



Elmbridge Primary School Newsletter 6th March 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers

It was lovely to see so many children (and staff) dressing up for World Book Day on Thursday. As you know, as a school we value the importance of reading and the joy that it can bring! Thank you also to Mrs. Booth for helping to organise our annual Year 2 and Year 3 'stories for bedtime' on Thursday evening. The children came back to school dressed in their PJs, dressing gowns, slippers and with their favourite teddy bear to hear some stories read by staff, Year 6 pupils and some volunteer parents as well as enjoy some hot chocolate and supper. This is always a relaxing evening and the staff and I relish the opportunity to share our love of books and favourite stories with the children.

The teachers look forward to seeing you all at the parent consultations next week, which will give you an opportunity to look through your child's work and get a better insight into your child's progress.

Finally, we welcome Mr. Andrew Westwood and Mrs. Sudepta Patra to our team of midday supervisors.

Best wishes

Glen Tharia & Manda Holliday — Co-Head Teachers

Online Safety

Some children and young people use anonymous and decoy apps for a layer of digital privacy. However, these apps can expose children to variety of online safety issues.

Learn more about what these apps are and get practical tips to keep young people safe by reading this helpful [guide](#).

Attendance

Our attendance this term is currently
95.90%

If your child is going to be off school due to illness, you must call the school absence line or report an absence in Edulink **every day that they are off before 9am** to update us on your child's condition.

Remember:

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!



Mental Health Champion Award

Our school is thrilled to be accredited with the Mental Health Champion Award, a recognition that celebrates our commitment to creating a supportive, nurturing environment for every child and staff member. This achievement reflects the hard work, compassion, and dedication of our entire community, and it reinforces our belief that wellbeing is at the heart of successful learning. We are proud of this milestone and excited to continue championing positive mental health for all. This would not have been possible without the vision and passion of Mrs Holliday and the support of the wellbeing team, Mrs Care, Mrs Langley, Miss Bell and the rest of the staff.

Cross Country

Over the last few weeks, a select group of pupils have taken part in cross country training sessions with Gloucester Schools Sports Network. They have all shown such determination, commitment and resilience over that time. Each and everyone of them has improved in not only their running ability but also in self belief. They can all feel very proud of themselves in taking part, having competed against over 800 citywide pupils to do so. After a very close race off last week, they have now selected 'Team Gloucester'. The following Elmbridge pupils have been selected to compete in the County Cross Country Championships on Sunday 8th March:

Florrie Smith, Madison Hodges, Elsie Castروفilippo, Reggie Johnson, Callum Wakeman

Well done to everyone who took part!

Mrs Howard

Key Steps Two Gymnastics Competition

On Monday, 6 Year 3/4 pupils competed against 10 other schools in the Key Steps 2 Gymnastics Competition at Gloucester Academy.

Ariya, Athena, Lina, Florrie, Olivia and Isla displayed their brilliant gymnastics skills and behaved wonderfully throughout the competition.

Overall, as a team, Elmbridge came 3rd, achieving a bronze medal!

A particular well done to Ariya, who came 3rd overall on the floor against 60 gymnasts and Athena, who was awarded a medal for showing 'respect' throughout the competition, one of the school games values.

Congratulations!

Mr Tharia—club coach



Contact us
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French Play



Last Friday, Years 3-6 were treated to a French play at school. Here are some pupil reviews!

- On Friday 27th February 2026 the French play was acted on the school stage. The play was about a boy called Max who was washed on a beach in France and tried to find a way back to the hotel he was staying in. The play was spoken in French and English.

- We learnt all about Max who didn't know much French and to be fair, I don't know much French either. I liked the story telling and how one person played at least five other characters.

- I learnt a lot of French words that I didn't know and the story was interesting. The actor Emily did actions which made me understand her.

- On Friday 27th February, two people took part in a French play. The play was about a boy on holiday in France who floated out to sea and ended up on the beach, but miles and miles away. His name was Max.

- I liked the French play because it was utterly hilarious, I couldn't stop laughing.

A message from the English team

If you have any unwanted children's fiction books that you would like to donate to the school for pupils to read, please bring them to the Hub. We, and the children, would be very grateful for any donations!



Eco Council News

Eco council are excited to share that with the help of the PTFA there are now 12 litter picking packs that are being used in the community to improve the local environment.

Some pupils have already borrowed them and have been shocked at the amount of litter they have collected. If you are lucky to have one, please return the bag and picker to school so another family can borrow it and use it around their local environment.

Eco council were also keen to hear that in half term members of the county council have been out with contractors to assess the roof, which will cut energy bills and reduce our carbon footprint.

Next step, around the school grounds we are hoping to plant some more flowers, trees and shrubs and begin to look at how we can try and compost in school.

Have you noticed any news flowers appearing now we are in spring? Maybe look closely and see if you can see any tiny creatures in and around them.



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Parking Safely

Following a report of a vehicle parked on the pavement at a junction on Windfall Way, we would like to remind parents and carers to park safely.

As well as causing an obstruction to pedestrians, vehicles parked on the pavement are putting our children and families in danger by making it difficult to cross the road safely. Please be aware that enforcement officers on motorbikes regularly patrol the area and will issue Penalty Charge Notices to anyone not adhering to parking regulations. We will also send on any details of vehicles, parked illegally, to the Parking Team at Gloucestershire County Council.

Please remember that there is additional parking available at the recreation ground further along Windfall Way for your use at the start and end of the school day.

Food Vouchers for Spring holiday 2026

This spring holiday, Gloucestershire County Council will again provide families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding the Local Authority has received and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child for one week.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers, for the spring holiday 2026, are open until Friday 13th March. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing Monday 23 March. If you do not receive vouchers by Monday 30th March that you were expecting, please submit a query by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the spring holiday vouchers. Families that have previously signed up should, however, contact the LA with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To find out more about the scheme, eligibility and to apply, please visit our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Polite Notice— Playing at the end of the school day

Please could we ask everyone to leave school promptly at the end of the school day and not stay on playing ball games in the playgrounds or on the school field. Whilst we appreciate the children enjoy playing, especially when the weather is good, in order to reduce the risk of accidents and potentially affecting after school clubs, we ask that everyone leaves in a timely, calm and orderly fashion. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



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Diary Dates

Tuesday 10th March	Parents' Evening (except My Plan pupils)
Wednesday 11th March	Parents' Evening (except My Plan pupils)
Monday 16th March	Year 3 Class 7 Train Trip
Tuesday 17th March	Year 3 Class 8 Train Trip
Wednesday 18th March	Year 3 Class 9 Train Trip
Thursday 19th March	Spring Concert—Junior Hall
Monday 16th—Friday 20th March	House Sports Week
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief Day
Friday 27th March	End of Term 4—Non-uniform day
Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April	School Holidays
Monday 13th April	Start of Term
Thursday 23rd April	Year 5 Trip to We the Curious, Bristol
Monday 27th April	Year 4 Archery, Junior Hall
Tuesday 28th April	Year 3 Archery, Junior Hall
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday Monday—no school
Monday 11th May	Rags2Riches Collection
Monday 11th—Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 11th, Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th May	Year 5 Watersports Activities, South Cerney Country Park (non-residential)
Monday 18th—Wednesday 20th May	Freedom Photography—Y6 Leavers and Class Photos
Thursday 21st May	School Census Day
Thursday 21st May	Green Day
Thursday 21st May	End of Term 5
Friday 22nd May	INSET Day—school closed for pupils
Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May	School Holidays
Monday 1st June	Start of Term 6
Tuesday 2nd June	Year 4 Gloucester Cathedral Trip Class 10
Wednesday 3rd June	Year 4 Gloucester Cathedral Trip Class 12
Wednesday 3rd June	Charity Presentation Assembly
Wednesday 3rd June	Year 3 Trip to Cheltenham Science Festival