



NEWSLETTER 2

19th September 2025

VALUE OF THE TERM – RESPECT

"Honor your father and your mother."
The Bible – Exodus Chapter 20 verse 12.



Dear Parents and Friends,

Safety First



I have noticed two items of concern. Please do not stop on the zig-zags outside of the school. This is illegal.

Secondly, some children rush out of the front 'yard' and onto school lane. We have told them this is potentially dangerous but I think in their eagerness to meet you, some forget. If you could also remind them we will be working together to help prevent accidents.

Values

Our school has three principle values, each one 'in focus' for a traditional term. Our autumn term focus is on RESPECT. If you want to share the learning at home, download an activity sheet from [Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School: Our Christian Vision and Values](#)

Funky Chickens!

How fun are these? A small deputation of children arrived in my office with decorated medical gloves, which they had created in Beech Tree wrap-around care. A simple mechanism with a straw enabled the chickens to bop up and down!

Buddies

At the request of Year 6 pupils, we have reinstated a 'buddy' system, whereby children in Reception are 'paired' with an older child. This helps to build confidence as they navigate the opportunities in the 'BIG' playground!



Playground news

Freddie and Olivia (Years 6 and 3) worked hard last term to sell off unwanted books and toys, raising money for the school. They even sold carrots they had grown. The fruits of their endeavours are tangible – a large number of new playground toys have arrived and are in use already. Favourites include the 'ball launchers' and potable 'nets'. Thank you both so much.

Website Updates

The class teachers have updated their class pages online. "School Policies and other Information" has a new home on our website. Find this under "Information for Parents". We have also published our PE and Sports Premium statement (under "Our Outcomes").

Goodbye and Hello

Mr W is leaving us to begin a new phase, heading back into full-time education. We thank him for his sense of fun, all the teaching he's given us, and the care he has shown to our children. In his place we welcome Miss Taylor and hope she'll enjoy working here as part of the team.

Forest School

Forest School takes place on Wednesday morning for Willow Class and in the afternoon for Chestnut Class. Please ensure that your child brings their full kit with them in the morning since multiple calls home regarding forgotten kit can really impact the flow of work in the office.

Swimming

Year 4 have joined the older year groups for their first school swim. "William said "It was a good opportunity to learn how to swim well." Seph is looking forward to the rest of the sessions and Jude described it as "Great fun!"

Healthy Eating Staff are hoping we can reduce the proportion of items in food boxes that are convenient but don't actually provide good nutrition. So for a few week's, I'll be highlighting some tasty alternatives.

Wheat crackers, or raw carrots, broccoli and cauliflower – perhaps with a tasty dip? If you have a great idea to add, please let me know. Email me with your ideas – head@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk



Crafty Creations

George and Roberta brought to me their creation from Willow Class. Roberta describes it as "a double decker bus for meerkats!"

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



Internal modifications

I mentioned the staffroom – I didn't mention the new 'Cherry Tree' breakout space for children in need of a calming environment. It looks, sounds and feels amazing! So if you can't find me, I might be in there having a little lie down!

We received the following safety advice for parents...

Magnetic Safety (Child Accident Prevention Trust)

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) warns that more than 300 children a year are rushed to A&E after swallowing magnets and one in ten needs life-saving surgery. When strong magnets stick together inside the body, they can rip through a child's gut, cutting off blood supply and causing life-threatening injuries. Even toddlers have needed hours of emergency surgery, and some children are left with lasting internal damage.

Magnets don't just come in toys – they're also found in jewellery kits, fridge magnets, puzzles, dartboards, fidget toys and desk gadgets. Worryingly, some magnets sold online are 17 times stronger than the UK safety limit.

- Please only buy from trusted brands and retailers.
- Be cautious with cheap copies and online marketplaces.
- Keep magnets and products containing them out of children's reach.
- Find out more at capt.org.uk/magnet-safety

Music for Worship

Mrs Hopkins has sorted out a wide variety of musical themes and styles for coming into times of Collective Worship. For Term 1, these are:

- Week 2 - Stand by me by Ben E. King
- Week 3 - Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar
- Week 4 - Cantus Arcticus by Einojuhani Rautavaara
- Week 5 - Spiegel im spiegel by Arvo Pärt
- Week 6 - Redemption Song by Bob Marley
- Week 7 - Blues by Ney Rosaura

What have you lost?

You can find lost property items in our lobby. Our advice? If it comes off, put your child's name on it please.

Whole Class Music Tuition Violins and Recorders have started in Willow and Chestnut respectively. We look forward to their class concerts.
Violin – India liked her lesson, Alicja thought it fun and liked holding her violin. Woody hasn't decided yet – he showed me a sideways thumb!
Recorders - Orson said it was "Good." Humphrey went further – "It was the BEST!" and Charlie really loved it.

Young Readers We are saying goodbye to a good number of books which no longer are proving useful in school. Please feel free to help yourself, you can find them in the lobby area.



Young Voices

I understand that there were issues around the choir recently. This is just a quick reminder that issues aren't always as straight-forward as they might appear, and school is often in possession of more information than we can share publicly. As a person new to the school, I can honestly say that all the staff here are working diligently, within the limit of what's possible, to provide the best opportunities they can for the pupils.

Are you eligible?

Some families may not be aware, but if you are receiving Universal Free School meals (Infants only), there is ALSO another Free School Meal category for ALL children - the Pupil Premium FSM. Those eligible will receive free school meals for 6 years from qualifying, if not longer, AND school gets financial support to help with their education. Please read today's letter carefully – it makes such a difference to what we can provide at school and in class if you are eligible.

Important Dates - Term dates can be found on our website – <https://www.ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk/>.

Tuesday 23 rd September	Flu vaccinations	All children for those that have consented
Thursday 25 th September	Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting	Here in school
Friday 26 th September 9:00	McMillan Coffee Morning	Quite low key – at drop-off
Thursday 9 th October 9:30 – 11:30	Open Morning (for Reception 2026)	Spread the word! Could a parent or two come and assist please?
Tuesday 14 th October 9:45	Harvest Festival – letter to follow	Holy Rood Church, Ampney Crucis
Weds 15 th October 3:30 – 7:30	Open Morning (for Reception 2026) PLEASE BOOK AHEAD	Spread the word! Could a parent or two come and assist please?
Thursday 17 th October	Chestnut Class Trip -Ashmoleum Museum and Story Museum	Letter already sent out
Monday 20 th October	Tempest Photography – individuals and sibling groups	Smart please – bring a hair brush!
Monday 20 th October	Parents Evening – letter to follow	Bookings opening soon
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parent's Evenings– letter to follow	Bookings opening soon
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st Oct	HALF TERM	Enjoy the break!
Tuesday 4 th Nov 9:30 – 11:30	Open Morning – PLEASE BOOK	Spread the word! Can you help?
Thursday 6 th Nov 9:30 – 11:30	Open Morning – PLEASE BOOK	Spread the word! Can you help?
Tuesday 11 th November	Willow Class Trip – Bristol Aerospace - ALSO Full Governing Body meeting	Letter already sent out
Wednesday 19 th Nov – Weds 26 th	Book Fair at school	Perfect timing for Christmas!
Monday 24 th Nov 1:30 – 2:45	Open Afternoon– PLEASE BOOK	Spread the word! Can you help?
Thursday 27 th November 5:30 p.m.	Holy Rood Church, Ampney Crucis	More information to follow
Tuesday 9 th December 1:30 p.m. AND Thursday 11 th December 3:30	Infant Nativity "Bethlehem Bake Off"	More information to follow
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Disco	More information to follow
Monday 15 th December	Community Carols	More information to follow
Tuesday 16 th December	Whole School Panto	More information to follow
Wednesday 17 th Dec. Either 9:45 (more children) OR 6:00 (more adults) -	Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Rood Church	More information to follow. I will be gauging opinion shortly.
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner Day and Parties!	More information to follow
Friday 19 th December	Last day of Term 2	Finishing at 1:00 p.m.

