St Giles CofE Primary School

Respect – Nurture – Inspire –Achieve
Bringing out the best in every child

Newsletter – 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, our school has been busy marking both Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week through our Collective Worship and class activities.

For Safer Internet Day, the theme *"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI"* encouraged pupils to think carefully about how the technology around them works and how to use it wisely. With AI now part of so many aspects of everyday life—often without us even noticing—it's more important than ever that young people feel confident, informed, and safe when making decisions online.

We began the day by exploring the different ways AI is used and discussing whether it is *always* used for good reasons. These conversations continued in classrooms throughout the day, giving children the chance to explore the topic more deeply.

This linked perfectly with our Picture News Class Worship, where we looked at the timely question of whether children under 16 should be allowed to use social media. With the government currently considering new rules to help keep young people safe online—similar to recent steps taken in Australia—pupils engaged in thoughtful, mature discussions about online safety, responsibility, and the effect social media can have on wellbeing.

A gentle reminder for families: although using social media under the age of 13 is not illegal, it does break the terms of service of most major platforms unless a parent or carer is actively supervising the account. We encourage all families to keep having open conversations with children about how they use social media, what they share, how long they spend online, and how their online experiences make them feel. Encouraging regular breaks can make a real difference to their wellbeing.

Alongside this, children also spent time reflecting on their mental health for Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme, *"This Is My Place"*, encouraged pupils to think about the safe spaces—both at home and at school—where they feel calm, supported, and a sense of belonging. Many classes joined a live national assembly organised by Picture News, connecting with children across the country to explore this important theme together.

As we reach the end of another half term, it's hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by!
The children have worked incredibly hard, and it has been wonderful to see the brilliant learning taking place across all subjects. We especially love it when pupils come to the office to proudly share their work—those moments always brighten our day.

Next half term is already looking exciting, and we can't wait to see what the children will achieve.

Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable half term.

With very best wishes,

Mr Savage and Mrs Coulson

Reminders

- A polite reminder that children should arrive at school between **8:45 a.m. and 8:55 a.m.** Arriving at this time means they have time to greet their friends and say hello to their teacher, this is an important time and means children have a calm start to the day.
- A gentle reminder: If children choose to wear trousers to school, these should be ***grey school trousers***. Grey or black leggings or jogging bottoms are not part of our school uniform. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain our uniform expectations.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us uphold high standards and ensuring all children feel smart, confident, and ready to learn.

Parent Consultations

We are hoping to trial a different system for making appointments for the Parent Consultation evenings. Parent Consultation evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 10th 3:30-6:00pm and Thursday 12th March from 4:00- 7:00pm. After half term, we will be putting sign-up sheets out on tables in front of school in the morning and afternoon for you to sign up for a time to meet your children's teachers. If you are unable to come to school to sign up, please get in touch with Mrs Irlam-Lewis in the office and she will arrange a time for you. Please do not email your children's teachers to arrange timings.
Thank you for your support.



Sporting Events

There have been a number of opportunities for our children this half term to take part in various sporting competitions and festivals.
Some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a Countdown Cricket competition against a number of other schools. They played well but unfortunately did not make it through to the next round. The children were praised by the adults there and the parents who went with the on their team spirit, encouragement of each other and how well they represented the school. Many thanks to Paul Barker, and Katie and Ann Spetch who went with the children.



Book Week – Monday 2nd -Friday 6th March

We will be celebrating our love of books and reading during our book week in the first week of March. Here are some of the highlights of the week to look forward to and to start planning for! We are challenging children to make their favourite book character out of recycled material – where will your imagination take you? During the week, children will also get the opportunity to guess which books the teachers have made displays of around the school.
On Tuesday 3rd March we will have our annual dress-up day with the theme this year being come as your favourite word. For example if you want to dress up as the word tired, you could come in your pyjamas or for the word tasty, you could come in with icecream prints on your jumper! We will be sending out more details very soon.
There will also be other exciting activities throughout the week ending with a firm favourite the secret reader on Friday 6th March where parents or grandparents can come in and read a book with their children.

Learners of the Week – 30th January, 6th and 13th February

Oak	Lyra for working really hard in Phonics and having a go at fab sentences. Clara for her growing confidence in whole class discussions. Finley for his great attitude in 1-1 Maths lessons. Orla for developing her independence and giving everything a go. Evie for working really hard in Phonics. Oz for always trying his best in everything that he does.
Elm	Phoebe for incredible contribution to sentence stacking lessons for George and the Dragon. Clara, Molly, Posy B and Seb for incredible story writing. Faye for super writing about our school community.
Sycamore	Jim for amazing science work. Oscar for great maths work on division. Ella for great sentence starters about volcanoes. Ivy for good attitude to learning in science. Emily H and Lucas for lovely explanation on how to write facts on how a volcano erupted.
Maple	James for confident work in computing. Zack for great maths work this week. Cody for enthusiasm for learning during the space topic. Lydia for her confidence when solving ration problems. Myah for always working with thought and care. Jack for good contributions to class discussion.
Sports Stars	Year 5/6 Cricketers – Freddie, Frazer, Digby, Jack, James, Henry, Rory, Lexie and Florence. Year 5/6 Basketball – Cody, Kye, Ivan, Zack, Eliza, Florence, Lara, Harrison, McKenzie
Marvellous musicians	Sascha for adding extra information to his drumming rhythm. Flora, Jasper and Raff for using a variety of dynamics in musical conversation. Keira and Gigi for working well together to compose, practise and perform a drum rhythm.
Head of School	Respect and Inspire for the Year 5/6 Cricket players for being such great ambassadors for the school and encouraging each other. Nurture for Kye, Cody and Zack for playing with a younger child so well and encouraging them to take part.

Happy Birthday to.....

Neve, Seb, Elijah, Ella, Jasper, Heath, Freddie

Spring Term 2026
Diary Dates

Date	Events
Friday 9th January - 20th March	Sycamore Swimming lessons
16th - 19th February	**HALF TERM**
Tuesday 24th February	Tennis Lessons at Horsted Keynes Tennis Club for KS2
Thursday 26th February	Mid Sussex Active Cross-Country Finals for named children
Friday 27th February	Year 5 Bikeability 2:45pm Sharing Afternoon
Saturday 28th February	PTA Quiz Night
MONDAY 2ND – FRIDAY 5TH – BOOK WEEK	
Tuesday 3rd March	Dress up as your favourite word (more information to follow)
Wednesday 4th March	KS1 Ardingly College Cricket Festival (names to be confirmed)
Thursday 5th March	Sycamore trip to Fishbourne Palace
Friday 6th March	National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and School Entry Screening for Reception Children 2:45pm Secret Readers
Tuesday 10th March	AM KS2 Tennis sessions at Horsted Club AM KS2 Tennis fixture at Bede's (children have been notified) 2:15pm Parent Workshop on Supporting my Child with their worries and managing our worries as parents. (TBC) Parent/Carer Consultations
Thursday 12th March	Year 5/6 Mixed Stinger Netball Competition St Paul's (names to be confirmed)
Thursday 12th March	Parent/Carer Consultations
Monday 16th March	Ready Steady Dance Ardingly College (names to be confirmed)
Tuesday 17th March	9:30am Rock Steady Concert (change of date) PM Year 2 Author Visit to St Peter's (tbc)
Wednesday 18th March	Year 3/4 Quicksticks Hockey Festival (names to be confirmed)
Tuesday 24th March	KS1 Trip to Hever Castle
Tuesday 24th March	Year 3/4 Net Games HH College (names to be confirmed)
27th March	**Last Day of Term** 9:00am Easter Service led by Worship Team
30th March - 10th April	Easter Holiday
13th April	First Day of Term

Meal Ordering
Cut Off Days 2025 – 2026

Order cut off	For week commencing
19th February 2026	2nd March 2026
26th February 2026	9th March 2026
5th March 2026	16th March 2026
12th March 2026	23rd March 2026
2nd April 2026	13th April 2026
9th April 2026	20th April 2026
16th April 2026	27th April 2026
23rd April 2026	4th May 2026
30th April 2026	11th May 2026
7th May 2026	18th May 2026
21st May 2026	1st June 2026
28th May 2026	8th June 2026
4th June 2026	15th June 2026
11th June 2026	22nd June 2026
18th June 2026	29th June 2026
25th June 2026	6th July 2026
2nd July 2026	13th July 2026
9th July 2026	20th July 2026