



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30th January 2026

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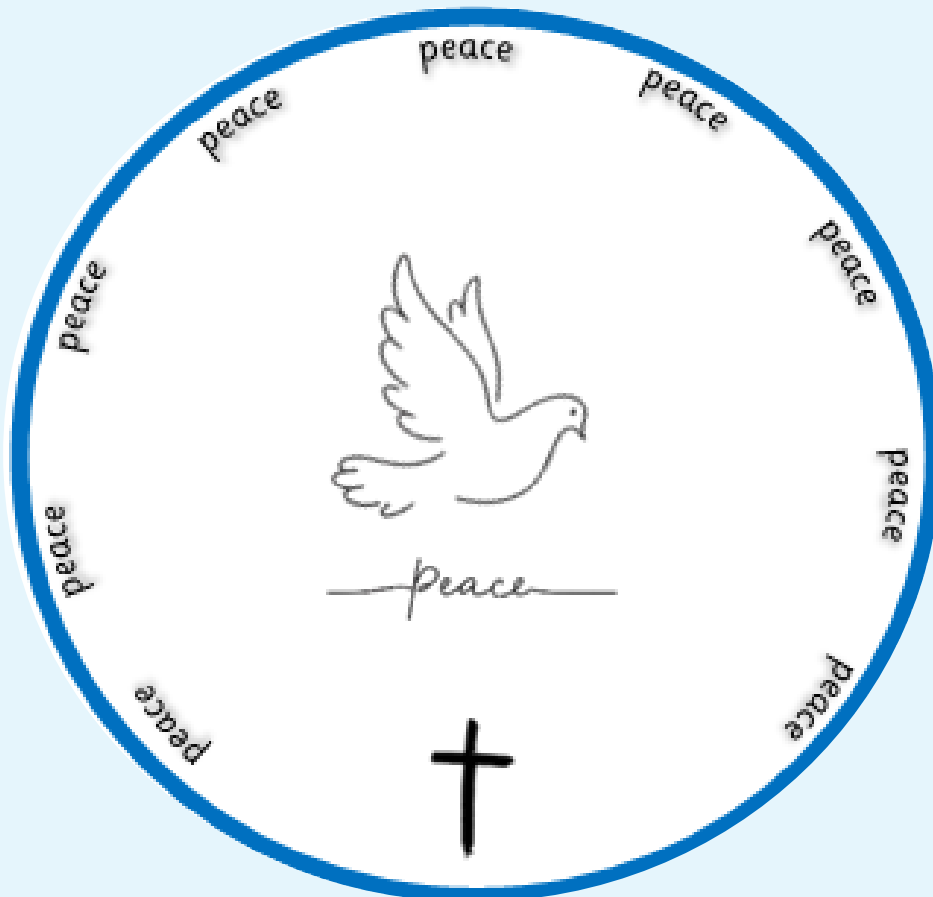
Our vision is for all our children to shine like STARS

"Those who are wise will shine like the sky and those who lead others to goodness will shine like the stars forever" *Daniel 12:3*

STRIVE - THINK - ACT - RESPECT

A message from Mrs Farren...

This term, our Christian value is 'Peace'.



Whilst we all hope for global and national peace, we have limited control over this. What we can control is the peace in our local community and, closer to home, inner peace. How do you find inner peace in this fast-moving world? Maybe it's through quiet reflection, being in nature, listening to music or reading. Time to be still and be calm is important (but not easy) for us all. I like this quote: "Your calm mind is the ultimate weapon against your challenges." Please let us know how you find calm and relaxation.

Have a wonderful weekend
Mrs Farren and Team Norton

Class News – 30th January 2026

This week, **Little Learners** have been 'down in the jungle where nobody goes'! We have enjoyed learning about jungle animals this week through stories, rhymes, creative activities and small world play. We have enjoyed PE this week, using our whole bodies to help us balance and manoeuvre around obstacles. We have also done a great job at looking after our class cress seeds, they have grown so big! We are looking forward to trying them at snack time. We have also introduced a 'rolling snack' into our routine. A rolling snack is an early years education approach where children can choose when to eat their snack within a set time-window, rather than everyone sitting down at the same time. It is designed to promote independence, and reduce disruption to play. So far we have observed a very positive response, and the children have enjoyed sitting in smaller groups with a supporting adult.

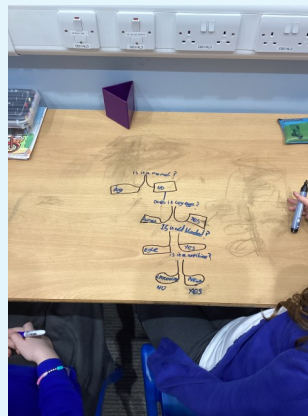
Reception class have really enjoyed our Maths topic this week of 'Mass and capacity'. We have had lots of fun comparing the mass and capacity, whilst challenging their misconceptions! The water tray was very popular, especially with the red colouring in the water. The children enjoyed exploring the capacity of lots of different containers. Well done Reception.



This week in Maths the **Year 1** children have been learning about patterns. They all worked so hard to create their own patterns using 2D and 3D shapes and then drew their own patterns.

In **Year 2** this week we have been exploring prepositions in using them to describe where things are in our writing. We had a great hockey lesson where we learnt to take the ball from a member of the opposite team safely. In Art we continued to work on our 'Paul Klee' style collage.

This week in **Year 3**, we have been learning all about the 3 and 4 times tables and their related division facts. We have been building fluency and recall by challenging ourselves to answer up to 60 questions as quickly as we can. In art, we have started planning our self-portraits inspired by Picasso, using photographs of our faces taken from different angles to support our designs



In **Year 4** this week we have created classification keys in science to classify vertebrates and invertebrates. In PSHE this week we learnt about staying safe when there are risks, for example being safe around fireworks and road safety. In English we have started reading our new text 'The Great Kapok Tree' and will be writing persuasive letters about deforestation.

This week within music, **Year 5** listened to pieces of music and linked them to different planets. We thought carefully about how to describe certain planets/gods (for example Mars being the God of War). We then looked into what musical features we would expect with this. We used features like tempo, pitch, dynamics, texture and duration to make our judgements.

This week in **Year 6**, we have continued our learning about light and how we see. We learnt how to draw ray diagrams to explain how light travels in straight lines and reflects off surfaces at the same angle it arrives at. In English we have written up our speeches and will be starting a new unit of work at the end of the week. In Geography we learnt about the effects of climate change.

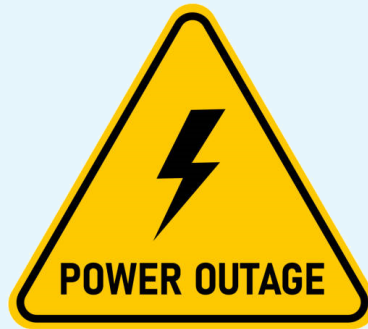
Important Information Pages

Hi everyone!

Just a quick reminder to keep an eye on our Important Information Pages. These pages include everything you need to know about what's happening in school — from deadlines and updates to details about companies we work with, like School Trends, catering and music lessons.

Things can change week to week, so it's worth checking back regularly to stay up to date. Thanks for keeping in the loop!





Planned power outage

We have been advised of a planned power outage on Wednesday 4 February, scheduled between 9:00–9:30am and again from 2:30–3:00pm.

During these times, the school will be unable to access emails or text messages regarding absences, and our phone lines may also be affected.

Please be assured that this will not affect your child's learning, and the school will be fully open and operating as normal throughout the day.

- If your child is absent on this day, please still send a text message and we will review it once power is restored.
- If your child is running late and is expected to arrive any time after 9am, and they usually have a school dinner, please contact the school **before** 9am to order a hot meal.

Thank you for your understanding.

INFANT NEWS



STRIVE - THINK - ACT - RESPECT

LUNCHES

Fun menu choices!

This year caterlink are offering some fun menu days over the year... here they are!





Are you having a spring Clean?
We'd Love Your Help!

If you're having a spring clean, we'd be so grateful if you could consider donating any unwanted items to our school.

We are currently working with a very tight budget and would love support in sourcing items for our classrooms and breakout spaces.

If you're able to help, we are looking for the following items:

- * Wooden callax style unit (four compartments or more - see picture -->)
- * cushions
- * Bean bags
- * Lights/fairy lights
- * Sensory toys
- * Tough tray
- * Games and puzzles (suitable for ages 2-4)
- * Playground/outside toys (giant chess/giant jenga/giant O's&X's etc...)
- * A bubble machine
- * A basketball hoop suitable for preschool age





SCHOOL ATTENDANCE; FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A pupil whose attendance rate is about 90% means that he/she is absent for the equivalent of one half day every week.

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM

In the whole year this means that he/she is absent for 4 whole weeks.

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

If through years Reception to year 4 the attendance continues at 90% he/she will miss the equivalent of about one half of a school year.

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Year R											
Year 1											
Year 2											
Year 3											
Year 4											

Do you think a 90% attendance rate will affect this pupil's chance of doing well in school?

Happy Retirement

As you will be aware, Kim Bluck, our amazing business manager, retired last week. Kim worked at Norton for 20 years. Her skill and work ethic were outstanding and we all feel blessed to have worked with her.

Whist we will miss seeing her on a weekly basis, she will always be part of our Norton family and we will still see her regularly. She is very much loved by us all.





Our vision is for all our children to shine like **STARS**

"Those who are wise will shine like the sky and those who lead others to goodness will shine like the stars forever" Daniel 12:3

STRIVE - THINK - ACT - RESPECT



What's Happening

Office Staffing Update

There have been a few changes to our office staffing. Please see below for details of staff availability and contact information.

Mrs Higgins (Office Manager)

Tuesday: 8am–1pm Thursday: 8am–1pm (*Mrs Higgins teaches on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons*)

Friday: 8am–3:30pm

Mrs Higgins can be contacted via **admin@norton.gloucs.sch.uk**, by phone on **01452 730531**, via the **school text system (see updated number below)**, or through **Class Dojo**.

Eloise Smith (Finance Manager)

Daily: 8am–12pm

Eloise can be contacted regarding invoices, payments, and finance queries at **finance@norton.gloucs.sch.uk** or via the main **school phone number**.

Holly Cass (Admin Assistant)

Monday: 9am–12pm Wednesday: 9am–3:15pm

Holly can be contacted via the **school phone number** or the **text system**.

When the above staff are not in the office, other members of staff will be available during their planning time to answer the phone and monitor the front gate. Please note that the school text system or admin email may not be accessed when the office staff are not at their desks.

Text Messaging System Upgrade



We're pleased to let you know that our text messaging system is now fully upgraded and working smoothly. We're still using the same Teachers to Parents platform—this update was simply an enhancement made on their end.

If you need to contact the school by text, please use the number below.

All text messages from the school will come from: **07860 051628**



Please see below the booking form for term 4!

Due to the high number of children using this service we need to ensure we have the correct number of staff to cover it, so all children attending this club **must** have a form filled out.

NO FORM = NO CLUB!

We accept this form by handing in a physical copy or emailing it to admin@norton.gloucs.sch.uk

Many thanks.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB BOOKING FORM 25/26

Please indicate which session you would like to book from 23rd February until 27th March 2026

Please indicate with a tick or with a child's name which before/after school club you would like to book

Term 4	Before	After			Before	After	
Times	8am - 8:45am	3:15pm - 5pm	3:15pm - 5:30pm	Times	8am - 8:45am	3:15pm - 5pm	3:15pm - 5:30pm
Mon 23rd Feb				Mon 16th Mar			
Tue 24th Feb			Closed	Tue 17th Mar			Closed
Wed 25th Feb			Closed	Wed 18th Mar			Closed
Thur 26th Feb				Thur 19th Mar			
Fri 27th Feb		Closed		Fri 20th Mar		Closed	
Mon 2nd Mar				Mon 23rd Mar			
Tue 3rd Mar			Closed	Tue 24th Mar			Closed
Wed 4th Mar			Closed	Wed 25th Mar			Closed
Thur 5th Mar				Thur 26th Mar			
Fri 6th Mar		Closed		Fri 27th Mar		Closed	
Mon 9th Mar							
Tue 10th Mar			Closed				
Wed 11th Mar			Closed				
Thur 12th Mar							
Fri 13th Mar		Closed					

Name of Child/ren: _____

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions on the website for the before and after school club.



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STRIVE - THINK - ACT - RESPECT



MUSIC

Music lessons:

Piano lessons:

ROSIE BLACKWOOD

www.mymusiclessons.co.uk

WOODWIND & SINGING LESSONS



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& SINGING**
FROM RECEPTION
ONWARDS

**FLUTE &
CLARINET**
FROM YEAR 3
ONWARDS

SAXOPHONE
YEAR 6 ONLY

PHOEBE WILSON

phoebewilsonflute@outlook.com



Dates for your diary for February/March:

Thursday 5th February - Reception class and Year 6 height and weight *Full information letters are on class dojo pages.*

Friday 6th February - Year 4 art afternoon *See class dojo page for full information.*

Friday 13th February - Finish for half term at normal time

Half term: 16th to 20th February

Friday 27th February - Look who's talking KS1 finals at Norton

2nd & 3rd March - Puzzle man activities in classes

Thursday 5th March - World book day (details coming soon!)

Thursday 12th March - EYFS/KS1 Mother's day morning *see page 5!*

Wednesday 18th March - EYFS/KS1 multiskills *Letter coming soon...*

Thursday 19th March - Y4 class trip *Letter coming soon...*

Thursday 26th March - Easter service in the village hall

Friday 27th March - Potato rolling

- Last day of term, finish at 1:20pm.

Easter holidays: 30th March to 10th April

Next week - 2nd February 2026:

Day:	The School Day:	After School clubs: 3:30 - 4:15pm	Lunch Menu (week 3)
Monday		Fitness Infant bench ball	Cheese and bean pasty Tomato pasta Jacket potato & Beans/Cheese/Tuna
Tuesday		Junior bench ball	Beef burger with cheese in a bun with wedges Creamy coconut curry with rice Jacket potato & Beans/Cheese/Tuna Baguette & Ham/Cheese/Tuna
Wednesday	Planned power outage - please see page 5 for full information.	Football (Y2,Y3,Y4) Mindful colouring Book club	Roast chicken with roast potatoes Vegan sausage with roast potatoes Jacket potato & Beans/Cheese/Tuna
Thursday	Reception & Year 6 height and weight	Football (Y5,Y6) Outdoor learning	Battered fish with chips Mexican bean roll with chips Jacket potato & Beans/Cheese/Tuna
Friday	Year 4 parent art afternoon 1:15pm - 2:15pm Sharing assembly 2:45pm. All welcome		Chicken enchilada bake with rice Jacket potato with vegan bolognese Jacket potato & Beans/Cheese/Tuna Baguette & Ham/Cheese/Tuna



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Wednesday 25th February

5-6:30pm

Norton Village Hall

£4 per ticket, includes headset hire

Hotdogs and Pizza, Sweets,

Glitter Tattoos, Lucky Dip

Infant parents must stay, Juniors must be signed in/out



Having a party?

Try our reusable party kit, rather than buying disposable.

Help support our school's sustainability efforts and PTA fundraising too!

*collection from, and return to, Norton
Contact: Norton.sch.pta@gmail.com



£10 per hire*

30 place settings
5 Jugs
6 Serving Platters



ZERO WASTE





CORNER

Enjoying bird watching ! Jemima and Nancy saw two red kites, sparrows, blackbirds, a robin, blue tit, pigeons, sea gull, green woodpecker, jack daws and even a buzzard. We looked up all of the birds we saw in a book to learn more about them.



We love that you spent time doing the bird watch at the weekend... did anyone else also do this? Which bird was your favourite to look at?

COMMUNITY CORNER

Josie and Freddie walked over to Grainne, Rosie & Mary's house for lots of outside fun!



What a brilliant way to spend your time outdoors - I wonder if anyone else in school is within walking distance of their friends to 'jump' on this trend..

p.s... check out our challenge of the week on the next page, this would fill in quite a few hearts!



Month OF THE WEEK

Why not start a new challenge this Sunday and commit to it for the whole month? It could be reading, spending more time outdoors (and less time on screens), getting creative with crafts—or something entirely your own. Use the sheet below to track your progress by colouring in a heart for every 15 minutes you spend on your chosen challenge. Can you colour in all the hearts before February ends? Print this page and display it somewhere visible to help keep you motivated... and remember, no screens allowed!

Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart
Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart	Heart



Healthy recipe of the week!



SNACK CHALLENGE...

Using the charts below can you be the healthiest you've ever been over the weekend and get the most points in your family?
Don't end on negative points....



EXTERNAL AGENCIES ADVERTISING PAGES

Disclaimer:

**Norton School accepts no responsibility for anything
advertised on the following pages.**

**Please assure yourselves of the safety, security and suitability
of any item contained on the red pages.**

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**Tewkesbury Academy
Sports Centre**

Multi Activity Courses

Monday 16th to Thursday 19th February
9-4pm with early drop off from 8.30am

Suitable for ages 5-12

£24 per day

**10% OFF
EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT
UNTIL 26TH JAN**

Use code: **EARLYBIRD10**
at checkout



Scan me to book!

More Information  01684 293953  sportscentre@ta.clf.uk

**February Half-Term 2026
Swimming Crash Courses**

Tewkesbury Academy Sports Centre



17th-20th February (4-day course)

Stage 1 (beginner) classes (max 4 children): £40
One-to-ones: £110

School reception age and above
30-minute classes between 9.30-11.45am

Lessons taught by experienced Level 2 teachers
Karen and Jo

CONTACT US  swimminglessons@ta.clf.uk

Following the **Swim England** Learn to Swim Programme

**Learn to Swim at
Tewkesbury Academy
Sports Centre**



For Stages 1-7
Ages 4 and above
We offer 30 minute lessons, 6 days a week
with our qualified and friendly swimming
teachers.

£72.50 per 10 week term

CONTACT US  swimminglessons@ta.clf.uk

Following the **Swim England** Learn to Swim Programme

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Progressive Active Camps

Enriching your child's school holidays!

Waterwells Primary Academy, Quedgeley, Glos

Mon 16th Feb - Friday 20th Feb
9.30am-4.30pm. Early drop off at 8.30am and late
pick up at 5.30pm also available all week long!
For Children 5-13 years old



BOOK NOW!

Use code **N/A**
Don't miss out on our £20
per day welcome offer!



Call: 01889 343120
Email: info@progressive-sports.co.uk
Book Online: progressive-sports.co.uk/north-gloucestershire/



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Email: info@progressive-sports.co.uk
Book Online: progressive-sports.co.uk/north-gloucestershire/



How to book

It's super fast and easy to book!



1. Scan our QR code above to book today!
2. Or Call us on 01889 343120 and we will help you sign up.

We accept all major debit and credit cards.

Act quickly as spaces are limited!

Terms and conditions: 1. All applications must be accompanied by payment in full for the appropriate course. 2. Any cancellations made 7 days prior to the course starting are non-refundable. 3. Any cancellations made before the 7 days prior to the course starting will carry a £50.00 admin fee. 4. For the avoidance of doubt, no refund is permitted for any failure to attend the course. 5. In the event that a participant needs medical attention during any course then you agree to us arranging for any appropriate and necessary treatment. 6. We do not accept responsibility for any death, personal injury or loss of or damage to property other than to the extent that it results from our negligence. 7. The cost of any damage caused by you or any participant you have booked on the course to any property or facilities will be passed on to you. 8. These terms and conditions and your booking shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

The Crown Building, Sandy Lane, Rugeley, Staffordshire
WS15 2LB

f ProgressiveSports- @ProgSports



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS... SORTED ✓

Trusted Ofsted-registered kids clubs children love!

Every day packed with games, sports & lots of fun!

WHAT WE GET UP TO...

GET ACTIVE - Football - Dodgeball - Gymnastics - Nerf Wars	GET CREATIVE - Arts & Crafts - Face Painting - Slime Making - Glitter Tattoos	OR CHILL - Board Games - Marble Run - Lego - Top Trumps
---	--	--

...and the best part, children always get to choose!

WHY PARENTS CHOOSE atlas camps

- ★ Ofsted-registered
- ★ Award-winning childcare
- ★ Accepts childcare vouchers &
- ★ Tax-free childcare
- ★ Designed for ages 4-14

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Scan the QR code to see dates & venues near you, or visit:

atlascamps.co.uk

Cheltenham Town
Community trust

£16
per day

FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOOTBALL HOLIDAY COURSES

Ages **5-12**

9AM - 3PM

All genders welcome
FOR ALL ABILITIES

Run by FA qualified, first aid trained and DBS enhanced checked coaches.

GIRLS ONLY COURSES AVAILABLE

Courses held at:
**BISHOPS CLEEVE FC
CLEEVE SPORTS CENTRE
ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SCAN ME

INFO@CTFCCP.COM | 01242 518630 | WWW.CTFCCP.COM

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ULTIMATE
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GET SET FOR ULTIMATE EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Exceptional activity
camps for children
aged 4 to 14 at

**Dean Close
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Enjoy action-packed days full of games, sports, creative and outdoor fun, with six exciting sessions designed to maximise every child's day! Over 40 activities every week, including...

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COMBAT
ARCHERY
PEDAL KARTS 6+
FENCING 8+
ULTIMATE INFLATABLES
ROLLER RACERS
DODGEBALL
KWIK CRICKET
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BADMINTON
BENCHBALL
STORY
ADVENTURE
ROUNDERS
DANCE
FOOTBALL
TRI-GOLF 6+
TEE BALL
TAG RUGBY
CAPTURE THE FLAG
...AND MUCH MORE!

AGES

4-5

Tailored, introductory timetable delivered by Early Years specialists

AGES

6-7

Mix of sports, games and creativity to burn off boundless energy

AGES

8-9

Additional, exciting activities for the 8+ including archery, sports and fencing

AGES

10+

Making friends and true holiday camp vibes with our large group games and challenges

Example day:

8:30 - 9:40	Drop off & morning welcome
9:40 - 10:30	Activity 1
10:30 - 10:50	Break
10:50 - 11:40	Activity 2
11:40 - 12:30	Activity 3
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:20	Activity 4
14:20 - 15:10	Activity 5
15:10 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:20	Activity 6
16:20 - 17:15	End of day & pick up

Extended day pass available from 8am to 6pm

School holiday fun for your 4-5 year old

If it's your first time using holiday childcare, we understand how important this choice is. Our programme for 4-5-year-olds offers fun, age-appropriate activity and care that supports their social and physical development.

Give our friendly childcare experts a call for more information!

0330 111 7077

DATES, LOCATION & BOOKING

CAMP DATES

EASTER: MON 30 MARCH - FRI 10 APRIL
SUMMER: MON 13 JULY - FRI 21 AUGUST
PERFORMANCE: MON 10 - THURS 20 AUGUST
TECH: MON 27 JULY - THURS 6 AUGUST

Dean Close Prep School

Set in over 50 acres of parkland, the school offers outstanding sports facilities including a swimming pool, tennis courts, drama studio and astro pitch - perfect for children to enjoy ultimate holiday activities!

Address: Lansdown Road,
Cheltenham, GL51 6QS



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- Pay with Tax Free Childcare £
- Move dates for free up to 14 days in advance
- Book by the day or week
- Monday to Friday
- Drop off from 8.30am & pick up until 5.15pm
- Ofsted Registered
- Extended hours available 8am to 6pm

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BOOKING
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PRICES START FROM JUST
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A DAY

OFFER ENDS

25TH FEB 2026

FOR EASTER CAMPS

14TH APRIL 2026

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PRICES VARY BY LOCATION & PROGRAMME

A 4-DAY PRICE APPLIES TO EASTER 2026 WITH DATES STARTING FROM DAY WHEN YOU BOOK ALL 4 DAYS

BOOK NOW on ultimateactivity.co.uk or call 0330 111 7077

If you have received this flyer from your child's school, this does not mean the school endorses Ultimate Activity Camps

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contained below.



SPECIAL HALF TERM OPENING
WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026
10.00AM TO 4.00PM



Meteor Business Park,
Cheltenham Road East,
Gloucester GL2 9QL
Tel 01452 260078
www.jetagemuseum.org

ADMISSION FREE
DONATIONS WELCOME



HALF PRICE ENTRY THIS WEEKEND

Enjoy half price entry all weekend at
Perrygrove Railway. Open from 10am -
4pm. Online booking recommended.

WWW.PERRYGROVE.CO.UK



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Gloucestershire County Council is offering Bikeability courses during all 2026 school holidays. These courses are designed for children aged 9–14 and help build cycling confidence and safety skills in small groups with qualified instructors.

2026 Course Locations & Dates:

- February Half-Term: Ashley Manor Prep School, Cheltenham
- Easter Holidays: Bournside School, Cheltenham
- May Half-Term: Kingshill School
- Summer Holidays: Skillzone (2 sessions available)
- October Half-Term: Pineholt Village Hall

Course Details:

- Cost: £10 per course (2 x 2-hour sessions)
- Bikes: Available subject to availability

Booking: <https://forms.office.com/e/vBSvziEEBk>



**Five Rivers
Fostering**

**We are looking for Foster Carers
in Gloucestershire & surrounding areas**

If you are interested in a life-changing vocation and can provide a safe, loving home to a child in care, we'd love to hear from you.

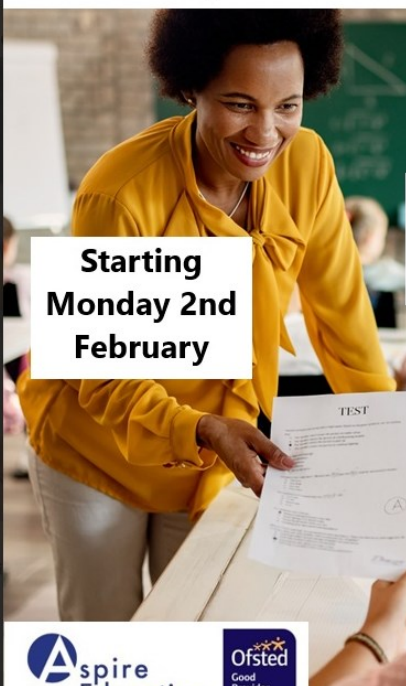
0333 0603 962 | five-rivers.org/fostering

Join a local Social Enterprise and a community of foster carers providing long and short-term care for children. Round the clock support and specialist training. Potential to combine with full or part-time work. Highly competitive fostering allowance of up to £28,000 a year, tax-free.



Foster with us
Foster carers turn children's lives around

www.studysmartuk.online



**STUDY
SMART**
Free Online Courses

**Starting
Monday 2nd
February**

Fully Funded Education Support Course
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6 Week Course
Mon - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 & 12.30 - 2.00
Support Session 4.00 - 4.30

Levels 1, 2 & 3 Available
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Safeguarding & Prevent
Occupational Studies
Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Principles of SEN

Aspire Education **Ofsted Good Provider**