



St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary Newsletter

No 107 July 16th 2026

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

Another school year has whizzed by and suddenly we are at the end of it in what feels like a blink of an eye. So much happens in school over the course of a year, but it was wonderful to pause and watch all of the class showcases this week. Each one was different, but each one reflected the class perfectly. The children have clearly learnt so much and I had the privilege of seeing all of them and being able to reflect on how children develop and learn across our school and the journey they take. What a wonderful way to end the term!

Of course, none of this could be achieved without the hard work of our incredible staff team. They give so much to our school, each and every one of them, and we couldn't do it without them. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for all they do and know they are ready for the summer break. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing them a restful summer holiday.

We are also blessed to have a wonderful PTA who raise a huge amount of money for our school to support many different projects. We are excited to be creating a new nurture room over the summer supported by their generous donation and we have recently had a Ground Force day and new benches which have made all the difference to our outdoor space. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the PTA both our outgoing team and our incoming team – you are amazing!

As we break up for the summer holidays, we are sadly saying good bye to some of our staff team:

Lizzie Miller has been in Sunflowers for almost 7 years. She has made a huge contribution to the team in there and we will be sad to see her go but wish her much joy in her retirement.

Rachael Kear has been with us in Bluebell class for the last 4 years working closely with Mr Gazzard and Mrs Watkins. We are hugely grateful for all she has done during her time at St Briavels and will miss her in September.

Alex Condrad joined us earlier this year and has been working in Poppy class this term. She is off to university in the autumn to train to be a teacher and we know she is going to be fabulous! We're hoping she may come back for one of her placements.

Finally, not a member of staff as such but an enormous part of our federation – Mike Haines - our chair of governors is retiring. He has given so much to our federation over the past few years and I am going to miss him greatly as he has been a wisdom, guidance and listening ear for me and a wonderful steer for our governing board. I cannot thank him enough for all he has done.

As we look ahead to September, we are excited to welcome both familiar and new faces and to continue building on all that has been achieved this year. For now, though, it is time to pause, rest and enjoy time with family and friends.

To our Year 6 children, we wish you every success and happiness as you begin the next stage of your journey. You will always be part of the St Briavels family, and we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved.

Thank you to all our parents, carers, governors, volunteers and wider community for your continued support throughout the year. Together, we make our school a very special place.

Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

With love

Natalie Frey

Executive Headteacher

Sunflowers



This Summer term has been jam packed with exciting activities.

The children engaged in lots of craft activities such as painting, paper mache, collaging and story writing and illustrating ready for the St Briavels carnival. They showed wonderful courage being involved in this fabulous day.





The children also got stuck in to their sports day, demonstrating to their parents the amazing skills they have learnt through their time in Sunflowers; throwing rockets and wellies, scoring goals, knocking down skittles and balancing.



We have also been keeping cool during our warmer days exploring the local woods.





We would like to thank the parents for helping us on the morning of the carnival to get the tractor trailer looking absolutely amazing.

We would also like to thank Louise for helping us in Sunflowers over the Summer term, giving us an extra pair of hands to care for the children and for bringing in more wonderful ideas to share with the children.

I know you will all be joining me in thanking Lizzie for all of her support and care for the Sunflower children since 2019. She has had a huge impact in the children's learning and helping them to flourish. We wish her all the best for her early retirement and hope she enjoys being able to explore the country in her van and putting her feet up.

The Sunflower staff would also like to wish the all of the pre-school children the very best for their journey into Reception. We know they will all be absolutely amazing and are looking forward to continuing their support in Snowdrops and we will miss those moving to different schools.

Bluebell Class



Bluebells have had a very busy term. Reception went to the Wild Place in Bristol where they had a fabulous time seeing all the animals and enjoying a picnic there. Year 1 had a brilliant trip to Barry Island beach which finished off our Geography topic, they built sandcastles, paddled in the sea and had a very interesting picnic (trying to eat whilst the sea gulls hovered above us!).

In Literacy Reception have been reading traditional tales, acting them out and turning our home corner into a gingerbread house, Cinderella's home and Grandma's cottage from Little Red Riding Hood. The children have enjoyed using the puppets to act out these stories.

Year 1 have looked at river poems and wrote their own stories about Super Milly.

Reception have enjoyed Friday's bikes mornings and bringing in their favourite books for 'book and tell'. Bluebell team would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers over the last year!

Lastly, we'd like to say a fond farewell to Miss Kear who is leaving us at the end of term, good luck in your new adventures!

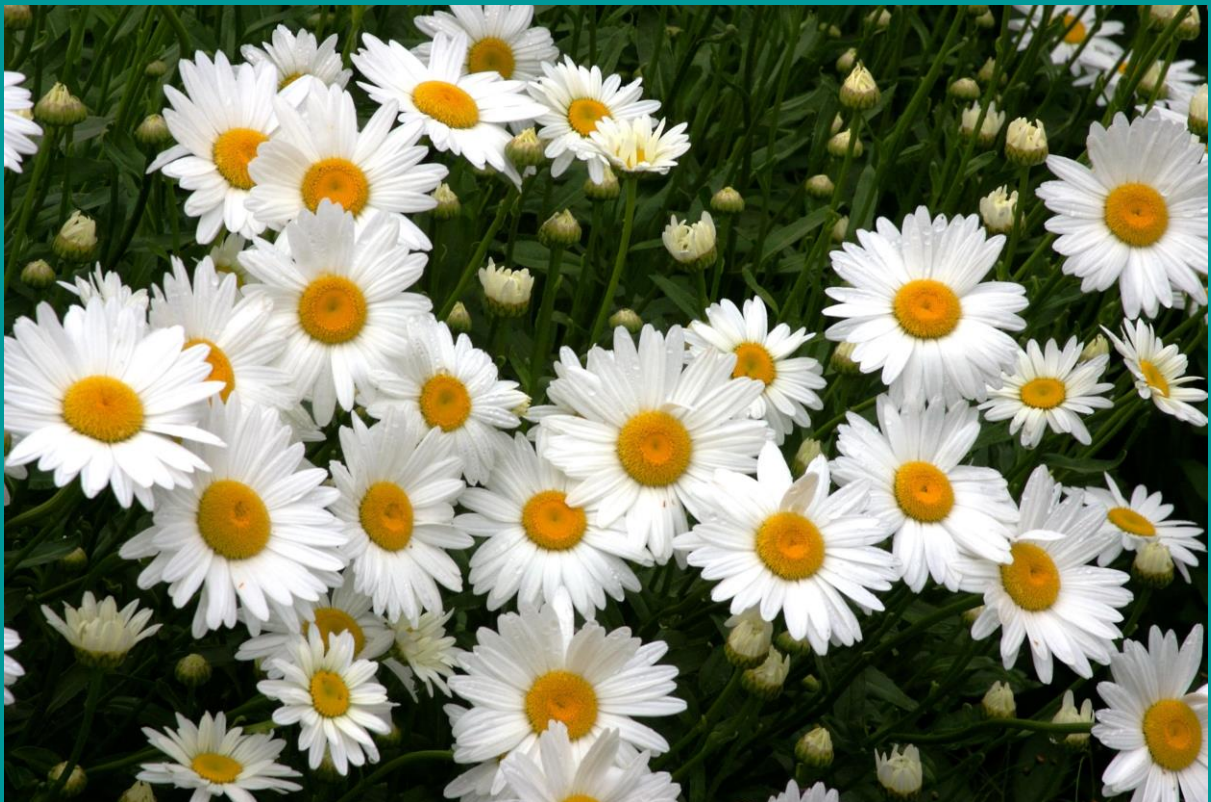
We hope you all have a restful summer.

Bluebell team





Daisy Class



Wow! What a busy term. Daisy Class had a wonderful visit to Barry Island. We built sandcastles, played with our friends and had a delicious lolly. The visit was linked to our Geography topic,

'What is it like to live at the coast?' We are now experts in describing some features of physical and human geography and the features of coastlines.

We have shared two lovely books this term, 'Lizzy and the Cloud' and 'Last Stop on Market Street'. We used both texts to inspire our writing and everyone worked hard to use noun phrases and prepositions for description. We have also learnt several poems by heart and have really enjoyed performing them together.

Our art focus was birds, and as well as lots of work in our sketchbooks, we made colourful bird models!

We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to meeting again in Poppy Class!









Poppy Class

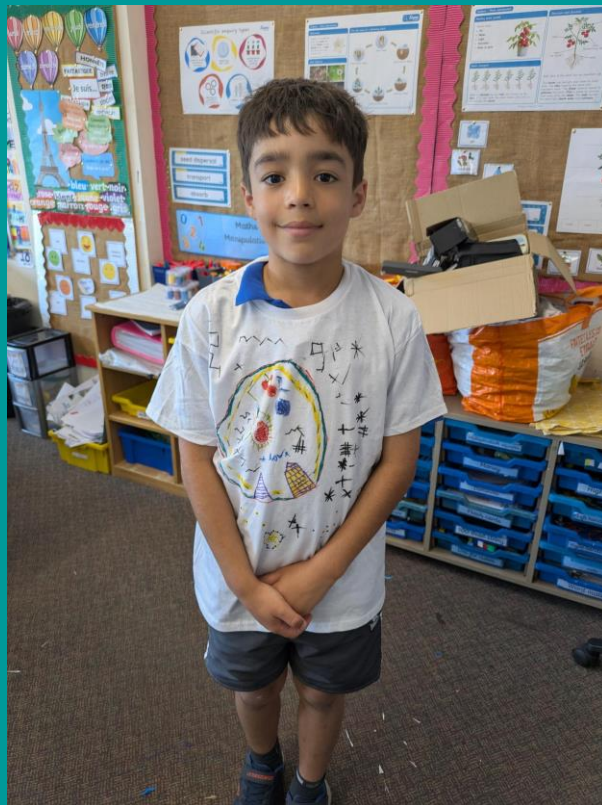
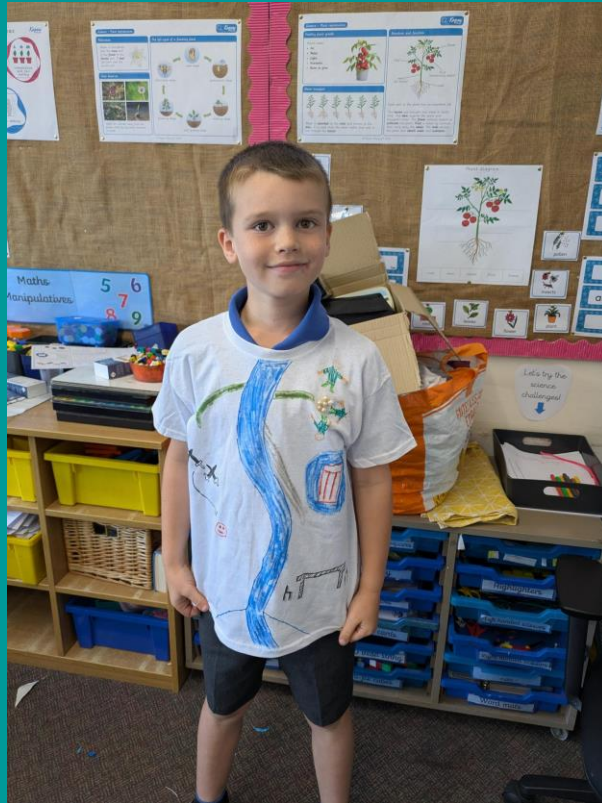


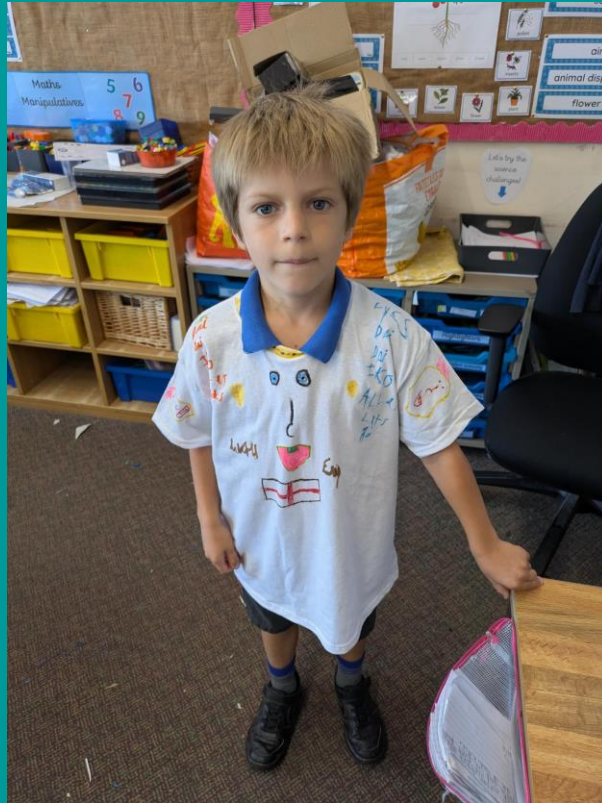
Poppy Class have been very busy this term. We have been learning about rivers in Geography and have made our own watercourses to learn about how water affects the land. We also used natural materials to make the shape of some of world's longest rivers and pictures of the places the rivers pass through.



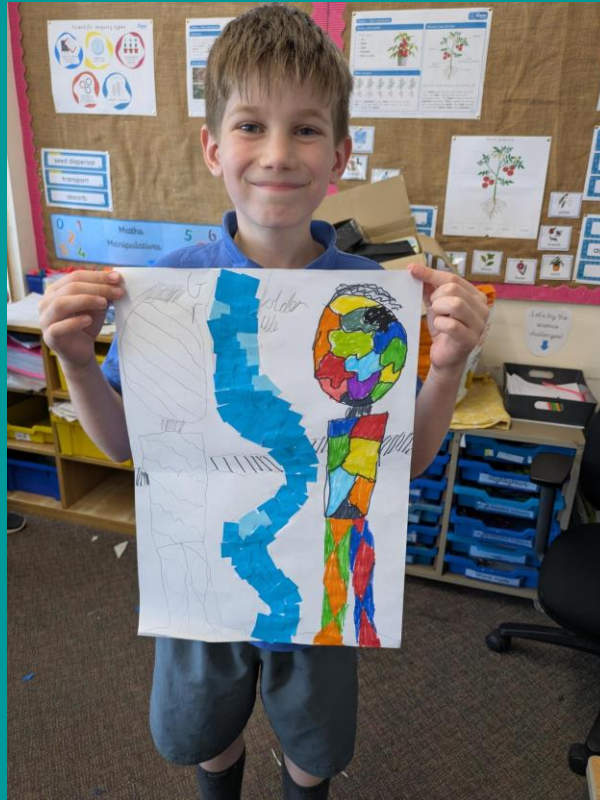












Poppy Class have had an extremely busy half term. We particularly enjoyed our torch making, which did prove a little tricky, but the children showed superb resilience!





In Maths, we have really enjoyed analysing data from pictogram and bar graphs and collaborating with the whole school to draw our own bar graph showing our favourite zoo animals. It was a very proud moment when the children showed this to parents at the showcase.

In Science, we have been learning all about what plants need to thrive and what happens when they are deprived of one of these things.

Poppy Class have loved singing all the French songs we have learnt over the last few months, especially 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes.'

Poppy - RE







In RE this term we have been learning about the Golden Rule and acting out stories from different religions.

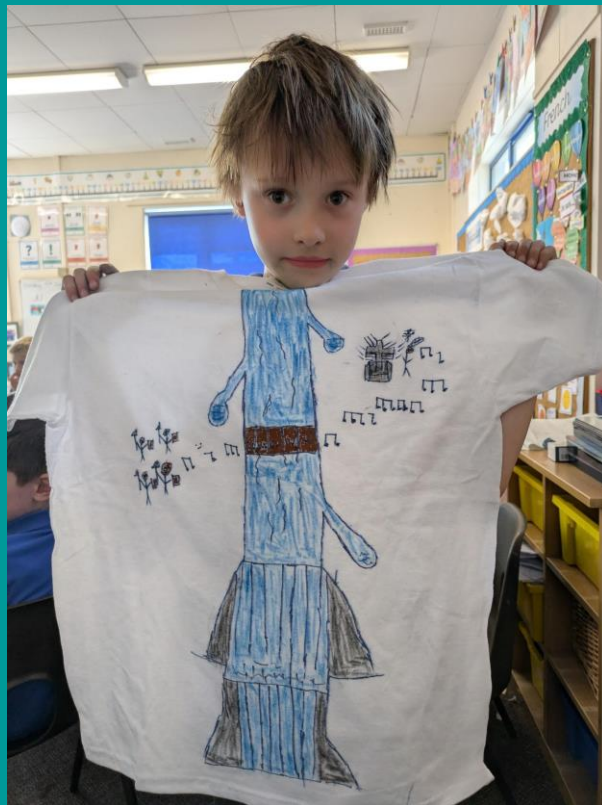
This story was how Muhammed showed the Golden Rule.

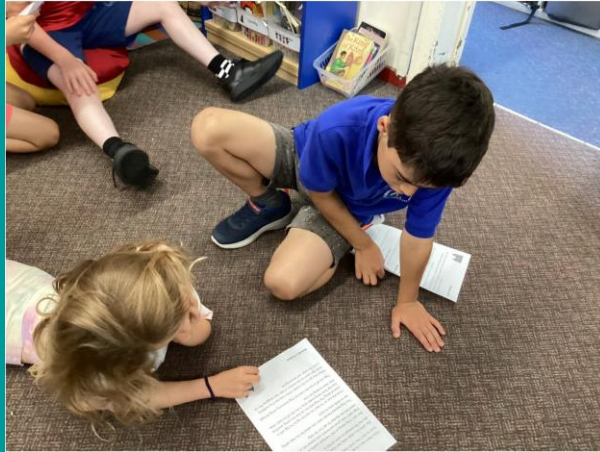


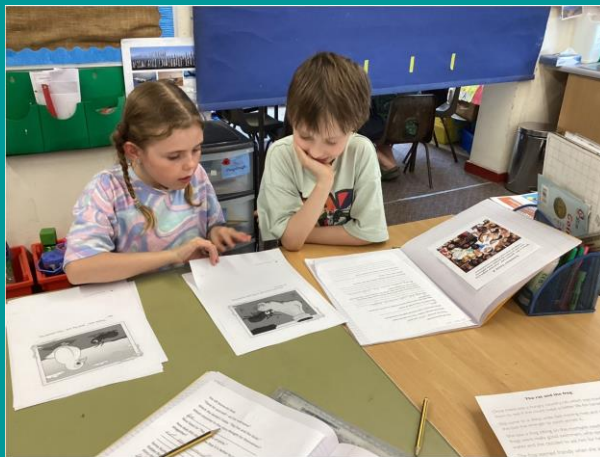
We shared some of Aesop's Fables with each other to look at why Humanists think the Golden Rule is important. We designed a piece of Art Work to finish our learning and show how the Golden Rule is important.













Wishing you all a very lovely summer holiday and thanks for all your support in the last few months!

Mrs Kilty and Mrs Cawte

Speedwell Class



Summer term, and the whole year is drawing to a close, and what a busy term it has been. At the end of their guitar lessons, the children loved the opportunity to showcase their skills to their parents, and despite the nerves, they loved it. They also performed one of their favourite songs from this year at the Volunteers' Tea Party; again, with such enthusiasm that we could not be more proud.

Whilst some of the children headed off to London to experience what the capital has to offer, the others got emerged in all things art during our Art Fest. Whether it was exploring the museums and getting onboard the London Eye or creating abstract art in the style of Piet Mondrian, the children had a wonderful time.

And that is not all - The children have explored the world of taxonomy, the Year 5s had a fun session with the Forest of Dean Sea Cadets, we all embraced the 'new normal' summer at the Sports Day and the children have done lots of learning too.

At the end of it all, we have had a fantastic year and I would like to thank you all for all your support over this school year.

I wish you all a wonderful summer holiday.

Mrs Lindqvist



1 - Concentration at the Guitar concert



2 - Performing at the Volunteers' Tea Party



3 - Art Fest









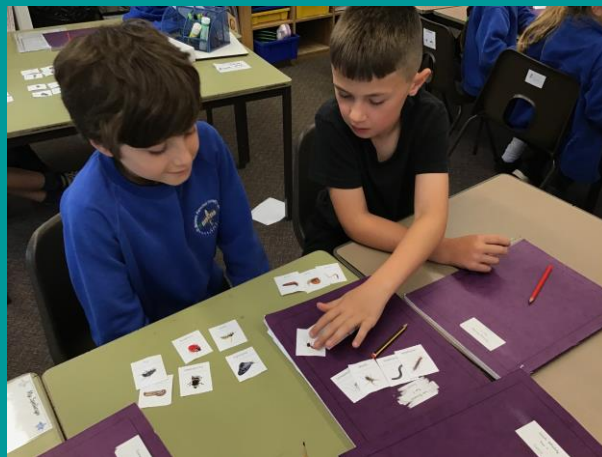
4 - London Eye views



5 - We spotted Buckingham Palace!



6 - Creating own art at the Tate Modern



7 - Classifying and grouping animals



8 - Team work with the Sea Cadets



Foxglove Class



Well, we've reached the end of the Summer term, and I have to admit this year seems to have absolutely blasted past! I want to take this opportunity to say just how incredibly proud I am of our class. The progress they have made this year is nothing short of massive. From navigating SATs and residential trips to performing at Young Voices and so many other events, they have represented our school brilliantly.

Following our recent guitar concert and end-of-year showcase, I was especially proud of how the children persevered through their nerves to deliver such fantastic performances. It has been a whirlwind of activity lately: we attended the moving Leavers' Service at Gloucester Cathedral, baked and served cakes at the Volunteer's Tea Party, and participated in an engaging workshop with the Forest of Dean Sea Cadets. On top of that, pupils either headed off on our London trip or took part in our brilliant in-school Art Fest. No matter what they've been up to this term, they've approached it with enthusiasm, beautifully balancing all of these exciting events with their classroom learning.

As we look back on everything we've achieved, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your incredible support throughout this school year—it has truly made all the difference. I want to wish all our Year 6 leavers the absolute best of luck and I look forward to seeing our Year 5's again next year.

Thank you all for a brilliant year, and have a wonderful, well-deserved summer holiday!

Mr Ford

















ELSA News



As we come to the end of another busy year, it's been wonderful to see so many children engaging in their ELSA sessions with curiosity and enthusiasm. One of the highlights this term has been exploring a new book called 'My Brain is a Home'. They have particularly enjoyed learning and exploring the different parts of the brain and how they are all connected to our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.

We have also spent time practising calming techniques, such as breathing exercises, mindfulness, and relaxation activities, helping children build a toolkit they can use both in and out of school.

Below is a link to a free booklet with all sorts of activities and challenges for families to do together over the holidays.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/holiday-wellbeing-challenge-elsa-support-2024/>

As we head into the summer holidays, I hope all of our children and families have a well-deserved, relaxing break.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and seeing how much they've grown.

Mrs Hill (ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)

PTA

The PTA funds at St Briavels have recently been used to buy new benches for the playground following an excellent tidy and clear out on Ground Force day (see photos below).

We have also purchased sensory equipment for the new ELSA room that will provide an safe, welcoming space for emotional literacy support at school.

Below is a QR code that you can scan to join the PTA WhatsApp community and from there can join specific groups for events you have ideas for or are able to support with.

Our next PTA event is the Back to School BBQ on Sunday 6th September 12-2pm. All welcome! BBQ, bar, games and bouncy castle (weather permitting!)

We are also holding another Ground Force day on Monday 20th July, to finish painting, clearing and repairing outdoor areas ready for the new year. We'd love more volunteers to help us with this. Contact school or join the WhatsApp group for more info.

Leah



Ground Force Day





Huge thank you all the volunteers on 'Ground Force Part 1' day! The school is starting to look fabulous again. We had a couple hours putting the new benches together, thank you to the Meadows family for helping. The benches have been used a lot in the lovely weather. We'd like to especially say a huge thank to Claire Deacon and family for taking and disposing of the old timber. Claire has worked really hard to co-ordinate Ground Force day!

There is a mini Ground Force on 20th July to paint outside walls and we are hopefully holding another in September, details to follow.

Happy summer holidays!

Mrs Watkins

FREE Online Parent Programmes

Families across Gloucestershire can access a range of FREE online programmes from Togetherness, an NHS-rooted emotional health and wellbeing programme designed to help parents, carers, children, and young people thrive.

Togetherness provides practical, evidence-based support to help families better understand emotions, behaviour, relationships, and child development from pregnancy through to the teenage years.

The online pathways cover a range of topics, including:

- Understanding pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understanding your child's feelings
- Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Understanding your relationships
- Understanding your own trauma

Why do families find them helpful?

The programmes are designed to help you:

- Better understand your child's behaviour and emotional development
- Build stronger family relationships
- Support your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Develop practical strategies for everyday challenges
- Grow your confidence as a parent or carer

The programmes are flexible, easy to use, and can be completed at your own pace, whenever and wherever suits you.

FREE for Gloucestershire Families

Families with a Gloucestershire postcode can access all pathways free of charge.

Visit: <https://togetherness.co.uk/gloucestershire>

Password: POTTER

You'll need to create an account using an email address. If you experience any problems, please contact: support@togetherness.co.uk

Whether you're expecting a baby, parenting a toddler, supporting a child with additional needs, or navigating the teenage years, Togetherness offers trusted support to help your family grow, connect, and thrive.

Dates for your diaries

Please check letters home for more details about events. Dates may change.

Friday 17 July - Year 6 Leavers Church Service

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 17 July

Mon 20 July - INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Mon 20 July - Groundforce Day - please help tidy outdoor area - see PTA for Whatsapp group QR code

Tues 1 September - INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wed 2 September - INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Thurs 3 Sept 2026

Sun 6 Sept - back to School BBQ - 12-2pm

Mon 7 Sept - Poppy Class Welcome Meeting – 3:20pm

Tues 8 Sept - Snowdrops Class Welcome Meeting – 3:20pm

Wed 9 Sept - 10 Speedwell Class Welcome Meeting – 3:20pm

Mon 14 Sept - Foxglove Class Welcome Meeting – 3:20pm

Tues 15 Sept - Daisy Class Welcome Meeting – 3:20pm

Weds 16 September - Phonics Information Meeting for Reception parents - 9am

Tues 29 Sept - School Tours (prospective September 2027 Reception children)

Fri 2 Oct - Harvest Services – from 2pm

Mon 5 Oct - Parent Meetings – from 3:30pm

Weds 7 Oct - Parent Meetings – from 3:30pm

Tues 20 Oct - School Tours (prospective September 2027 Reception children)

Weds 21 Oct - PTA Disco

Thurs 22 Oct - Foxglove Class Cake Sale

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 23 Oct

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 2 Nov

Term Dates 2026-2027

Please note these are for the academic year starting in September 2026 .

Term dates can be found on our website here:

https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term_dates/372930

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2026/27



SEPTEMBER

Mon		7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thur	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

OCTOBER

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

NOVEMBER

Mon		2	9	16	23
Tues		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thur		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun	1	8	15	22	29

DECEMBER

Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thur	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

JANUARY

Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31

FEBRUARY

Mon	1	8	15	22	
Tues	2	9	16	23	
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

MARCH

Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tues	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

APRIL

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	
Sun	4	11	18	25	

MAY

Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

JUNE

Mon		7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thur	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

JULY

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

AUGUST

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tues		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		Inset Days	