

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of my very first term here at Severnbanks, I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. It has been an absolute privilege to join such a warm and vibrant school community.

This term has been full of festive joy and memorable moments. Our Christmas plays were a wonderful showcase of the children's talent and confidence—thank you to all who supported and attended. The church service was a beautiful opportunity to come together in reflection and celebration, reminding us of the true spirit of the season.

A special mention must go to our school choir, who have truly done us proud. Their visit to local nursing homes brought so much happiness to residents, and I know their singing will be remembered long after the holidays.

As we look ahead to the new year, I wish every one of you a peaceful, joyful, and restful Christmas break. Thank you again for your support and kindness—I'm excited for all that we will achieve together in the coming year.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Bradley



For the top spot at Christmas the classes with the highest attendance are.....



**ATTENDANCE: WHO  
ARE THE  
CHAMPIONS?**

Drum Roll!!!!

Joint 1<sup>st</sup> : Rowan & Elm

2<sup>nd</sup> : Cherry

3<sup>rd</sup> : Ash

## Unique Pupil Record

At Severnbanks we strive to meet the needs of each and every child; we want every pupil to be 'Stars that SHINE!'.

To support us in achieving this aim, we are asking you to complete the following survey with your son or daughter. The information will be shared with his or her teacher, as well as other staff who may be supporting them. Your feedback will enable us to have a very strong understanding of what interests, motivates and concerns your child, allowing us to continue to build positive and effective relationships.

I would be very grateful if you could complete the form by Friday, 2nd January  
<https://forms.gle/FsYc5qDWtM5tKaT29>





# Key Dates

## Summer Term



### Spring Term

5<sup>th</sup> January: INSET day, school closed to pupils  
 6<sup>th</sup> January: First day of term, all pupils in,  
 13<sup>th</sup> January: Young Voices Trip  
 23<sup>rd</sup> January: Matt Bishop (MP) visit to school  
 9<sup>th</sup> February: Children's Mental Health week  
 11<sup>th</sup> February: Internet safety day  
 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February: Pupils consultation evenings  
 5<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day  
 20<sup>th</sup> March Red Nose Day  
 27<sup>th</sup> March: Final day of Spring Term

13<sup>th</sup> April: First day of term, all pupils  
 11<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 SATS week  
 22<sup>nd</sup> May: End of term  
 8<sup>th</sup> June: Return to school, all pupils in.  
 10<sup>th</sup> July : Y6 PGL  
 24<sup>th</sup> July: Final Day of summer term

We will let you know about the dates for the upcoming play for Y3 & Y4 after the February half term.  
 Y5 & Y6 end of year play will be announced after the May half term along with Sports Day dates for EYFS, KS1 & KS2.

## The Book Nook

Don't forget about our BookNook located outside the green gates. We have a variety of adult texts that can be taken and enjoyed by yourself. We will also be working in January to make room for children's books too. Please do take your child/children to have a look and give a sad, lonely book a new home. There are books suitable for children of all ages. If the doors are closed please feel free to open them up. These books continue to be updated and changed regularly. If you have any good quality children's books you are no longer in need of then please do place them in the BookNook to be enjoyed by other families.



## Mobile Phones

If you choose to send your child to school with a mobile phone - please remind them and ensure they hand it in to the office on arrival. It should not be collected until they are leaving school (if going to an after school club the phones stays in the office until after the club). Children should not have a mobile phone on them around school under any circumstances. If a child is found to have a phone on them it will be confiscated and have to be collected by a responsible adult. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.



## Attendance Matters

Congratulations to Year 3 who are the Attendance Champions for this term with an impressive 97% attendance. Well done

### Did you know?

#### Every Day Counts

- Missing just 2 days a month adds up to nearly a whole school week lost each term.
- Pupils with 96% or higher attendance are more likely to achieve their full potential academically and socially.

#### Lateness Adds Up

- Being 10 minutes late each day equals over 30 hours of lost learning time across the school year - that's almost a whole week of lessons!

Please do not take your child out of school for holidays. These cannot be authorised and will be referred to the Local Authority for a fine.

## School places

Parents with children in Nursery, don't forget to apply for your school place. The deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January.

<https://emsonline.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en>



# 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.

## Nativity plays

Last week marked our annual Nativity performances by our youngest pupils. They did such a great job with over 400 people attending to watch.



## We the Curious visit

Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a trip to 'We The Curious' at Bristol



**KS1 Magic Show.** Our year 1 and 2 pupil enjoyed a Christmas themed magic show at Monmouth Theatre.



**Year 2 Panto.** Our year 2 pupils were invited to join the residents of Rodley House to watch A Christmas Carol. Much fun was had by all!



## Santa Dash

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> we all took part in the annual Santa Dash.



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I would be very grateful if you could complete the form by Friday, 2nd January so that they can be published to your child's teacher ready for the start of 2026.

Kind regards, you can access the survey by clicking the link below or using the attached QR code.

Tasha Bradley

<https://forms.gle/8JmKfyiUFELhL3ZN6>



# 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

Forest of Dean  
**HAF** holiday activities & food

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)





I hope you are well. We are excited to let you know that we are running **Yoga HAF Holiday Camps** in your area this Winter, offering children a fun, active, and calming programme that includes:

- Daily **yoga and mindfulness sessions**
- **Healthy meals** provided at no cost
- Creative activities to support wellbeing and confidence
- A safe, friendly environment led by qualified, DBS-checked staff

Our camps are **free for all children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals**, and we would be grateful if you could share the information with your families who may benefit.



# The Forest Foodbank

Together with Trussell

## About

The Forest Foodbank is OPEN, we are here for YOU

We will feed anyone who needs us no matter who you are or what walk of life you come from, it doesn't matter if you are a single person, a couple or a family we are here for you.

### Christmas Opening Times:

**Lydney – River Children and Family Centre, GL15 5AU,**

**Open 9th and 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1-3pm**

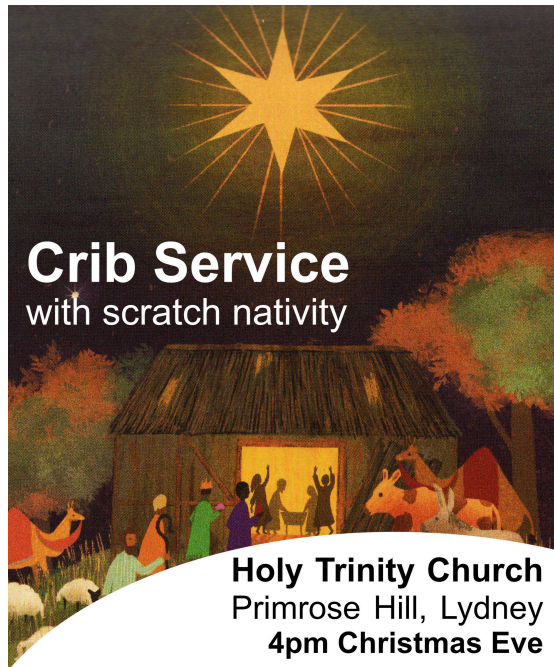
**Coleford – Salvation Army, open every Wednesday, 10am -Noon (open 24th December – open for an extra hour until 1pm)**

**Cinderford - The Community Church Forest & Wye, GL14 2PQ, open Thursdays until 18th December, 1-3pm**

**FINAL HUB OPEN IN COLEFORD UNTIL 1PM CHRISTMAS EVE THEN ALL CLOSED UNTIL MONDAY 5th JANUARY**

More information available at:

<https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk>



## **Crib Service** with scratch nativity

**Holy Trinity Church**  
Primrose Hill, Lydney  
**4pm Christmas Eve**

Come dressed as **Mary, Joseph, a king, a star, an angel, a shepherd or a sheep** from the traditional nativity story. Or come early from 3pm onwards to make a crown or halo or sheep mask and borrow a costume.

All Welcome

# JOY

Come and join us in the Benefice of Lydney  
with Woolaston, Alvington and Aylburton  
at our joyful celebrations of Christ's birth

## **Sunday 14 December**

3pm Village Carol Service at St Andrew's, Woolaston  
4.30pm Community Carols at Holy Trinity, Primrose Hill

## **Sunday 21 December**

6pm Parish Carol Service at St Mary's, Lydney

## **Christmas Eve**

4pm Christingle at St Andrew's, Alvington  
4pm Crib Service at Holy Trinity, Primrose Hill  
11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Mary's, Aylburton  
11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Mary's, Lydney

## **Christmas Day**

10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Primrose Hill

## **Sunday 28 December**

10am Thrive Intergenerational Worship at St Mary's Lydney  
4.30pm Carols around the tree at Holy Trinity, Primrose Hill

Tel: 01594 800966 Email: [revd.nina@gmail.com](mailto:revd.nina@gmail.com)