



Co-Headteacher Welcome

Welcome back to an already busy Autumn term!

In the past four weeks, we have been settling into new classes and getting used to different routines. Our Early Bird and Extended Care after school clubs are proving very popular and have enhanced our provision, with extra-curricular clubs now taking place at lunchtimes. Parrot class have just returned from three days residential at PGL Liddington outdoor centre; Mme Ziebeck, Ms Kewley, Miss Nessling and Mrs Lay accompanied the very enthusiastic group! It was an action-packed time - giant swing, trapeze, zipwire and Survivor challenges to name but a few. Every pupil pushed themselves to attempt every activity and we have returned with many happy memories and plenty of hilarious stories to tell!

Y3/4 have already attended an event at Stow music festival and individual piano lessons are now taking place on Mondays and Wednesdays during school hours.

Year 5 and 6 pupils undertook their Bikeability (cycling proficiency) training. After completing bike safety inspections, the pupils then spent time practising manoeuvres in the playground to show their competence. They learnt about road signs, signals and markings before heading out on the roads around Bledington with a team of trained instructors. During the three days, pupils learnt how to start and stop carefully on road journeys, identify and respond to hazards, communicate with other road users, negotiate junctions and turn safely. The instructors were very impressed with the attitude and determination shown by our pupils. Each pupil received a certificate and a badge and individually they should be very proud of their achievement.

We are looking forward to Harvest Festival next week and have asked pupils to bring an item of dried good or toiletries for our North Cotswold Food Bank collection

School Open Day will take place on Tuesday 14th October. If you know of anyone with school age children, please do tell them to come and visit our wonderful school.

All best wishes

Ms Kewley & Mme Ziebeck

Dates for your Diary

01/10/25: Food for the North Cotswold Foodbank can be brought in from 1/10 - boxes will be in the link

01/10/25 School Photographer at school for individual colour portraits

02/10/25 School Census

02/10/25 Cotswold School Open Evening 5.30pm to 8.00pm

03/10/25 European Day of Languages

06/10/25 Harvest Festival (whole school)- Doors open 1.50pm for 2pm start- all welcome

08/10/25 Nasal Flu Vaccine- **please make sure all consent given/declined by noon on 7/10**

13/10/25/14/10/25 and 16/10/25 Parents Evening. Sign-up sheets will be out in the playground on 1/10/25

14/10/25 Open Morning for prospective families- 9.30 to 11.30am- please call school to book a slot

17/10/25 Owls and Puffins to the Natural History Museum, Oxford

20/10/25 Black History: The sporting heroes who changed our lives

24/10/25 INSET DAY – NO PUPILS AT SCHOOL

27/10 to 31/10/25 Half Term Holiday- back to school on 3/11/25

31/10/25 Deadline for Secondary School applications

3/11/25 Application window open for Sept 26 Primary School admissions

3/11/25 BSA AGM in school hall 2pm – all welcome

11/11/25 Remembrance

11/11/25 Anti-Bullying Workshop for Parrot class by Chipping Norton Theatre

18/11/25 Black Hole Mobile Planetarium – whole school workshop

18/11/25 After-school Space Camp for Penguins and Parrots- more details to follow.

19/11/25 William Morris Workshop by The Oxfordshire Museum Learning Service for Reception, 1 and 2 (Owls and Puffins) Details will be on Parentpay shortly

21/11/25 Children in Need

26/11/25 Drop-in Community Café morning- more details to follow

28/11/25 Parrot Class to the Ashmolean Museum- details will be on Parentpay shortly

9/12/25: Infant Nativity- school hall Gates open 1.30 for 1.45pm start. All welcome

10/12/25- Change of menu from Roast Dinner to **Fish and Chips**- due to Christmas Dinner on Friday 12th Dec

12/12/25: Christmas Dinner; Christmas Jumper and Christmas Parties- during school hours.

15/12/25 Carol Singing at St Leonard's Church Bledington- all welcome 2.00pm start.

17/12/25 Whole school trip to the Panto at Chipping Norton Theatre- Beauty and the Beast. Details are on Parentpay

19/12/25 Break up at 1.10 for Christmas Holidays

22/12/25 to 2/1/26 Christmas Holidays- return to school 5/1/26

27/1/26 Penguin class to the Ashmolean Museum

2/2/26; 3/2/26 and 5/2/26 Parents Evening

13/2/26 INSET DAY- No pupils at school

16/2/26 to 20/2/26 Half term holiday- back to school on 23/2/26

25/02/26 OWLS class Book Fair in the school hall 8.45am

26/02/26 PUFFINS Book Fair in the school hall 8.45am

27/02/26 PENGUINS Book Fair in the school hall 8.45am

02/03/26 PARROTS Book Fair in the school hall 8.45am

05/03/26 World Book Day 2026

16/03/26 to 27/03/26 Swimming for all year groups

26/03/26 Easter Extravaganza 2.15pm start- all welcome

27/03/26 Break up at 1.10 for Easter Holidays

30/03/26 to 10/04/26 Easter Holidays- return to school on 13/4/26

04/05/26 MAY DAY Bank Holiday

11/05/26 SAT's Week

22/05/26 Maypole Afternoon- Gates Open 1.15 for a 1.30 start

25/05/26 to 29/05/26 Half term Holidays- 1/6/26 INSET DAY

2/6/26 Back to school

5/6/26 NON-UNIFORM day in return for tombola prize for Bledington fete

6/6/26 Bledington Village Fete

06/06/26 Castles Workshop for Owls and Puffins

16/06/26 1st Induction for new September starters 1.30pm (children and parents)

19/06/26 SPORTS DAY Gate opens 1.15 for a 1.30 start

23/06/26 2nd Induction for September starters- children only

Forest School

Thank you so much to everyone that has signed up to support Mrs Droy's Forest School until half term. The rota for after half term is now available in the Pod window. We are always looking for helpers on a Wednesday from 1-3pm, come rain or shine!

Parking at Drop-off and Pick-Up

We have recently seen significant congestion on Old Burford Road, mainly during afternoon pick-up time. This has largely been caused by vehicles parking on the white line opposite school, blocking the flow of traffic.

We kindly ask all families to avoid parking on or near the white line, and to ensure that vehicles are parked safely and legally at all times. Maintaining clear access along the road is essential for the safety of our pupils and for the convenience of other road users.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and will help us keep the area around the school safe and accessible for everyone.

Young Voices

You may have noticed that 'Young Voices' is not included in our 'Dates for Your Diary' this year. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we were unable to secure tickets for the event. We know this will be disappointing news for many, and we share in that disappointment. We hope to be able to take part again in the future.

School Photographer Wednesday 1st October

The school photographer will be with us on Wednesday 1st October to take individual colour portraits of all pupils. Proof photos will be sent out within a fortnight – you will then be able to place your order directly from Colourbox Photography. Photos will be with you in time for Christmas.

School Census- 2nd October

As part of our School Census, the number of children receiving Universal Free School Meals (available to all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) helps determine the funding we receive for school meals in the coming year.

To support this, we kindly ask that all children in Owls and Puffins (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) have a school meal on Thursday 2nd October, even if they don't usually do so. Thank you for helping us secure this funding for our school.

Harvest Festival supporting the North Cotswold Foodbank- 6th Oct-Gate opens 1.50pm for 2.00pm start

Please come along to watch the children sing in this lovely Harvest assembly on Monday 6th Oct, gates open 1.50 for a 2.00pm start. All welcome. We will, once again, support the North Cotswold Foodbank, which relies heavily on donations to feed local people in crisis. We would be most grateful if you could bring in non-perishable, in-date dried food/toiletries that we will donate to the organisation. Items such as tins, jars, UHT milk, cereals, dried pasta and toiletries are all ideal, No fresh produce please. Items can be brought in from 1/10 and left in the link area at drop off or collection. Thank you

26/06/26 Reserve Sports Day if wet on the 19th

07/07/26 KS2 End of Year Performance – afternoon- Gate Opens 1.15 for a 1.30 start

07/07/26 KS2 End of Year Performance- evening- Gate Opens 5.40 for a 6pm start

14/07/26 Whole school trip to Warwick Castle

16/07/26 Leavers Assembly

17/07/26 Break up at 1.10 for Summer Holidays

Macmillan Coffee and Cake Sale

Huge thanks to everyone who came along and supported our Macmillan Coffee and Cake Sale. We're delighted to share that we raised £273.67 for Macmillan Cancer Support – a fantastic amount that will go directly to the charity

We'd especially like to thank Parrot Class for their wonderful baking contributions. The cakes were delicious and very much appreciated by all who attended!

Open Day 14th Oct - 9.30am to 11.30am

Please spread the word to friends and family that we have an Open Day for prospective families on Tuesday 14th October. To make a booking, please contact the school office on 01608 658388 or email admin@bledington.gloucs.sch.uk

Tax Free Payments

Bledington Primary School is registered to accept Tax-Free Childcare payments. This government scheme helps working parents save 20% on childcare costs, including wraparound care such as EarlyBird.

To find out if you're eligible and how to set up your account, visit [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

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Absence due to term-time holidays

We would like to remind you that taking children out of school during term time without authorisation may result in a penalty notice being issued by Gloucestershire County Council.

Under the national framework introduced in August 2024, for the first offence within a rolling three-year period, a fine of **£160 per parent, per child**, applies if your child is absent for 10 school sessions (5 days), reduced to **£80.00** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

For a second offence within a rolling three-year period, there is no opportunity to pay the fine at the lower amount. Instead, the fine will be at £160 per parent, per child. E.g. for a 2 parent, 2 child family, this will amount to £640.00

If there is a request for a third penalty notice, prosecution will be considered by Gloucestershire County Council (if two penalty notices have been served in any rolling three-year period)

Flu Immunisation 8th October

As part of the 2025 Flu Immunisation Programme, NHS staff will visit school on 8th October to administer the nasal flu vaccine to all children from Reception to Year 6 with parental consent. For details on how to give or decline consent, please refer to the email sent on 4th September. Please note, the link will close at midday on Tuesday 7th October, all forms will need to be submitted prior to this date, **even if you are declining the vaccine.**

Christmas Cards- Class Fundraising Order Deadline 10th Oct

Our children have been hard at work designing their own personalised Christmas cards as part of our festive fundraiser. Every order placed through Class Fundraising helps — the school receives 30% of the proceeds, so the more you order, the more funds we raise for school. To receive your cards in time for Christmas, please make sure to place your order online **by the deadline of 10th October.**

If you miss the deadline, the online shop will reopen from **21st November to 1st December** for late orders. However, please note that school won't get a percentage of the proceeds for any orders placed during this period

Owls&Puffins to the Natural History Museum, Oxford.17/10/25

Owls and Puffins will visit the Natural History Museum, Oxford, on 17th October 2025, as part of our science curriculum. The children will attend a workshop on classification, which will support their learning about how living things are grouped and identified. For full details, please see Parentpay. Please note, a packed lunch will be needed.

Bledington School Association - The BSA AGM 3/11/25 2pm

Welcome to all our new parents!

All parents are automatically members of the BSA, but if you would like to become more involved and join the committee, please e mail BSA@bledington.gloucs.sch.uk. The BSA's AGM will be held in the school hall on Monday 3rd November at 2.00pm. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. All welcome

Cricket

As in previous years, Owls and Puffin classes receive weekly cricket coaching sessions every Thursday during Term 1, running from the start of September until the October half-term break. These sessions are delivered by a qualified and experienced coach from the Gloucestershire Cricket Board.

We are thrilled to continue this successful partnership, which has consistently provided our children with a fun, engaging, and enriching sporting experience.

2026 Primary School Admissions

School Admissions

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they can start primary school in September 2026

- **November 2025** Letters sent out explaining how to apply for a school place. If you are a Gloucestershire resident and you still have not received a letter by December please contact the Coordinated Admissions team.
- **4th November to 15th January** online application facility open.
- **15th January 2026** - Closing date for all applications

- **16th April** - Allocation Day.
- **23rd April**– Closing date to return reply form accepting school place

2026 Secondary School Admissions

School Admissions

If you live in Gloucestershire and require an out of county school, you will still need to apply to Gloucestershire School Admissions

- **September 2025** Letters sent out explaining how to apply for a school place
- From 3rd September to **31st October** Online Secondary/High School transfer application facility open
- **31st October** Closing date for all applications
- **2nd March 2026**- Allocation Day.

Safeguarding- Video Games Age Ratings

Video games PEGI ratings

When choosing appropriate video games for your child, you can use age ratings to help you.

What are PEGI ratings?

PEGI stands for Pan-European Game Information and is the video game content rating system used across the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

PEGI 3 – suitable for all ages

PEGI 7 – suitable for young children

PEGI 12 – suitable for children 12 and over

PEG 16 – suitable for children 16 and over

PEGI 18 – Only suitable for adults

Each PEGI rating also contains content warnings to help you make an informed decision.



Wellbeing

At Bledington, we value the physical and mental well-being of every member of our community. So, we are adding this little section, in each newsletter, to offer help and support to anyone who might find it helpful. Our aim is to provide tips, advice and support for everyone.

We use the 5 ways to wellbeing as a school to consider how we can keep ourselves healthy in body and mind. We:

- 1) Keep learning – anything new, anything we enjoy.
- 2) Connect – with friends, family or pets, in person or online
- 3) Take notice – of the amazing world we live in right now
- 4) Give – some time, some energy, some kindness to someone else
- 5) Keep active – taking part in any physical activity we enjoy