

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

As we enter the festive season, our Christmas countdown is in full swing. We are looking forward to welcoming families to the upcoming nativity plays, which will display the talents and hard work of our EYFS and KS1 pupils.

Recently, it was wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas Fayre. Families enjoyed festive treats, games, and crafts. Additionally, our Lantern Festival was a memorable evening with beautiful lights and a sense of community. These events offered enjoyment and helped strengthen community bonds.

However, we have noticed a decline in attendance recently. While we understand some absences are due to illness, the numbers are higher than usual. We will be sending letters to families where attendance is causing concerns, but please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need support. Regular attendance is important for your child's progress and social connections.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child benefits from all the learning opportunities available.

Let's make this festive season memorable for everyone!

Warm regards,  
Mrs Bradley



For the month of November the classes with the highest attendance are.....



**ATTENDANCE: WHO  
ARE THE  
CHAMPIONS?**

Drum Roll!!!!

1<sup>st</sup> : Oak Class

2<sup>nd</sup> : Rowan Class

3<sup>rd</sup> : Elm Class



Well done Oak for taking the lead and knocking Rowan off top spot!

**The school Website** Staff at school have been and will continue to update our school website so please do take a look. It contains a huge range of information about the school.. You can also find your class page to find out more about your child's learning.  
<https://www.severnbankprimaryschool.co.uk/>



## Communication Survey

We are always looking for ways to strengthen the connection between school and home. This short survey is part of our ongoing commitment to listening to families and improving how we communicate and work together. It should only take a few minutes to complete, and your feedback will help us make meaningful changes.  
<https://forms.gle/fq3dngngM6PgprKcs8>

# Key Dates

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 2.15pm EYFS Nativity  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December: 2.15pm KS1 Nativity  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am EYFS Nativity  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am: KS1 Nativity  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper day  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec KS1 Magic show trip  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas service at the church 10am.  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec: Last day of term



## A thank you to the PTFA

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTFA for organizing a truly fabulous Christmas Fayre that raised over £1,250. This generous amount will go a long way in benefiting our children's experiences and opportunities. A special thank you goes out to Kirsty, whose exceptional organizational skills and dedication made the event such a success. Severnbanks is incredibly fortunate to have someone as committed and passionate as Kirsty. Your efforts have brought our community together in the holiday spirit, and we are deeply grateful for all you have done.



## Our School vision and Values

After consultation with yourselves, staff, the pupils and other members of the community we are pleased to share our updated school vision and values.

Our School Vision



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**WHERE STARS SHINE**

We are.....

- S**uccessful Learners
- T**eam players
- A**spirational
- R**esilient
- S**upportive

**B**elonging **A**mbition **R**espect **K**indness



OUR VALUES

At Severnbanks, we focus on creating a caring environment that encourages every child to be the best version of themselves.

# What has been going on at Severnbanks?

We love sharing the wonderful moments from around our school! This page is full of photos capturing our pupils in action. We hope these snapshots give you a glimpse of the energy, creativity, and fun happening at Severnbanks every day.

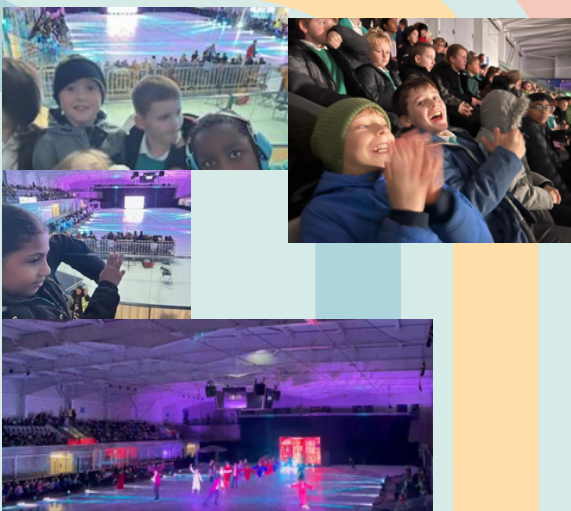
## Lantern Parade

Our entire school came together to create beautiful lanterns for the annual Lantern Parade on the 23rd. Despite the cold weather, we proudly took part in the parade. The atmosphere was magical – the glowing lanterns lit up the night so thank you to Anna Casserly, who made the lanterns for us to decorate and to everyone who contributed to making this event so special!



**KS2 Panto.** Our KS2 pupils had an amazing experience last week when they went to see Dick Whittington on Ice. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to enjoy a live performance and see a classic story brought to life in such a unique way.

Everyone agreed it was a memorable trip and a great way to celebrate the festive season together!



## Christmas Fayre

Last week, we held our annual Christmas Fayre.

The children in every class made beautiful Christmas keepsakes and you did a great job of supporting the Christmas cup stall to, so a thank you to you too. Don't forget you can still purchase your child's keepsake if you weren't able to at the Christmas fayre.

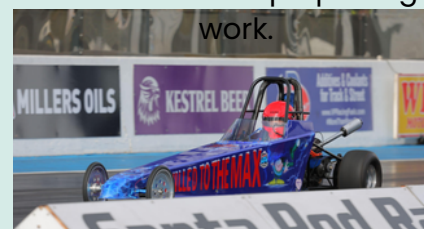


Our choir did a great job of entertaining us!

## Proud of our pupils

Did you know we have our very own Champion NASS CAR driver in school.

Jenson will be off for his first international race next year, what an achievement! Keep up the good work.



## Community work

Our School Council recently met with the managers of the Riverside Centre to share ideas about what our school and community need. It was a great opportunity for pupils to have their voices heard and start building stronger links with the local community.



# Breakfast Club

## We Need Your Feedback – Potential Free Breakfast Club

We are exploring an opportunity to secure **government funding for a free breakfast club** for our pupils. Before we can move forward, we need to understand whether there is enough demand for this provision. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey by **Monday, 15th December**. Your responses will help us decide if this is something our school community would benefit from. Thank you for your support in helping us plan for the best possible opportunities for our children.

[Breakfast Club – Fill out form](#)



# Forest of Dean

**HAF**   
holiday activities & food

## FOREST OF DEAN HAF PROVIDES FREE ACTIVITIES AND FOOD FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

HAF takes place three times a year during school holidays in:

- Spring
- Summer
- Winter



### Signposting

You can contact us for support and we can signpost you to organisations that can help you.



### Food

Food is available during activities making sure your children have access to a healthy meal.



### Activities

Free activities that can be booked online including:

- Family activities
- Children and young people activities
- Ticketed attractions



If you need help to sign up or book activities contact us:

[gloshafconnector@gmail.com](mailto:gloshafconnector@gmail.com)

07340709871

[familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## Free Winter Activities for Children, Young People & Families



The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) returns this winter with lots of fun activities and delicious food available for children and families from **20 December to 4 January**.

HAF activities are available for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. This winter we are also able to extend this offer to any child who may benefit from attending the programme, through our grant funded Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

**Bookings open from midday on 1 December. Make sure you're ready to book by checking your account now**  
[familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Use our handy checklist below to make sure that:

- All your children have an individual profile added to your account.
- Emergency contact details are filled in for each child profile
- Any additional needs or disability information is included for each child profile
- Your details reflect any recent changes (e.g. new address, phone contact details)

Setting up an account is easy:

Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access



If you need any HAF related help then please contact us:

T: 07340 709 871

E: [gloshafconnector@gmail.com](mailto:gloshafconnector@gmail.com)



We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the Winter holiday 2025 will be open from midday 25 November until midday on 9 December. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 15 December.

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

If you have not received your vouchers by 22 December, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)

This Winter Holiday, 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 we have received, and they are separate to 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. **We 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 to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of **£15 per child for one week**.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, those wishing to find out more about eligibility and the scheme can do so by visiting our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the Winter holiday vouchers** - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us 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 the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure you are registered beforehand. You can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page.

**Using vouchers** – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) by the end of the holiday period.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to submit an update existing details request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.**





The Forest Foodbank  
Eastern United Site  
Rusidge Road  
CINDERFORD  
Gloucestershire  
GL14 3AW  
T:07765265263  
W:theforest.foodbank.org.uk  
E:info@theforest.foodbank.org.uk  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Headteacher and all at Severnbanks Primary School ,

Thank you for your generous donation of 103 kg of food from your Harvest Festival to The Forest Foodbank. Your contribution will help provide up to 259 meals for individuals in need across the Forest of Dean area.

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support from local organisations like yours. Last year, we assisted over 4,000 people, distributing an average of 3-3.5 tonnes of food each month. Every donation makes a significant difference to those we serve.

On behalf of everyone at The Forest Foodbank, thank you once again for your support. We hope you will continue to partner with us in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Beard  
Acting Chair of Trustees  
The Forest Foodbank

Registered Charity 1183196 | Charitable Incorporated Organisation | Registered in England & Wales

During the Christmas holidays the Coleford distribution centre at the Salvation Army in Broadwell GL16 7BX will be open on Wednesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period.

The last session before Christmas for Lydney distribution centre will be on 16<sup>th</sup> December and for Cinderford will be 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Lydney distribution centre at the River Family and children's centre, Naas Lane Lydney GL15 5AU opens after Christmas on 6th January 2026, Coleford opens on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and Cinderford at The Forest Community church will be open on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

To get help look on our website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to us.



**FOREST PULSE**

**FESTIVE OPEN MORNING**

We would love to welcome you for a Christmas get together.

Monday 22nd December 2025  
10am - 1pm at Forest Pulse HQ

We will have crafting, coffee and cake available. Plus other chances to support the charity.

There will be an opportunity to visit Father Christmas but please contact us for more information and to book so he can ensure that he has packed enough treats on his sleigh. This will be a cost of £2 pp.



Season's Greetings.  
Please nominate us to  
win £1,000 today!



We are delighted to announce that author Serena Patel will be joining us at our warehouse this **Sunday, 7th December, from 10am to midday.**

Serena will be celebrating the release of her brand-new title *Anisha, Accidental Detective: Christmas Chaos*, as well as showcasing other favourites, including *Pia's Pet Club* and several dyslexia-friendly books.

Children (and adults!) will have the opportunity to have their books signed, take photos with Serena, and hear all about her exciting new book. There will also be festive crafts and activities for everyone to enjoy.

This event including all activities is **free of charge** and open to all. We look forward to welcoming you for a morning of stories, creativity, and Christmas cheer.

Books for Bugs, Building 12B, Vantage Point Business Village, Mitcheldean, GL17 0DD

SNOWMEN, SECRETS,  
CRACKERS AND CLUES

WITH **ANISHA**  
ACCIDENTAL DETECTIVE

BOOKS FOR BUGS

Come and meet author

**SERENA PATEL**

for festive crafts  
and Christmas fun!  
**BOOKS FOR BUGS**  
Sunday 7th December  
**10AM**

Suitable for children age 7+

USBORNE

Hello,

I wanted to share a little Christmas idea with you.

I thought you might be able to put it into your school newsletter. This year, instead of buying Christmas cards, why not buy a **Pied Piper Appeal Christmas Raffle Ticket**? It's a simple way to make a real difference to sick and disabled children in Gloucestershire and it also gives you the chance to win one of our fabulous prizes! [Click here for your raffle tickets](#)

You can buy your tickets and see the full list of prizes on our website. Whether you're looking for a Secret Santa gift, something for family members, or even a fun idea for work colleagues, there's a prize that everyone will love all while supporting a wonderful local charity.

Join us in helping Gloucestershire's children this Christmas. Thank you so much for your support.



# What's On This Festive Season!

## Lights, Feasts and Fire Trail

**Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan**

A festive museum trail exploring global winter traditions through creative challenges, stories, and seasonal fun for all ages.

**£2 per trail**

## Winter Windows

**Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan**

A magical Christmas display of over 1,000 pupil-made cardboard windows, celebrating light, warmth, and winter traditions at the Museum of Gloucester.

**Free!**

## For parents only!

## Art After Hours: Retro Christmas Decorations

**Fri 5 Dec, 6pm-7pm**

Adults-only workshop to craft vintage-style Christmas ornaments with a nostalgic twist.

**£12 per person - hot drink included with ticket price!**

## Make Your Mark On

**until Sun 7 Dec**

Help create a bold, collaborative tape artwork in the Museum of Gloucester's gallery – a free, evolving installation celebrating creativity and community.

**Free - donations welcome**

## Ghosts & Giggles: Family Tour of Haunted Gloucester

**Fri 12 Dec, 5pm-7pm**

A family-friendly ghost tour uncovering Gloucester's haunted history, from museum mysteries to eerie ruins and hidden halls.

**Child: £10 | Adult: £15**

## Brick Builders Club: Christmas Building

**Sat 18 Dec, 10am-1pm**

Drop-in LEGO sessions for kids aged 5+. No rules, just brick-tastic fun!

**£3 per child - adults go free!**

## Medieval Mercenary Tour of Eastgate Chamber

**Sat 13 Dec & Wed 31 Dec, 2pm-3pm**

Join Sir Miles for an underground tour of the Eastgate chamber, uncovering its history, myths, and medieval superstitions.

**Adult: £7.50 | Child: £5 | Family: £25**

## Cracker Creations

**Sat 20 Dec, 10am-1pm**

A festive kids' workshop where young makers craft unique, eco-friendly Christmas crackers filled with surprises and seasonal creativity.

**£3.50 per child - adults go free!**

## Glorious Glevum Tour

**Tue 30 Dec, 2pm-3pm**

Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, a guided tour revealing the city's history, hidden treasures, and life as an auxiliary soldier.

**Adult: £7.50 | Child: £5 | Family: £25**



# PROSTARS FOOTBALL CAMP



Freedom Leisure, Lydney  
9:00am-3:00pm

Dates-  
Mon- Dec 22nd  
Tues- Dec 23rd  
Mon- Dec 29th  
Tues- Dec 30th

-Indoor/Outdoor  
facilities available  
-Coaches are UEFA  
and FA qualified  
-Fun for all

-Contact Mark  
07444436637  
mark@prostars.fse.com  
-To book-  
Prostars.ipalbookings.com

CHRISTMAS



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>



caterlink  
December  
**merry**  
**CHRISTMAS**

★ **FESTIVE ROAST DINNER WITH** ★  
**ALL THE TRIMMINGS**

**CHRISTMAS VEGETABLE WELLINGTON**

**ROAST POTATOES**

**CARROTS & PEAS**

**GRAVY & CRANBERRY SAUCE**

**CHRISTMAS GINGERBREAD**

**COOKIE OR FROSTED**

**CHOCOLATE MUFFIN**





# BUILD AND CRAFT EDITION FOREST OF DEAN



GLOUCESTERSHIRE HAF - WINTER 2025

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Lydney Youth & Community Centre,  
Lydney



**10 AM - 12.00 NOON**  
**Catapult Cars & Festive Crafts**



**12.30 PM TO 2.30 PM**  
**Festive Jewellery & Card Crafts**

**Fully funded for children who live or attend school  
in Gloucestershire and are entitled to benefit-  
related free school meals.**



**LINK TO MAKE  
BOOKINGS**



**[HTTPS://FAMILYHUBS.GLOUCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/FORESTOFDEAN-HAF](https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/forestofdean-haf)**



**WWW.BLOODHOUNDEDUCATION.COM**