



# NEWSLETTER 1

5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## VALUE OF THE TERM – RESPECT

"In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you"  
The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 7 verse 12.



Dear Parents and Friends,

Wow! I count myself really fortunate that I'm here, working alongside this staff and this community, helping to meet the children's needs. The term has begun exceptionally well – baring the occasional power cut – and I thank you for your warm welcome too. The autumn term is going to fly by, so let's get this newsletter started!

### A WARM WELCOME...

To our new children, families and friends, not all of whom are in Reception (Maple Class). As well as this year's Reception intake, we do have some in-year starters (older year groups). We hope you'll all be very happy in your new Ampney Crucis family. Everyone seems to have settle well.

### EYFS Outdoor Play Area

Over the summer this area benefitted from a makeover. Our thanks goes to Paul Newson from 12 Design, who donated the sleepers and fixings, paint, wood, stones and glue. The team who came in from Jaguar Landrover were a team of 10 on the first day, then 4 on the second day. Together, they...



- Built the sand pit and shelving in Maple garden
- Built a new mud kitchen and revamped the old one
- Made a planter
- Tidied up the Forest School area, including the pond, cut the hedges, fixed the fence, creating a new mural in the quiet garden, laid new stones and painted the fences and bench.
- They also painted 3 toilets and Maple corridor.



The result? The children love it!



### A Message from your next Head Teacher

*I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School and very much look forward to joining the school in January. It's a privilege to be stepping into this role, and I'm excited to begin this new chapter with you all.*

*I bring with me over 15 years of experience and am currently serving as Deputy Headteacher at a primary school in Oxfordshire. Throughout my career, I've been passionate about creating supportive, ambitious, and inclusive environments where children can thrive not only academically, but also personally and socially.*

*On a personal note, I live locally with my husband, and we are proud parents of three children. I love music, enjoy playing the piano, travelling and spending time with my family.*

*Between now and January, I'll be working closely with the current leadership team to ensure a smooth transition. I'm looking forward to meeting pupils, parents, carers, and staff in the new year and to working together to build on the school's many strengths.*

*Warmest regards, Rebecca Balloch.*

## Values

Our school has three principle values, each one 'in focus' for a traditional term. In the Autumn we are focussing on RESPECT and key questions include...

"How do we show respect... at school ... at home ... in public ... for myself ... for creation ...for authority ... for those in need?"

**Healthy Eating** Staff have been noticing a gradual tendency for lunchboxes to become unhealthy in recent times. Many things are convenient without actually providing good nutrition. So for a few weeks, I'll be highlighting some tasty alternatives. Additionally we aim to send home uneaten food. Please take note of this to help you gauge how much to pack. Over packing the boxes leads either to expensive waste or over-eating, both of which can be avoided with some careful thought.



Cheese (low-fat?), mixed dried fruit or fat-free pop-corn! If you have a great idea to add, please let me know. Email me with your ideas – [head@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk)

**A reminder** - We are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. This includes all snacks, packed lunches and cooked lunches too. This is a health and safety requirement of the HIGHEST PRIORITY for a school child.

## Considerate Parking

Please take great care to park considerably at drop-off or collection time, since we are aware that the large number of vehicles descending on the school can cause problems for our neighbours. In particular, please avoid parking across driveways. Those who can, please make a quick 'getaway' so your space becomes available for someone else.

## Are we up-to-date?

Typically, at this time of year schools remind their parents to update their children's records when needs have changed – allergies and medical diagnoses for example. Perhaps you've moved house or got a new phone number? Please make sure that Ms Chadwick ([admin@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sc.uk](mailto:admin@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sc.uk)) has all the essential information to help us do our best for the children.

## Rain Coats and Sun Hats!

On Tuesday and Wednesday heavy showers of rain caught us off guard during the lunchtime play. Please check the forecasts and if in doubt children should bring a coat.

## Staff are learners too!

On Monday we gathered as a whole staff to learn about the changes being made to safeguarding rules and regulations. First aid training for some is also coming up and soon Teachers, as Subject Leaders, will have their own.

## Important Dates

The term dates can be found on our website – <https://www.ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk/>. Follow the navigation to "Information for Parents" where you'll also find a wealth of other information which can be especially helpful if you are new to the school. Hopefully soon we'll be able to release the important dates for the Autumn Term, such as Harvest Thanksgiving. Parent Evening dates will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Further details will follow shortly.

## Friends of Ampney Crucis School

"The Friends" (PTFA) write "A very warm welcome to all those returning to Ampney Crucis School and to the new parents and careers joining us this term. We have such an exciting year ahead, with so many wonderful experiences and events planned for both the children and adults to enjoy. We always welcome new faces to the meetings and if anyone would like to get involved, please let us know. If you are unable to attend The Friends Meetings, but would still like to have your say, please email [friendsofampneycrucisschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofampneycrucisschool@gmail.com)."

The first meeting will be on Friday the 26th of September, here at school. They normally start the meetings at 2pm and are finished 3pm, in time for pick up.

## WEBWISE

Here's a site about support for parents when children start school - [CBeebies Parenting: Starting School](#)

### Music Tuition at school

Chestnut is looking forward to their Whole Class Music Lessons and Recorders has been selected this time, whilst Willow class will be learning infant strings. We currently offer individual instrument lessons for piano, violin, cello and guitar and you are invited to contact Ms Chadwick if you think your child might be interested. 01285 851440.

### Internal modifications

The work to create to a more comfortable and practical staffroom is nearly completed. Our thanks go to Russell Clayton for making this happen across the summer break.

### Special Needs

Miss Jackson (Willow class teacher) has taken over the role of SENco – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator - a role that can be managed alongside her existing teaching responsibilities. She will, however, be released from the classroom one afternoon per fortnight, to facilitate meetings and complete vital paperwork. She can be contacted on an additional email address - [senco@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:senco@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk) . In time, the website will be adjusted to reflect this change.

### For families with children with SEND

The August newsletter for families with children with SEND is available online. Find it here - [Families in Partnership August newsletter for families with SEND and also professionals](#)

### Can you help?

The level of sound in the hall (from played music, assembly backing tracks etc) seems insufficient. Does anyone have some reasonably sized speakers or amplifier which will run off a 3.5 headphone socket? Likewise, the VGA projector and cables are struggling. Perhaps you work for a company with spare? I'm happy to write official letters of request if you think someone could be persuaded to help!

Best wishes,

Paul Batchelor,  
Interim Head Teacher

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From Tuesday's Worship time – School is better when no one is missing and no one misses out.

School attendance is REALLY important so please support us in our mission to reduce last year's levels of unauthorised absence.