



## Heart of the Forest Community Special School Newsletter

### Family liaison workers:

Alex Newman [alex.newman@heartoftheforest.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:alex.newman@heartoftheforest.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Janice Brough [Janice.brough@heartoftheforest.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:Janice.brough@heartoftheforest.gloucs.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Withington  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Craig Ashby  
Chair of Governors: Mr Miles Johanson

### Mission

Engage, Enrich and Inspire, together for now and the future

### Vision

Create relevant opportunities to build skills and knowledge through an aspirational and personalised curriculum, inspiring meaningful experiences and connections with the wider world

### School Value:

Heard

Empowered

Achieving

Respected

Trusted

Safe



Star of The Week goes to:

| Class         | Child     | Reason                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Little Apples | Toby      | For eating new food                                                                                                                                 |
| Chestnuts     | Kai       | For always smiling and being friendly to new staff                                                                                                  |
| Maple         | Travis    | For listening to instructions well this week                                                                                                        |
| Willow        | Willow    | Bonnie for working really hard in Maths to work independently to complete her work                                                                  |
| Willow        | Kyle      | For using fantastic building skills in Forest School to complete the pond. Well done Kyle!                                                          |
| Cherry        | Emilio    | For sharing the iPad with a peer; you enjoyed looking at photos with your friends                                                                   |
| Hazel         | Harrison  | For good engagement in lessons this week                                                                                                            |
| Buzzard       | Tyler     | For fantastic engagement in all lessons this week – well done                                                                                       |
| Peregrine     | Lexi      | For enthusiastic participation in English when giving instructions to make a sandwich                                                               |
| Caracara      | Jazmine   | For great work in Science and Art and for helpful towards others in class                                                                           |
| Caracara      | Stanley   | For coming to adventure sports for the first time and sitting at his desk in the classroom – well done Stanley                                      |
| Hobby         | Jacques   | Jacques has had a fabulous week, especially in Art. Jacques sat with an adult to complete some painting, pulling the paper back and to request more |
| Goshawk       | Kane      | For fantastic effort in Maths all week                                                                                                              |
| Osprey        | Cobey     | For a really settled week and great engagement in all activities                                                                                    |
| Osprey        | Ruben     | For amazing participation in our dance lesson this week                                                                                             |
| Kestrel       | Keiramyra | For work hard on her number formation and letter formation in her phonics lesson                                                                    |

ParentApp/Class messages sent out this week:

[Free School Meal voucher scheme for February half term](#)

[Parental Survey](#)

[Peep returns reminder](#)



Key dates for your diary:

January 26<sup>th</sup> – Swimming Gala

Half-term February 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

February 2024 – Black History month

6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Safer Internet Day

28<sup>th</sup> February Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – International Women's day

15<sup>th</sup> March Comic Relief/Red Nose Day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March term ends for Easter Holidays

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April return to school



## Attendance Matters



### Weekly Class Attendance 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Little Apples | 80.00% |
| Chestnuts     | 93.33% |
| Maple         | 95.83% |
| Willow        | 95.00% |
| Hazel         | 84.44% |
| Cherry        | 97.14% |
| Hobby         | 97.50% |
| Buzzard       | 96.67% |
| Osprey        | 85.71% |
| Caracara      | 79.17% |
| Kestrel       | 71.00% |
| Goshawk       | 87.50% |
| Peregrine     | 95.00% |



Congratulations to Hobby on achieving 97.50% attendance this week

Reminder to parents to complete a leave of absence form through the Parentapp system if you are taking your child out of school for any kind of absence e.g. dentist/doctors/hospital. Many thanks.

17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Free School Meal Voucher Scheme (FSM)**

We have received notification from Gloucestershire County Council which they have asked we pass on to all parents and carers about **Free School Meals Voucher** scheme that they are currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for **February 2024 half-term** will be open from midday on **16<sup>th</sup> January until midday on 30<sup>th</sup> January**. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing **5<sup>th</sup> February**.

Please check your junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If you do not receive your voucher by **7<sup>th</sup> February**, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

The winter holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding GCC have received, and they are separate from 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. **GCC are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) – they are not eligible for this scheme.**

Families who have signed up for the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, please visit FAQs Gloucestershire County Council.

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for February 2024 vouchers** – they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact GCC with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

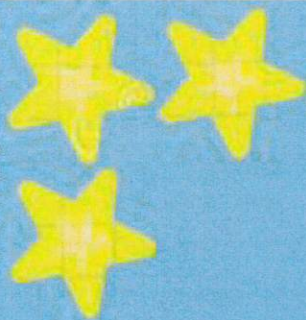
Please note we check eligibility for this scheme by cross-referencing with the term time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting [apply for free school meals](#) page.

**Using vouchers** – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queries via email to [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by the end of the holiday period.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so we can update their account as details are not automatically updated.

Kind regards,

Gloucestershire County Council  
Children and Families Hub



# Sleep talk With CAMHS

**COME FOR A COFFEE, AND ASK ANY  
QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT SLEEP**



**31ST OF JANUARY**

**9.30-11.00**

**IN THE PAVILLION**

**PLEASE RSVP TO:**

**ALEX.NEWMAN@HEARTOFTHEFOREST.GLOUCS.SCH.UK**

**JANICE.BROUGH@HOF.SCHOOL.CO.UK**

