

Severnbanks Primary School

WHERE STARS SHINE

NEWSLETTER 3

OCTOBER 2026



A message from the headteacher

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of our first term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their continued support. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and we are grateful for everything you do to support your children's learning and wellbeing.

It was particularly lovely to see so many of you at our recent pupil consultation evenings. Taking the time to talk about your child's progress and engage with school life has a real impact. Children thrive when families and schools work together, and your involvement plays an important role in their success.
It was wonderful to celebrate Harvest together and to see the generosity shown by our families. Events such as these help children develop an understanding of supporting others and strengthen the sense of community that makes our school such a special place.

I would also like to thank our wonderful pupils. They have worked incredibly hard this term, embraced new challenges and demonstrated our school values every day. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

One area I would like to highlight is attendance. Being in school every day really does make a difference. Good attendance supports children's learning, confidence, friendships and overall wellbeing. We know that children make the best progress when they attend school regularly and arrive ready to learn.
For the first time in many years, our school attendance has fallen below the national average. While we understand that illness and exceptional circumstances cannot always be avoided, this is something we will be working hard to improve together. Every day counts, and small amounts of missed learning can quickly add up over time.
Thank you once again for your support throughout the term. I wish all of our children, families and staff a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

Mrs Bradley



Admin corner:

We would like to ask for your support regarding end-of-day collection arrangements.
There has been a noticeable increase in children being collected late without the school being informed beforehand. Whilst we understand that emergencies and unexpected delays do happen, we ask that you contact the school as soon as possible if you know you will be late.
We will always look after your child in an emergency, but a quick phone call helps us reassure them that you are on your way and prevents unnecessary worry. It also saves staff time spent trying to contact families to find out where collectors are and whether any assistance is needed.

WHERE STARS SHINE

Attendance Matters



Attendance so far this year

Starlets: 95.3%
Reception: 96.8%
Year 1: 94.1%
Year 2: 96.3%
Year 3: 96.9%
Year 4: 95.6%
Year 5: 93.4%
Year 6: 95.5%

Whole School: 95.6%
National: 95.9%

Why does good attendance matter?

This week, some families will receive a letter if their child's attendance is causing concern. These letters are designed to keep parents informed and help us work together to improve attendance.
When children miss school regularly, they can find it harder to keep up with learning, develop friendships and take part fully in school life.

Good attendance helps children to:

- Make better progress in their learning.
- Build confidence and positive friendships.
- Develop good routines and habits that last for life.
- Research shows that pupils with attendance of 95% or above are more likely to achieve expected standards in their learning. Missing just 10 days of school across the year can have a significant impact on a child's progress.

We understand that sometimes there are exceptional circumstances that affect attendance. If you need any support or would like to discuss your child's attendance, please contact the school office. We are here to help and work together to ensure every child attends regularly and achieves their best.

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

WHERE STARS SHINE

Family Surveys: Transition, the results

Thank you to all our families who took the time to complete our Transition Survey. We greatly value your feedback and appreciate your support. You can see a summary of what you told us below, along with the actions we are taking in response to help further improve the experience for our children and families.

You Said	So we will
92% of families said the transition process helped their child feel prepared for their new class.	Continue the successful elements of our transition programme that help children feel confident and ready for their next step.
92% of families were satisfied with communication during transition. Class Dojo was highlighted as a particularly useful tool.	Continue using Class Dojo to keep families informed and explore ways to provide even more regular updates.
94% of families rated their child's overall transition experience as *Good* or *Excellent*.	Maintain the caring and supportive transition experiences that families value.
Many families identified move-up days as the most valuable part of the transition process.	Continue to offer 2 transition days for pupils.
Families would like more opportunities to meet teachers, visit classrooms and learn about expectations for the year ahead.	School to host meet the teacher sessions in September and further bring your family to school days across the year.
Some families of children with additional needs would like earlier information sharing and enhanced continuity of support.	Continue to strengthen communication and planning between staff to ensure a smooth transition for all pupils.





A huge thank you to everyone who supported our 'Hello Yellow' day.
We raised **£149** to support the work of Young Minds Matter, a charity that works closely with the school, supporting pupil mental health.



Belonging **A**mbition **R**espect **K**indness

WHERE STARS SHINE

Key Dates



Autumn Term

22nd and 23rd: INSET Days: No Pupils
26th-30th October - Half Term Holiday

Monday 2nd November - Pupils Return to School

Reception Pupil Consultation Evenings
Tuesday 10th November: 3.30pm-6.00pm -
Wednesday 11th November: 3.30pm-6.00pm -
Please keep an eye out for a Dojo message after half term to organise times.

Friday 13th November - Children in Need Day
Week Beginning 16th November - Road Safety Week

Thursday 19th november - School photos: individual and siblings

Prospective Parent Tours
For families with children due to start school in September 2027: Please book a place through the office.

- **Monday 16th November: 1.45pm**
- **Tuesday 17th November: 5.30pm**
- **Wednesday 18th November: 1.45pm**
- **Thursday 3rd December: 1.45pm**

Friday 27th November: 3.30pm - Christmas Fair

Friday 4th December (AM) - Rocksteady Concert
Monday 7th-Friday 11th December: Nativity plays: Times and year groups to be confirmed after half term.

Friday 18th December - Christmas Church Service: Families invited and collection from St Mary's Church and the end of Autumn Term.



WHERE STARS SHINE

Meet the Members of Our Local Academy Committee

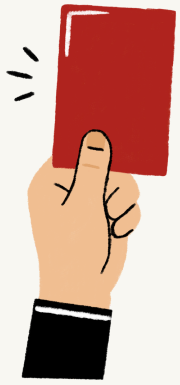


Bev Harvey

Bev Harvey: It is nice to be able to introduce myself as Co-Chair of the Severnbanks LAC Committee (I have to get used to not calling it the Governing Body!)
I have grandchildren who attend Severnbanks, and have a genuine, and personal, interest in helping Mrs. Bradley and her team make the school the most inclusive place for families, helping pupils to be the very best version of themselves, and to achieve their potential, whatever that looks like. I love that this role gives me the chance to be in school and see the children engage with learning, being kind, curious… and having fun! My own career background includes working with adults with learning disabilities, and I know how important the support relationship is for people to be able to grow and develop. The school has exciting times coming, with new buildings and expansion, and I'm really looking forward to working with Karen, as Co-Chair, and the rest of our committee, to support the school through the changes ahead.



Showing racism the RED Card at Severnbanks !













We marked Show Racism the Red Card Day by wearing red and taking part in activities that celebrated kindness, respect and inclusion.
In class, pupils explored racism in an age-appropriate way through stories, discussions and learning activities. Children talked about the importance of treating everyone fairly and respecting people from different backgrounds. The day helped pupils understand how their words and actions can make others feel welcome and valued. We were proud of the thoughtful way everyone joined in and showed that our school is a place where everyone belongs.

Severnbanks Award Winners

We are delighted to continue celebrating the achievements of our pupils with another group of award winners. It has been wonderful to see children showing our school values, working hard, and being positive role models in their classes.
Our Friday celebration assemblies are a highlight of the week, and we love welcoming family members to join us as we recognise and celebrate our pupils' successes.
Congratulations to this week's Brightest Shining Stars. We are very proud of you!

Stars that Shine





Our Senior Student Team

We are delighted to introduce our new Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head Pupils. Selecting this year's team was not easy, which is a real credit to all of our Year 6 pupils who showed excellent leadership and commitment throughout the process.
Our successful candidates truly represent the high standards and values of our school, and we are confident they will be outstanding role models for their peers throughout the year.



Kindness Cup

Kindness is one of our core school values, and we love catching our children showing care, compassion and consideration for others. These are our latest kindness Cup winners.





Harvest Festival



As you look through the photos, you will see how our school came together to celebrate Harvest Festival.
The pictures capture our harvest celebrations and the incredible support of families and members of the community who joined us to make the occasion so special.
We were delighted to welcome hundreds of you to share in the festivities, and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown through the collection of items for the local food bank. Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate and support those in need.



THANK YOU!





Year 2 Trip

Year 2 enjoyed a trip to Robinswood Hill Outdoor Education Centre



You Are Not Alone Drop-in

Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

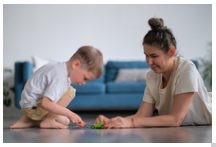
A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers



The You Are Not Alone community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.

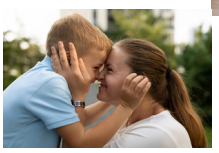
In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more











Here's what parents have said:

' My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned so much more about autism and PDA than he has over the past year - Jo (parent)

'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is back' - Louise (parent

You can request the Zoom link on our website

https://youarenotalone.community or you can send an email to

team@youarenotalone.community

AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

AUTUMN PLAY DAYS TIMETABLE

Wed 21 Oct
Autumn Crafts 1pm-3pm *
Hilltop Children & Family Centre, GL14 2QA

Fri 23 Oct
Autumn Crafts 2pm-4pm *
River Children & Family Centre, GL15 5AU

Mon 26 Oct
Autumn Handprints with Mad About Art 10am-11:30am *
The Beacon Children & Family Centre, GL2 2AR (Babies-Confident Walkers Only)

Tue 27 Oct
Neon Bat Making 10am-12pm
Finlay Children & Family Centre, GL4 6TL

Autumn Crafts 10:30am-12:30pm
The Oaks Children & Family Centre, GL4 0RN

Wed 28 Oct
Hobby Horse Design & Racing 1:30pm-3:30pm
Bartongate Children & Family Centre, GL1 4AW

Thu 29 Oct
Autumn Crafts with Mad About Art 10am-12pm
Kaleidoscope Children & Family Centre, GL1 3DN

Autumn Crafts with Mad About Art 1pm-3pm *
River Children & Family Centre, GL15 5AU

Autumn Crafts 10am-12pm *
The Beacon Children & Family Centre, GL2 2AR

Fri 30 Oct
Family Beatz with The Music Works 10am-12pm *
Hilltop Children & Family Centre, GL14 2QA

Autumn Crafts with Mad About Art 10am-12pm
The Lighthouse Children & Family Centre, GL1 5JA

* requires booking in advance

Scan to book

Gloucestershire Gateway Trust

Gloucester and Forest of Dean Children and Family Centres
@glos_forestfamilyhubs
glosfamilycentres.org.uk

Get FREE meal plans

FREE! - ONLY IF YOU LIVE IN FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA- SIGN UP TODAY!

Every week you get:

- personalised meal plan
- smart shopping list
- chef hotline for help

Stop thinking about:

- what to cook
- what to buy
- how to eat healthier

Join 35,000+ others!



Scan the QR code to claim your offer

Or visit: FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity

FiveDinners

"It's such a relief not having to think what to feed the family!"
– Carly, mum of one

Usually £86 per year - but 100% FREE
if you live in Forest of Dean District Council area!
Sign up today!

Forest of Dean DISTRICT COUNCIL

Bright Lens

A Neurodivergentparentinginformation Program



Families often come tous feeling like they've already been throughthe wringer — judged, misunderstood, or simply lost in the noise. This program meets them where they are. It doesn't assume they need 'fixing' or that their child is 'challenging' in the way the world has described. Instead, it invites parents into a new way of seeing, one grounded in understanding neurodivergence, building safety, and reconnecting relationships.

To enroll, please scan the QR code and fill out the form. Once we receive it at our end we shall send you an email to confirm.

HILLTOP CHILDREN AND FAMILY CENTRE

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2026

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8 WEEK PROGRAM

6PM UNTIL 8PM

A SAFE SPACE TO TALK WITH OTHER PARENTS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS OF PARENTING NEURODIVERGET CHILDREN.



Gloucestershire Gateway Trust

E-SCOOTERS



LEGAL

- ✓ Over18 withavalid driving license.
- ✓ Insured.
- ✓ Taxed.
- ✓ Legal to use on any public road.
- ✓ Subject to drink drive and other driving offences legislation.



ILLEGAL

- ✗ Insurable.
- ✗ Taxable.
- ✗ Legal to use on any public road/pavement.
- ✓ Subject to drink drive and other driving offences legislation.
- ✓ Likely to be seized and crushed by Police.

Get FREE personalised meal plans worth £86 per year for FREE!
If you're fed up with deciding what to cook every night (or just want to save money on food shopping!) then this is for you! Forest of Dean District Council are supporting their local community by providing FREE membership (usually £86per year) to all parents and families of your school! There's no catch, it's totally free, and you'll never be charged; it must be good as over 30,000 people use the service already.
The service is created by celebrity TV Chef Theo Michaels.

Simply visit https://FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity find Forest of Dean District Council and sign up today to get instant access to your own personalised meal plans with a new one every week, plus a complete shopping list so you don't even have to think about what to buy. You can personalise your meal plans to suit your specific needs, like child friendly, affordable meals, menopause friendly, vegetarian (or eat everything!), quick and much more!

Sign up today by visiting https://FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity to get your **FREE membership** – no catch, just free, to help people living in and working in the Forest Of Dean, to save money and eat better. You may remember TV chef Theo and his kids when they did 36 live cook a longs during lockdown with thousands of families around the UK joining in or from daytime TV, he's a dad of 3 Children and knows what a faff it is trying to eat well every night!

Please note – you must visit that link otherwise you won't find the FREE offer!