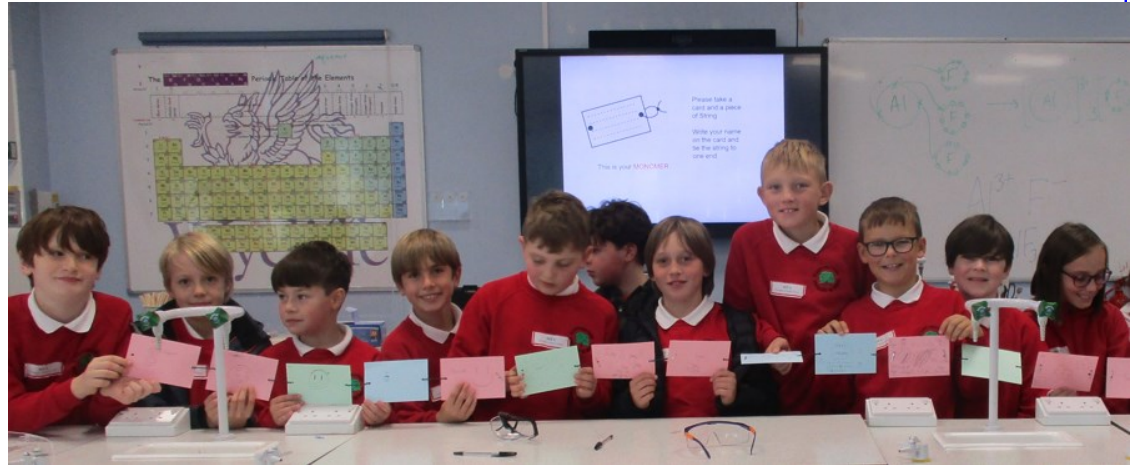


Dear parents/carers,

Happy New Year! I do hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday with your friends and loved ones. We are excited to be back learning together in 2024! The cold weather has finally come with the start of the new year. Please do dress your child so they are ready for the chilly weather: undergarments such as extra t-shirts/vests are great and warm coats for outside are needed now too. Many thanks for your help with this.

Enjoy reading about some of the school events that happened near the end of Autumn Term. The dates for this term are outlined at the end of the newsletter too.

STEM Educational Visit



The children in Y5 and Y6 had a great day at Wycliffe College exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). The children enjoyed a maths session on the shape of smoke rings (exploring 3d shape properties); a lecture on the strength of bridges and also a session on lasers (where music was played through the laser to illustrate fibre optics). The children broke off into groups to explore different workshops including: the mathematics in a card trick; creating music using IT; investigating flesh eaters (insects); the science of vaccinations; the most efficient blades for a wind turbine and the maths of farming & crop rotation. Overall the children had a brilliant time and learned a lot.

Thank you to Mr Dougan and Mrs Hussey for giving their time to help with the visit.

Football Tournament

The Y5/6 school football team enjoyed being part of a local football tournament run by Atlas Sports. The team played several matches and worked cooperatively and with spirit. The team won 3 matches, drew 1 and lost 1.

Jacob: I liked scoring and setting up & assisting others with scoring goals.

Otto: It was competitive but not too competitive which meant it was fun. I just love playing football!

Thank you to the parents, staff and Mrs Birch for organising the transport so our children could participate.





Stroud Book Festival

The children joined brilliant online author sessions as part of Stroud Book Festival. Class 3 and 5 learned from Joseph Coelho—the children’s laureate. He presented tips on starting to write, performing and enjoying poetry. Class 1 enjoyed a session with writer Smriti Halls—the focus was on being the change you want to see and children writing their own stories. Class 2 enjoyed author Ken Wilson-Max, a Zimbabwe author and illustrator. He explored how even the youngest children can help look after the environment as he transported the children to Africa with a story about a little girl’s bond with baobab trees. Thank you to our wonderful PA for funding these opportunities for our children.

KS2 Educational visits to Corinium Museum

The children in KS2 are learning about Roman life in History at present. To help with their studies, the children visited the Corinium museum. The children explored artefacts, studied roman mosaics and enjoyed workshops.

Poppy: I liked the workshops. We found out about roman people by solving riddles, looking at bones and what they were buried with.

Charlie: I enjoyed looking at the artefacts, the Four Season mosaic and equipment. We saw a shield - that was my favourite.

Thanks to Mrs Burns and Mrs Birch for organising the trip. Thank you to the parent helpers who helped too.



Staffing

Please find an outline of our current teaching staff below:

Class 1: Mrs Parsons—TA Mrs Williams

Class 2: Mrs Harrison/Mrs Gater—TA Mrs Bedwell

Class 3: Mrs Burns

Class 4: Mrs Rome/Miss Pates

Class 5: Mrs Mifflin/Mrs Rome

KS2 TAs: Mrs Yorke & Miss Bingle

We welcome Mrs Harrison back after her maternity leave. She will work with Mrs Gater for the rest of this academic year to teach class 2.

We are sad that Miss Pates will be leaving us at February half term. She has an exciting new post working for GCC SEND Team as an Advisory Teacher. We know she will be brilliant in this role and wish her the very best.

We are recruiting for a part time teacher for C4 and SENCo presently. We will keep you informed when the positions have been filled.

DIARY DATES:

Spring Term 3

January

- Thurs 11th January: C5 Swimming begins
- Tues 23rd January: Open afternoon for parents, 2.50pm
- Fri 26th January: KS2 Tag Rugby—Oldends Lane, 9-1.30pm
- Fri 26th January: C3 Cake Sale, 3.15pm
- Fri 2nd February: KS1 Snack & PJ night
- Tues 6th February: Coram Life Education-tbc
- Weds 7th February: Coram Life Education-tbc
- Fri 9th February: Last day of Term 3

Spring Term 4

- Mon 19th February: First day of Term 4
- Fri 23rd February: KS2 Popcorn & PJ night
- Fri 1st March: C4 Cake Sale, 3.15pm
- Thurs 7th March: World Book Day
- Thurs 14th March: C4 swimming begins—information to follow
- Wed 20th March: Pentathlon event-tbc
- Wed 20th March: Childrens Egg Hunt in school (staff to organise)
- Thurs 21st March: Japanese visitors during the morning
- Thurs 21st March: PA Easter Egg Raffle
- Fri 22nd March: Last day of Term 4



Thank you for your support,