GPP Federation

Glebe & Picklenash

Newsletter

Summer Term 1

Dear all,

Well, in the blink of an eye we are at the end of another half term; with only 1 more to go this school year.

Last week, our Year 6 children sat their SATs. These tests take place every year, in May and are sat by children all over the country. We were all so impressed by their attitude both working up to and during the tests. There is a clear, formal approach we have to follow and, for many, it is their first experience of sitting tests in this way. I was delighted to see so many f them coming into school early for breakfast too. This gave them time with their friends and a gentle start to the day. A huge thank you to the Year 6 team for both preparing and supporting the children throughout the process.

The week was topped off for them with a day of Circus Skills. This was a chance to relax, have fun and find their inner entertainer.

We have also been visited by the Life Education Classroom. All of the classes spent time with Tom who delivered sessions on keeping safe, being a good friend and understanding how our bodies work to name a few.

On May 8th, we celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about this great man. Happy Birthday Sir David!

We're not slowing down for the last week either. We have our Rejuvenate Newent Day to look forward to. Miss Newby has been working with Newent Council and members of the local community to put together a packed day. The aim being to improve our school and local environment by working together.

On Friday, in support of Pets as Therapy we will be having a non-uniform Day. Every week, Obie and Winnie (along wit their owners Sue and Amanda) visit us at school. They bring such joy to us all and are real highlight of the week. Miss Clark is also organizing a cake sale, for after school, to raise more funds.

Have an enjoyable half term break. It's another bank Holiday but this time the weather forecast is for sun. let's hope so!!!

Best wishes all,

Michelle Kelly

Attendance Update

The figures are in!

National	**94.8%**
Local	**95%**
Glebe	**95%**
Picklenash	**95.3%**

Our latest attendance results are very encouraging, with both schools performing above the National average. Glebe is in line with Local averages, and Picklenash is sitting just above them, which is fantastic progress.

As we head into the final term, it would be wonderful to keep this momentum going and continue achieving above both the National and Local averages.

It's especially worth celebrating that, for the past two years at this point in the school year, both schools were below these averages — so this improvement is a real achievement for our pupils, families, and staff.

You will recently have received our updated Attendance Policy. If you would like to revisit it at any time, it is available to view on the school website.

A little reminder about Term-Time Holidays & Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) Taking holidays during term time can have a significant impact on a child's learning. By law, schools can only authorise leave in exceptional circumstances. When a family chooses to take a holiday during term time without authorisation, this is recorded as unauthorised absence.

If a child has **10 or more unauthorised sessions** (5 school days) due to a holiday, the school is required to refer the case to the Local Authority. They may then issue a **Fixed Penalty Notice**, which is a fine issued to each parent.

We always encourage families to plan holidays outside of term time wherever possible, helping children maintain strong attendance and make the most of their learning.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's attendance, you can contact me through the school office or by email; attendance@gppfed.org

Hope you have a lovely half term break,

Mrs Sleeman

Pupil Absence

If your child is ill then you must contact the school office to let them know by 8.40am. You need to text/email or phone in. If your child has a contagious illness e.g. chicken pox, sickness bug then please advise us which date you think your child will return.

PARKING

This is a plea for you to help us with keeping the children safe at school and relates to parking.

Leaving your car on the yellow zig-zags, on yellow lines, across residential drives or too close to corners is dangerous for the children. It restricts visibility for everyone, especially the children, raising the risk of an accident and injury. Please can I ask that you do not park in these places and find somewhere, safer, a short distance away from school.

We are recommending that any Parents/Carers report any concerns around illegal parking on yellow zig-zag lines to the Police as they have the power to stop it.

Your support with this is appreciated as the children's safety is paramount.

Alternative Parking Arrangements

The Kings Arms Pub have let Parents/Carers use their lower car park in the morning at drop off and at pick up time. They request that people park sensibly in the lower car park and that they stay for no longer than 30 minutes. The pub is only a few minutes' walk from the school.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, along Ross Road, has also agreed to let Parents/Carers use their car park and once again we request that if you use this then please could park sensibly and be aware of people walking around you.

Governor Update

Parent Governors

The GPP Federation would like to congratulate Lisa Brownsell-Dalton on her recent election as a new Parent Governor and welcome her to the governing board.

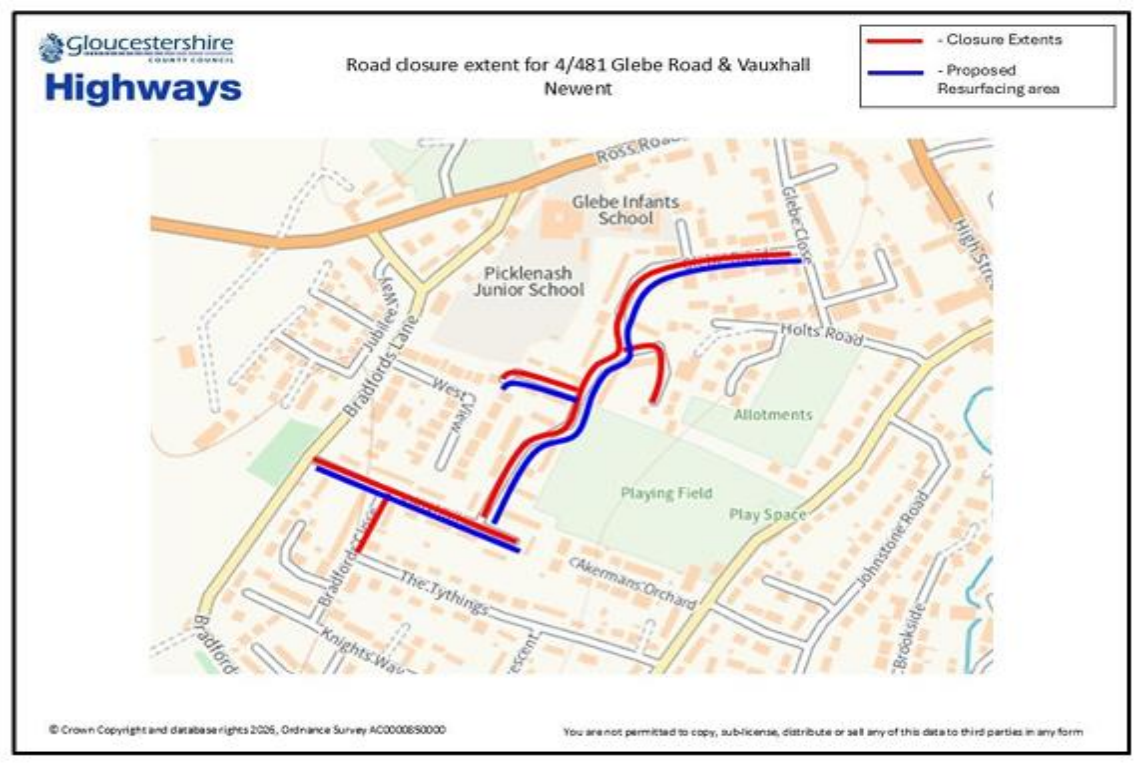
The governing board also would like to thank Nick Baldwin as departing Parent Governor for his excellent work over the past three years and wish him and his family well in their exciting future plans.

This means that the board is seeking a new Parent Governor to replace Nick and an election will be held after the half term break. Being a governor provides a wonderful opportunity to understand how the schools operate from behind the scenes and play a crucial role in helping define the future of the federation. A Parent Governor does not act as a conduit between the school and parents but instead offers parental perspective when decision-making.

Further information will be provided once the election begins, however should you wish to learn more in the interim, please contact chair@gppfed.org or check out the governor page on the school website.

Upcoming Local Road Closures

Please see below information about upcoming road closures close to the school that may affect getting to and from school.

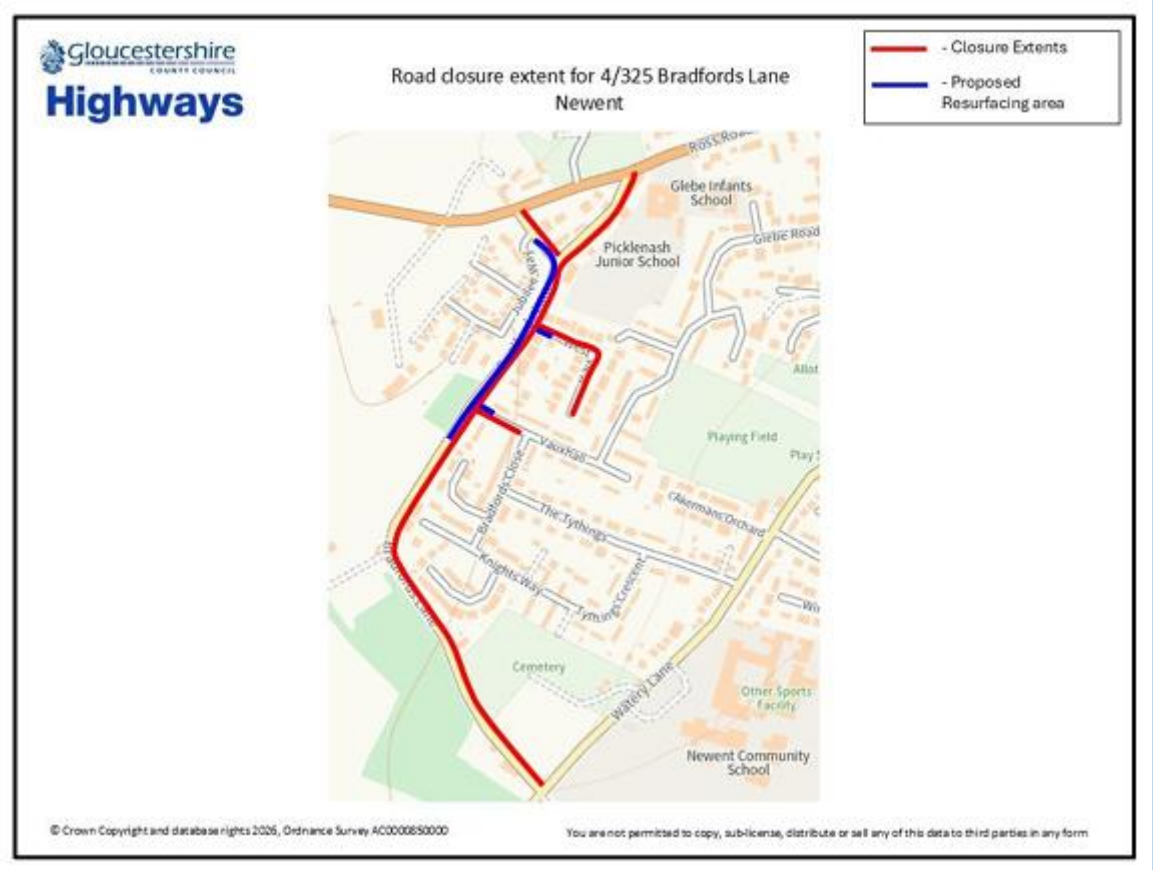


What: *Temporary Traffic Order to close the road for carriageway resurfacing.*

Where: 4/481 Glebe Road & Vauxhall Newent. See above for details of the road closure area

When: For approximately 8 Days (excl. weekends) between the hours of 09:00 to 15:00.

The PROPOSED start and end dates are currently Monday 1st June 2026 until Wednesday 10th June 2026, however, keep an eye on the web page detailed below or the signs on site for any short notice changes.



What: Temporary Traffic Order to close the road for carriageway resurfacing.

Where: . 4/325 Bradfords Lane Newent. See above for details of the road closure area.

When: For approximately 4 Days (excl. weekends except Saturday 30th May 2026) between the hours of 09:30 to 15:30.

The PROPOSED start and end dates are currently Wednesday 27th May 2026 until Saturday 30th May 2026, however, keep an eye on the web page detailed below or the signs on site for any short notice changes.

Glebe Reading Together

Thank you so much if you managed to get to one of our Reading Together sessions - it has gone from strength to strength each week and the children absolutely love welcoming you to their classrooms and reading with you.
The sessions will continue after half term so if you didn't manage to come this term there is plenty of opportunity next term.
A reminder that Reading Together begins at 2.45pm every Wednesday and to sign in at Glebe Reception where you will be let in.

OPAL Update

It has been really lovely to see the children getting use from our wonderful school field this term. We are trying to roll out a variety of activities to provide the children with a much more enjoyable experience at lunch time. Our digging zone has proven to be very popular with children across both schools, especially our Year 2 children who join us up at Picklenash during lunch time. It has been great to visit Glebe during lunch and see the children enjoying playing with dressing up hats and bubbles. We have so much more planned over the next few months so watch this space!

PE Update

Another active and brilliant term we've had in PE this term. The children have been looking at Athletics, Danish Longball and Outdoor Adventurous Activity. Our school Football team took on Staunton and Corse CofE unfortunately losing out 5-3 but representing our school amazingly. We have a very busy end to the term getting ready for our annual sports day on Wednesday 17th June.

First Aid & Medical Update

Our first aid box has been very busy this half term with the usual collection of bumps, grazes, mystery scratches, and dramatic playground tumbles! Thankfully, most incidents have only needed a plaster, a cool pack, and sometimes a little extra TLC.

Please continue to keep medical and emergency contact information up to date with the school office.

As the warmer weather arrives, don't forget water bottles, hats, and sun cream — helping us avoid "sunburn emergencies" before they happen!

SEND Specialist Holiday and Activities Provider (HAF)

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in Gloucestershire aims to supporting families of children with disabilities to access enriching activities and nutritious meals during school holidays.

The service is designed to reduce barriers to participation and ensure that every child has the opportunity to engage in a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment. They support families with:

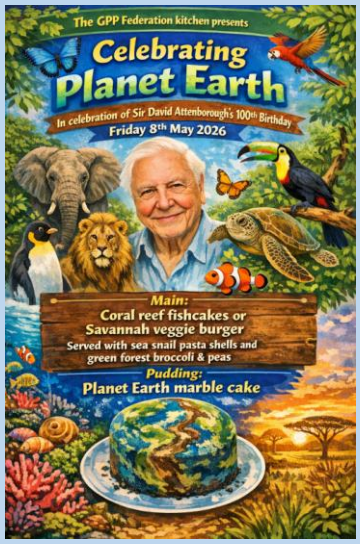
- Access to holiday activities tailored to children with SEND
- Provision of healthy meals during sessions
- Transport arrangements where required
- 1:1 support for children who need additional assistance

There will be many other exciting and alternative opportunities in the summer, including their Summer SEND Celebration on 20th August. Lunch will be provided for every child that books via HAF.

Families can find out more and register by using this link

https://www.parentandcareralliance.org.uk/haf

School Dinner Update

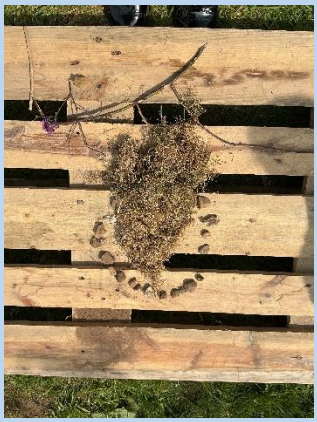


I would just like to say a big thank you for the continued support you have shown to our 'Food Around the World' menu. This has been an amazing opportunity for the children to try new flavours, and perhaps find new food they enjoy!
We still have some amazing dishes to come, I am rather looking forward to the Croquet Monsieur which is a French recipe for a Ham and Cheese toastie.
Our themed menus have also been a success, from celebrating World Book Day to Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. A sneak preview of our next themed menu will be 'Breakfast For Lunch' on Thursday 21st May!
We hope you have a well-deserved rest over Half Term.
Mrs Claridge and the Kitchen Team

Elm Class:

We have been growing radishes from seeds and watching them change over time as part of our science learning. Children made predictions, observed the plants as they grew, and talked about what seeds need to grow well. The radishes are now almost ready to eat, and the children are very proud of what they have grown through careful observing and looking after plants.

Elder Class:



What a term we have had!!

Elder class continue to amaze both myself and Mr Brain on a daily basis!! They have completed some absolutely fantastic pieces of writing this term including a poem based on a theme of their choice, a script based on the book 'A Monster Calls' and a script for a David Attenborough documentary. The handwriting and the vocabulary choices was simply stunning!!! We now have three children with their pen license in Elder Class.

On David Attenborough's 100th birthday, the children replicated a polar animal or landscape using nature. Above are just some of their pieces of work.

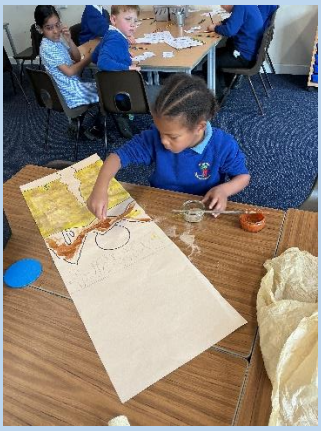
Cedar Class:

Some great learning has taken place in Cedar class this term. Our visit from Ragnar the Bold really enthused the children to learn more about the Vikings, especially their weaponry and the reason for their travel to Britain. Linked to this, during our D&T lessons, we considered Viking longboats and drew a life-size chalk outline in small groups on the playground. Later on this term, we enjoyed celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. The children produced some incredible art and hopefully some of these will go on display.

Birch Class:

Birch Class have produced some fantastic writing this half term and all of the staff have been really impressed with their murder mystery stories. It has also been wonderful to see Birch Class getting to spend some time in Forest School – they have spent a few afternoons climbing trees, building dens, digging in the mud and being creative in the mud kitchen. Finally, a highlight of this term has been celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday where we explored fossils, wrote our own kenning poems, created some art work for a whole school display and took part in a live assembly.

Beech Class:



Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday Celebration 🎉🌍

What an amazing time Beech Class had celebrating the 100th birthday of David Attenborough! The classroom was full of excitement as we learned all about the incredible animals and habitats he has helped people discover around the world.
The children enjoyed exploring nature facts, sharing their favourite animals, and taking part in fun activities inspired by the natural world. There was lots of creativity, curiosity, and teamwork throughout the day. We even talked about how we can help protect our planet just like Sir David has encouraged people to do for so many years.
It was a wonderful celebration filled with smiles, learning, and a love for wildlife! 🦁🦕🌿

Maple Class:

This term has been full of creativity and curiosity. We explored the Anglo-Saxons and Scots, even having a go at making our own Celtic knots. In Science, the children investigated light and shadows and loved discovering how reflections work. Our handmade book bags were a real highlight — they looked brilliant. We also enjoyed David Attenborough Day and an exciting visit from the Air Ambulance team.

Sycamore Class:

This has been an important and exciting term for our Year 6 pupils as they completed their SATs this week. We are incredibly proud of all their hard work and determination, well done to each and every one of them. Alongside this, both Year 5 and Year 6 have enjoyed exploring reading texts, grammar and developing their arithmetic skills.

In history, the children have loved learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. A particular highlight was a visit from a "real-life" Viking, who brought the past to life and helped us understand the battles they fought. We are looking forward to ending the term by designing and creating our own Viking longships, building on the detailed plans the children have worked so hard on.

In science, we have explored fossils, including creating our own using bread, which was a big hit! We then moved on to learning about living things and inheritance, discovering how we receive different genes from our parents. This inspired some wonderfully creative "new species" designs.

Cricket has also been a real highlight this term. The children have been working hard on developing their overarm bowling from a strong starting position, with many beginning to step through and follow through their action. Batting skills have also improved, with a focus on timing and aiming where to place the ball.

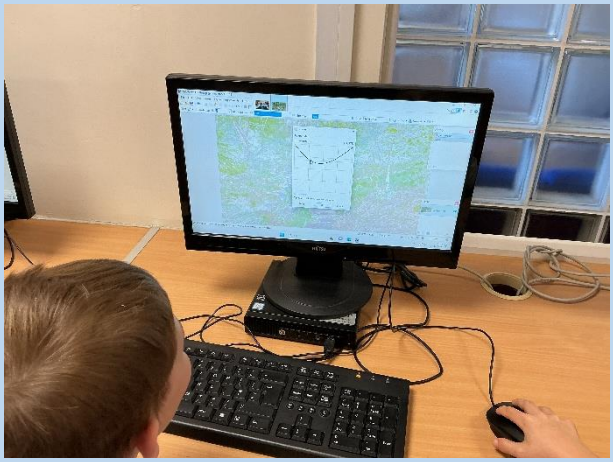
Have a wonderful half term, we look forward to seeing you all next term. Year 6, I can't wait for our North Wales trip!

Ash Class:

This term in Ash Class we have been super busy learning all about minibeasts. The children have enjoyed sharing stories such as *Slug Needs a Hug*, *Superworm*, *Mad About Minibeasts* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which inspired lots of discussion, drama and creative work. One of our most memorable moments was becoming nature detectives on our very own bug hunt. Armed with magnifying glasses and plenty of curiosity, the children discovered an amazing variety of creepy crawlies — from wiggly worms and tiny beetles to colourful ladybirds and beautiful buzzing bees. We have also been carefully observing our very own class caterpillars, watching them grow bigger each day. They are now safely tucked inside their chrysalises, and we are eagerly waiting to see them transform into

beautiful butterflies. Together we developed our observation skills, deepened our understanding of the natural world and learned how important it is to care for even the smallest creatures. It has been an exciting, hands-on term full of wonder, teamwork and exploration, and I am incredibly proud of everything Ash Class has achieved.

Rowan Class:



This term Rowan class have been learning light and shadows, and how to stay safe in the sun. We've also learned about the Mary Celeste as part of our mystery reading, and the children have wrote some fantastically gruesome stories involving pirates and sea monsters. In D&T we made book sleeves and I was very impressed with the children's patience and perseverance as they stitched some very tricky designs. We've definitely also enjoyed our French, roleplaying ordering food in French cafes.

Poplar Class:

This half term has been full of exciting experiences and wonderful memories for the children. We celebrated David Attenborough Day in honour of his 100th birthday, learning about his incredible work and the importance of caring for our world. The children were fascinated by our special visit from the air ambulance team, who taught us all about the important work they do and showed us their equipment. Another magical moment was releasing our caterpillars after watching them transform into beautiful butterflies — the children loved observing each stage of their life cycle.

We cannot believe there is only one more half term together before summer! The children continue to amaze us every day with their enthusiasm, kindness and hard work, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved so far this year.

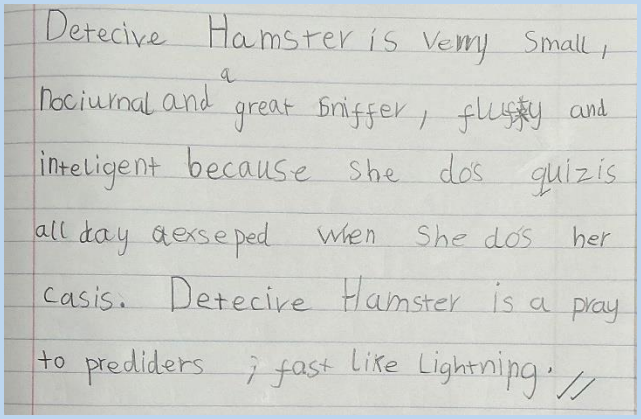
Oak Class:

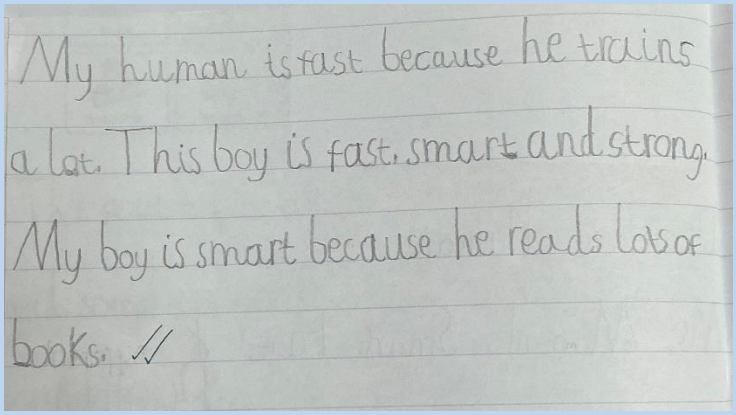
This half term, Oak Class has had a fantastic time exploring the wonderful world of minibeasts and discovering just how much life is buzzing away right under our noses. The children have been full of curiosity as we looked closely at the tiny creatures living in our gardens, inspired by Sir David Attenborough himself. One of the real highlights has been watching our caterpillars grow bigger and bigger as they munched their way through their food, before forming their chrysalises. We are all very excited and can't wait to release our beautiful butterflies soon!

We have also enjoyed learning about worms and how they help us by turning waste into healthy soil through composting, as well as finding out about busy bees and the important job they do making honey and helping plants to grow. The children have loved discovering just how important these tiny creatures really are.

To round off our topic, we've been getting practical by mapping out journeys around a farm and using Beebots to program routes. Our challenge has been to help find the farm's prize cow from *What the Ladybird Heard*! It's been a busy and truly enjoyable half term in Oak Class.

Willow Class:


Detecive Hamster is very small, a nocturnal and great sniffer, fluffy and inteligent because she dos quizis all day aexseped when she dos her casis. Detecive Hamster is a pray to prediders ; fast like Lightning. //


My human is fast because he trains a lot. This boy is fast, smart and strong. My boy is smart because he reads lots of books. //

This half term in Willow Class, the children have worked incredibly hard and made fantastic progress in their writing. They have focused on forming their letters correctly, presenting their work neatly, and writing sentences using a range of punctuation, including question marks, commas, and exclamation marks. The children have also been developing their sentence structure by extending their ideas with conjunctions such as and, but, and because.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed learning about the significant impact Florence Nightingale had on hospitals and healthcare, and exploring how medical care has changed from the past to the present day.

We are extremely proud of the effort, enthusiasm, and determination shown by everyone in Willow Class. Keep up the fantastic work!

Hawthorn Class:

Summer 1 has been a busy and memorable half-term for Hawthorn. The Year 6 children approached their **SATs** with maturity, determination, and I am so proud of them!

At the start of the term, we had exciting **visit from the Air Ambulance team**. Pupils learned about the vital work they do, explored some of the equipment, and even got to sit inside the helicopter!

We ended the half-term with our **trip to Cadbury World**. The children enjoyed discovering how chocolate is made, learning about the history of chocolate and the Mayans, and—of course—sampling a few treats along the way.

Hawthorn should feel very proud of everything they've achieved this half-term. We look forward to more adventures in Summer 2!

"Next Term's Big Questions……."

EYFS – Why don't all animals live in the same place?

Year 1/2 – Do you like to be beside the seaside?

Year 3/4 – Where does water go?

Year 5/6 – Can something end and begin at the same time?

Key Dates:

Wednesday 20th May 2026	Whole School – Rejuvenate Newent
Friday 22nd May 2026	School closes at 3.10pm for May Half Term Holidays
Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026	May Half Term
Monday 1st June 2026	School re-opens at 8.40am
Monday 1st June 2026 – Friday 5th June 2026	Year 6 North Wales Residential – Mrs Kelly in Attendance
Monday 1st June 2026 – Friday 12th June 2026	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check – checks will take place between these dates
Thursday 4th June 2026	Year 3/4 swimming Begins – finishes 9th July
Monday 8th June 2026 – Wednesday 10th June 2026	Year 3/4 Viney Hill Residential
Monday 8th June 2026 – Friday 12th June 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Tuesday 9th June 2026	Year 6 Leaver's Photos
Wednesday 17th June 2026	Glebe Sports Day AM Picklenash Sports Day PM
Tuesday 30th June 2026	Dance Workshop – Glebe Only
Tuesday 30th June 2026	"The School of Pop" Year 6 Performance to Parents 1.30pm – Details to follow
Wednesday 1st July 2026	"The School of Pop" Year 6 Performance to Parents 6pm – Details to follow
Wednesday 1st July 2026	Young Minds Matter Glebe Year 2 Transition Workshop
Thursday 2nd July 2026	Glebe & Picklenash Move Up Day
Thursday 2nd July 2026- Friday 3rd July 2026	Year 6 NCS Induction Days
WC Monday 6th July 2026	Reports sent to parents
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 2 Moving up Assembly 9.15am – Parents invited Year 2 Disco PM – Details to follow
Thursday 16th July 2026	Year 6 Leaver's Service 9.15am – Parent's invited PM – Leavers Celebrations – Details to follow
Friday 17th July 2026	School closes for Summer Holidays at 2pm
Monday 20th July 2026 – 30th August 2026	Summer Holidays
Tuesday 1st September 2026	INSET Day at Glebe and Picklenash – School Closed
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	SCHOOL REOPENS at 8.40am for Autumn Term

Key dates are subject to change

Rotary Club of the Royal Forest of Dean

FOREST YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER 2026 COMPETITION

£200 first Prize
Entries open May 1st to August 31st 2026
Age Groups 4-11 And 11-18

Original photograph on the subject
"Life in the Forest of Dean"

Entry free. Limit of two photographs per entrant
Digital entry only

Full details and Entry:
www.rotary-rfod.org.uk/photocomp
or QR

Rotary
Royal Forest of Dean

Rotary Club of the Royal Forest of Dean Trust Fund Reg. Charity No.286032

SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL

Sunday 24th May 2026

The Speech House Hotel Grounds
Forest of Dean Gloucestershire
GL16 7EL

Spring FOOD FESTIVAL

10am - 5pm

Early Bird Tickets
Adult £8
child £4 / U5's free
Family ticket £24
Tickets available online or on the door

Amazing Local Food Producers
Live Music - Street Food - Arts & Crafts
Cookery Theatre - Kids Cookery Classes
Talks & Tastings - Punch & Judy - Dog
Agility - Circus Skills .....& much more

www.forestshowcase.org

HARTS BARN cookery school · leaf CREATIVE · 5 ACRES · FOREST DELI · HALE & CO. (Drybrook) Ltd.

ENTRY FEE- DONATION

BILLYS

VINTAGE WEEKEND

raising money for local charities

Public gates open
SATURDAY 11AM-5PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

• TRACTOR PULLING • BAR
VINTAGE VEHICLES • TOMBOLA •
CRAFT STALLS

• LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY NIGHT
FROM 8:30PM •

MANOR FARM, CLIFFORD'S MESNE, NEWENT
GL18 1JL

13TH & 14TH JUNE

PARENT AND CARER ALLIANCE PRESENTS
SEND
SUMMER CELEBRATION
20TH AUG
DURSLEY RECREATION GROUND
10AM - 4PM
A fun-filled family event, creating connections, support, inclusion, and opportunities for every family.
Police vehicles and activities, displays, sports activities, sensory play, grant charities, stalls and stands, help and support available
A huge free event not to be missed
We are hosting a SEND Summer Celebration as part of the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme this summer.Please note: If you are not booked on via the Family Hub website, lunch will not be available.
For more information, visit
WWW.PARENTANDCARERALLIANCE.ORG.UK
Gloucestershire HAF holiday activities & food
Parent & Carer Alliance C.I.C.