

*'Enabling everyone to flourish'    Respect, Perseverance, Creativity*

**Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School**  
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20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### **Term 1 events**

#### Circus skills – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Thank you to the PTA for organising and funding a day of circus skills for all children to get involved in.

#### Parent workshop: Smart Phone Free Childhood – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm

All families are invited to come to the school hall to find out more about this initiative and engage in a discussion about what this means for the children at our school. This is a national initiative which is brought to our school by a group of parents and is supported by the school. Please do come along to find out more and make your views known. In the meantime you may like to watch this YouTube video on the theme:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zhfd0jW7iY>

#### INSET day – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September

School will be closed to all children for our second staff training day of the year.

#### Black History Month – October

All classes will focus on some important figures who have made a difference to the people around them.

#### Harvest festival – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am

Each class will contribute towards our annual Harvest service, sharing something they have learnt about at this important time of the year. All families are invited to join us in St Mary's Church in the village. We will also be asking for donations for the Yate and Chipping Sodbury Foodbank. Please see the shopping list which is available on the foodbank website: <https://nbsg.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. Items can be brought to the playground on the morning of the Harvest service.

#### Parent / teacher meetings – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Our first of two sets of parent / teacher meetings will take place at the end of Term 1. Appointment letters will be shared nearer the time. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education sooner, please speak to your child's class teacher.

### **Reception 2025**

We are beginning to show families around our school who are interested in spaces for next September's new Reception cohort. Applications can be made online at the following website: <https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=GLu6GUIMkpw&familychannel=2-2&channel=family> and the closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please contact the school office if you would like to book a visit.

Please note: the closing date for **secondary school applications** is 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### Attendance

Attendance information for the term so far:

	Wrens	Robins	Swallows	Hawks	Total
<b>Cumulative attendance this term</b>	94.8%	98.8%	99.3%	96.5%	97.9%
<b>Number of late marks this term</b>	9	7	10	4	30

Our attendance target this year is 97% and we take very seriously our efforts to ensure all children are in school every day when they are well enough.

A few reminders:

Schools are unable to authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. a family wedding. Please speak to Mr Riches before booking a holiday to check whether it meets the criteria for an exceptional circumstance. [Click here](#) for more information about penalty notices.

The NHS has a website to help parents determine whether children with any illnesses such as chicken pox should attend school or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### Music

Children in Robin Class began their music lessons with a visiting teacher from the music hub this week. Through these 'Beatbus' sessions, they will learn some of the fundamental elements of music over a 10 week period. We hope to invite families in to find out more about what they have learnt towards the end of the sessions.

Children in Key Stage 2 will receive whole class instrumental lessons during the course of the year and this begins with Hawk Class strings next week. We will let you know the plans for Swallow Class once we have more information.

All children will continue to receive an hour of music teaching with their class teacher or teaching assistant through our Charanga scheme of work throughout the year.

If you are interested in your child learning an instrument in school, new enquiries should be made using the following link: <https://wema.org.uk/young-people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/> If your child receives pupil premium funding, please contact the school office or speak to Mr Riches if you would like your child to receive lessons.

### School pre-school provision questionnaire

Since Hawkesbury pre-school closed, we have received enquiries from families in the village about whether a pre-school might be set up by the school on the school site. We are now in a position whereby we would like to ask parents to complete a questionnaire so that we can understand interest from local families and whether this would be a viable option for the school to pursue.

Please share your views by completing the survey as soon as possible: <https://forms.gle/oxbvHSIzeB1VjA3h6>

### Active travel

Golden Lock begins once again on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**. All children are encouraged to scoot or cycle to school. Two of our oldest children will place the golden lock on a bike and a scooter. The owner of these will then be awarded with a prize. Larger prizes are available on one day each week.

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### House groups

All children are organised into house groups for activities through the year. The following children from Hawk Class have been selected as house captains this year:

<b>Mars</b>	<b>Mercury</b>	<b>Jupiter</b>	<b>Saturn</b>
Captain: Ruby Vice: Evelyn	Captain: Clara Vice: Eloise	Captain: Adelaide Vice: Ivy	Captains: Phoebe & Elizabeth Vice: Beth

Congratulations to all house captains and thank you for your willingness to take on these positions of responsibility.

Our new Reception children have now been introduced to their Year 6 buddies. They have been looking out for each other during break and lunch and there have been some opportunities for some class based 'buddy time'.

### Parent council

We are looking for new members to join our parent council which meets three times per year on a Friday afternoon. Year group reps need to gather feedback and questions from parents and carers in advance of each meeting then feed this back to the group. The outcome is then shared in a subsequent newsletter.

Current reps are as follows:

Reception	Vacancy
Year 1	Debbie Cleary
Year 2	Anna Humphries
Year 3	Charlie Hodder
Year 4	Vacancy
Year 5	Kristy Dunk
Year 6	Vacancy

Please let the office know if you would like to get involved.

### Free school meals

Your child may be eligible for free school meals throughout their time at school. This may also mean the school is eligible for additional funding to support your child's education.

Please click here to see a [video about the benefits of school meals](#) which features Councillor Alison Evans who grew up on benefits-related free school meals. In the video she visits Coniston Primary School to hear from parents about the difference the support makes to their families. Alison highlights that nowadays, nobody else knows if you're on benefits-related free school meals. She is encouraging parents to apply so if you think you're eligible. Visit: [www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

### New mental health toolkit for parents and carers

[Understanding your child's mental health](#) is a new resource that offers guidance and support for parents and carers.

The public health team has worked in conjunction with partners to put together this new toolkit. It is designed to help parents and carers to think about practical ways to understand and support their children's mental health and wellbeing. It also contains signposting information for local mental health and wellbeing services.

**Awards and certificates**

There was no celebration service today due to the circus skills day.

If your child has an award or achievement they would like to share during celebration service, they are invited to bring this in on a Friday. Please let your child's class teacher know.

**PTA update**

**Your PTA Needs You!**

After two years, Rosie and Jo are stepping down from the Chair and Secretary roles on the PTA.

Currently Sophie is our Treasurer but is thinking of taking on the Chair role and we are therefore tentatively looking for someone to be our Treasurer going forwards. You will be working alongside Sophie who has carried out the role of treasurer for the past year and a fabulous small committee of like-minded people. If you think this might be something that you could help us with, please get in touch!

**The AGM is being held on Tuesday 8th October at 8pm in the school hall.**

The PTA has created so many opportunities for our children - KAPLA workshops, travelling kitchen, Easter disco, NEW LAPTOPS!, music lessons for all years, STEM projects, not to mention covering the essentials such as stationary and coach travel for ALL school trips.

Like everything, costs within the school are escalating and they need a PTA more than they ever have before. Please help us keep the momentum going!

Any questions, please get in touch.

Rosie - 07786 477737 or [hello@hawkesburypta.co.uk](mailto:hello@hawkesburypta.co.uk)

**Term 1 calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Information</b>
Parent meeting – smart phone free childhood initiative	27.09.24, 2pm	All are invited to join this meeting in the school hall.
INSET day	30.09.24	School will be closed to all children.
Black history month begins	01.10.24	
Hawk Class swimming begins	02.10.24	Letters will be sent separately.
Back to school bash	04.10.24	Organised by the PTA.
Harvest service	11.10.24, 9.30am	Please come and join us at St Mary's Church for this service to which the children will contribute.
All-age service	20.10.24, 10am	All are invited to the monthly all-age service at St Mary's.
Outdoor learning day	21.10.24	
Parent / teacher meetings	21.10.24 23.10.24	
Last day of Term 1	25.10.24	
First day of Term 2	04.11.24, 8.30am	

Dates can also be found on our school website: <https://hawkesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/category/news/>

**Term dates:**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Ends</b>
Term 1	Monday 2 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Term 3	Monday 6 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
Term 6	Monday 2 June 2025	Tuesday 22 July 2025