to Support Sherston School - Governor Vacancy

We are currently looking for a volunteer to join the school's friendly Governing Body and get involved in the strategic planning and oversight of the school. Being a school governor is a voluntary role and would suit someone who is keen to have a positive impact on the school and outcomes for the children. Governors do not have any involvement in the day to day running of the school so experience in the educational sector is not essential.

We are specifically looking for a new governor with some experience of financial planning or management. This role has been held by Mike Ward for many years, who has recently stepped down. We'd like to thank him for all the support he's given the school over the years. If you would like to find out a bit more about the role and what's involved, please email the Chair of Governors, Dominic Koole, MrKoole@sherston.wilts.sch.uk.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mr Towers