



Dear parents,

How lovely the mornings are becoming brighter and spring bulbs are beginning to flower. The children in class 1 have enjoyed the crocuses and daffodils blossoming which they had previously planted. Enjoy reading more about the children below.

Sponsored Marathon

Despite the bracing weather the children had fun running this week. The children ran laps of the school field or the school site with the aim of collectively running a marathon per class. KS1 were full of enthusiasm and KS2 showed real determination to challenge themselves. The children's thoughts: "I liked getting fit."-Violet, "I liked running in a big space and running as many laps as I could. I ran exactly 2 miles."-Daniel, "I enjoyed running and when I got tired or thought of stopping I remembered I was helping the lives of others."-Isabella. Class 5 who worked together to run a colossal 37.8 miles. Overall the children ran over 160 miles! Congratulations to everyone—it was an amazing effort. Please remember to collect your sponsor money and hand in to Mrs Birch. We know the difference it will make to the school and Clic Sargent. Thank you to Mrs Rome for organising the event and to all the parent helpers who walked with the children to the school field.



Local Mill History

Y3 & Y4 children enjoyed a fantastic learning day at the 'Museum in the Park' where they explored the history of Ebley Mill. They had the opportunity to take part in three workshops and look at a new exhibition. They were clearly actively engaged as they asked many thoughtful questions of the staff. A few comments from the children:

- Toby, Perin & Toby: We learned how they used machines to clean and make the wool. Meeting the mill owner and workers was great. They were funny and taught us lots of things.
- Ella: I enjoyed carding the sheepskin.
- Piers: I liked the weaving where you pulled and pushed.
- Hero: I loved spinning the wool, subbing and using a spinning weight.

The good manners and behaviour of our children were commented on by the museum staff too. Well done Y3 & Y4 for representing our school so well.

Langa-Langa School—Kenya link school

As part of their learning theme on Kenya, the children in class 2 have been enjoying learning songs of Africa with Mrs Hynes. Mr Dougan is planning to record them to share their singing with the children in Langa-Langa School on his next visit later in March. The children sing really well so hopefully this will be a real treat for the children and teachers in Langa-Langa.

Class 1 Assembly

The children in Class 1 led a fantastic assembly: on the theme of 'a sense of fun'. They shared the story of the gingerbread man which they have been learning about in class and showed photographs of them baking gingerbread men and women. Hearing them explain the activities that were fun for them like learning building with lego, playing with friends, helping brothers and sisters, was a delight. They concluded with a wonderful song and dance that had the whole room rocking with them! A wonderful assembly that made everyone smile!

World Book Day

The School will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday March 1st. We would love children to bring in their favourite book to share with friends. Children and adults will be sharing their favourite book and why reading is important to them on the day too. Children can come dressed as a book character on the day. Money collected for dressing up will be used to support READATHON—a book charity that support children in hospital (including Bristol and Gloucester) through providing books and storytellers. Each child will receive a £1 voucher which can be used to purchase books too.

School closure

We are aware of snow weather warnings in our area. As such it seemed timely to remind you of the GCC school closure website: <http://www.glosclosedschools.com> This website will inform you of school closure or partial school closure. Local radio stations will also make announcements. In addition, each class has a nominated parent who can be contacted for information too-see attached information from the start of the year.

Increase in scarlet fever - from the Director of Public Health, GCC

There is a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever. Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever : The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on the skin of some Black and Asian people, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur.

Infection control advice : Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever **should not attend** school / work for **24 hours** after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.

Traffic

Due to reported speeding, the local police have monitored the speed of traffic around the front of school and the lane. They have informed us this will continue to ensure children and adults who walk to school are safe. Many thanks for driving responsibly in this busy area.

Governors

We are delighted that Katy Smith has joined our Governing team as a co-opted representative. Katy has strong skills and has already shown her commitment to our school through chairing the PA committee successfully in the past. We are all looking forward to working with her in the months to come.

The Governor team have undertaken a safety walk of the inside of the building recently and worked with the staff to monitor safeguarding procedures and curriculum subjects last month. We thank them for their time and continued support.

Dates for your diary

We have listed below some of the key dates for your diary.

March

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| Thur 1st | - WORLD BOOK DAY: Pupils dress as favourite character & bring a favourite book |
| Mon 5th | - Value for learning and life: UNICEF article 12: Children have the right to give their opinion. |
| Mon 12th | - Value for learning and life: Friendship |
| Thur 22nd | - Y5 & Y6 Swimming—First lesson |
| Fri 23rd | - Class 4 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome) |
| Mon 26th | - UNICEF article 15: Children have the right to meet friends and join groups
- Creative day—Mindfulness through Movement
- 2:45-3:10—sharing the day's activities with Parents—please advise Mrs Birch if you wish to attend |
| Tues 27th | - Creative day |
| Wed 28th | - Last day of Spring Term 4 for pupils
- Rights & Respecting Day
- School egg hunt
- PA Easter egg raffle after school |
| Thur 29th | - INSET for staff |

Holiday for children: March Thursday 29th-April Sunday 15th 2018

April

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| Sat 14th | - Easter Egg Hunt: Playgroup & School PA |
| Mon 16th | - First day of Summer Term 5 for pupils |
| Thurs 19th | - Country Dancing Festival |
| Tues 24th | - Parent Evenings |
| Thurs 26th | - Parent Evenings |

May

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| Wed 2nd | - Playgroup pre-school sessions commence |
| w/c 14th | - KS2 Assessment and SATS week |
| Wed 23rd | - Class & leavers photographs |
| Fri 25th | - May Queen Celebration
- Last day of Summer Term 5 for children |

