

Oldbury on Severn C of E Primary School

'Love One Another'...John 13

Love, Learn Flourish

There is always amazing play, creativity and construction happening at Forest School! Badger class have recently been working collaboratively to design and build a zip wire in the forest, developing their problem solving, teamwork and resilience along the way. It is wonderful to see the children sharing ideas, taking on challenges and bringing their imaginative ideas to life through purposeful play and hands on learning.



Newsletter 3: Tuesday 13th October 2026

Foxes class had an amazing workshop day two weeks ago linked to their topic on renewable and non renewable energy and Oldbury Power Station. We received some lovely feedback from the team who worked with us:



Thank you for having us in your school. It was such a special day, and I genuinely feel privileged to have been part of it. Spending time with the children was both inspiring and incredibly moving. They were thoughtful and curious, and it was wonderful to see how engaged they were throughout. You should be very proud of them. I look forward to seeing you and the children again when we present the Future Generations Plan and to be able to continue the engagement on what's next for new nuclear at Oldbury.

Best,
Charlotte (Strategic Nuclear Projects Manager)





Sharing the joy of reading



What is The Queen's Christmas Present?

As a passionate advocate for literacy, and inspired by the [National Year of Reading 2026](#), Her Majesty The Queen wanted to give children a personal gift at the end of the year to help inspire a [love of reading](#).

The Queen's Christmas Present is an initiative in support of the National Year of Reading. As Katherine Rundell is one of Her Majesty's favourite authors, the National Literacy Trust, with [Her Majesty as its Patron](#), has come together with the publisher, Bloomsbury, to build this initiative so that every year 6 child in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, every P6 child in Scotland, and every home-educated child of the equivalent age across the UK will be gifted a special edition for free of the award-winning children's book, *Impossible Creatures*.

The initiative, by means of producing, printing and delivery of the books, aims to create a shared national reading moment that brings children together around a single book at the same time, and at a crucial point in their reading lives when [our research shows](#) their engagement with reading declines most steeply.

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell is the first in the award-winning series of the same name. It introduces twelve-year-old Christopher Forrester to the secret, magical islands of the Glimouria Archipelago, where the creatures of myth still live and thrive. There, he will discover dragons, ratatoskas, unicorns, kankos, longmas and an impossible girl called Mal who needs his help – for something is threatening their survival ...

Next Week an Exciting Family Science Show is coming to Oldbury!

We are incredibly excited to welcome the Royal Institution to Oldbury for a fantastic day of live science shows, experiments and demonstrations!

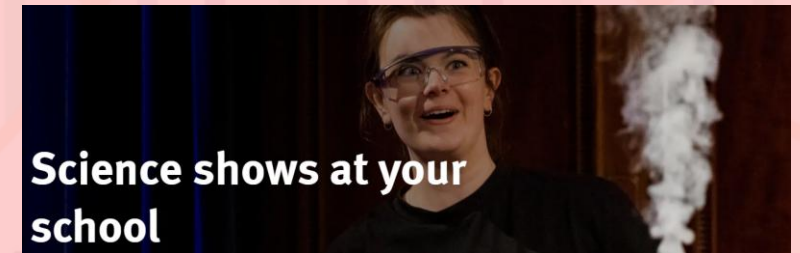
A huge thank you to Catie Mahoney for securing the funding to make this brilliant opportunity possible. During the school day, the Royal Institution will deliver three age-appropriate science shows for our children, as well as providing professional development for our teachers.



Family Science Show

The excitement will continue after school with a special live science show for our families.

- Monday 19th October 2026
- 3.45–4.45pm
- Oldbury on Severn Primary School
- Open to all!



Children will be seated together at the front so they can get a fantastic view, with adults seated behind them. Expect exciting experiments, surprising demonstrations and plenty of WOW moments as we explore science together! We would love to see as many of our families there as possible – come along and enjoy an hour of spectacular science at Oldbury!

What are 'Open Classrooms?'



3.15–4.00pm

- Thursday 3rd December 2026
- Friday 12th March 2027
- Tuesday 8th June 2027

Three times a year, we will opening our classrooms for families to come in and share and celebrate their child's learning.

Come and look through books and class floor books, see how much progress your child has made and enjoy some of the wider learning on display – perhaps artwork, music or other creations. Teachers will also be there to answer any quick questions.

In EYFS, families can stay and play, explore the environment or simply sit and share a story together.

These relaxed sessions are in addition to Parents' Evenings and are all about giving children the chance to proudly share their learning with you.



Games



Do you have any old toys or games looking for a new home? We are on the lookout for complete sets of toys and games for our KS1 children, particularly Orchard Toys games. These are fantastic for developing language, communication and turn taking through small group play. If you have anything you would be happy to donate, we would be incredibly grateful!



A huge thank you to Becs Mann for her incredible dedication as Chair of FOOS over the past three years. Alongside a fantastic team of parents, Becs has organised some amazing fundraising events that have raised valuable funds to support our school and provide wonderful opportunities for our children. We are so grateful for the time, energy and commitment she has given to FOOS and to the Oldbury community!

The new committee roles:

Chair: Emma Brewer

Secretary: Thea Willcox

Treasurer: Jo Wood

Plus many other amazing parents who volunteer and give their time.



FOOS Introductions



Meet our new FOOS Chair and Secretary. Thank you to Jo Wood who is continuing as Treasurer for another year.

Hi I'm Emma and have 5 children, 4 of which have and are attending Oldbury. I also live in the village and love our community! I can't wait to get stuck into being chair of friends and hosting some fabulous events with an amazing school of parents for support! Hope to see you all soon and please feel free to stop for a chat!

Hi! My name is Thea, I am Eli's mum, who has just started mini hedgehogs and is loving school already! I live in the village and have another little boy called Marley, who is 2 years old. I have just joined Friends of Oldbury School as Secretary, I am really happy to have joined and am looking to supporting the school with fundraising.



FRIENDS OF
OLDBURY SCHOOL



Consent and Personal Boundaries



Helping children understand consent and personal boundaries starts with the small, everyday moments at home. Encourage your child to ask before hugging or touching someone, borrowing their belongings, taking a photograph or joining in with physical play. Equally, let them know that they are allowed to say “no”, “stop” or “I don’t like that” and that these words should be listened to.

Try to avoid insisting that children give hugs or kisses to relatives or friends if they don’t want to – a wave, high five or simply saying hello is absolutely fine. We can also model consent ourselves by asking, “Would you like a hug?” or “Is it okay if I help you with that?”

These simple everyday conversations help children learn an important message: my boundaries matter, and other people’s boundaries matter too.

The link below will take you to a really helpful video that we have shared with your children in class.

Consent



THE BRIDGE CHALLENGE



Please see the email that is coming home today about our exciting new Bridge Challenge!

We are delighted to launch our new Bridge Challenge for every child across our five schools.

The Bridge Challenge is a collection of experiences and activities that we would love our children to enjoy and achieve during their time at primary school. Bridge school leaders have worked together to carefully choose challenges that we believe will support children's personal development, independence, confidence, curiosity and sense of community.

The challenges include everything from building a den, climbing a tree and flying a kite to visiting a museum, learning basic first aid, performing a poem, helping a charity and trying food from a different culture.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Make the most
of **Autumn**

Make your
meals go further



Free School Meals

Check if your child is eligible for free school meals. There are now three ways children can receive them:

- Targeted free school meals – for children in households receiving Universal Credit or certain other benefits, with an annual household income of £7,400 or less. Eligible children can also access additional support, including the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.
- Expanded free school meals – from September 2026, for children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings above £7,400.
- Universal infant free school meals – all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled. Find out more and apply:
www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Attendance



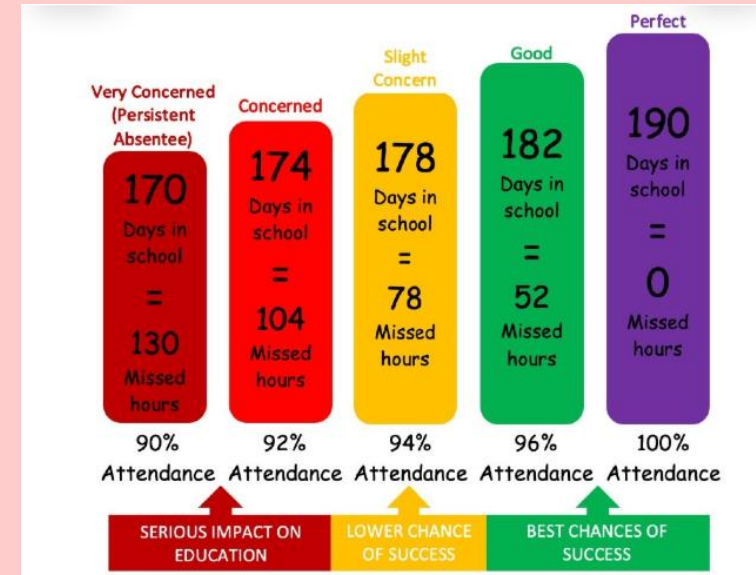
We would like to remind all families that if you are planning for your child to be absent from school during term time for any reason other than illness or emergency, **you must submit a written request to the Headteacher at least two weeks in advance.**

Please note that, under current school attendance law in England, parents do not have an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. Under the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, leave of absence may only be granted where the school considers that there are exceptional circumstances.

Unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice or further legal action, so it is vital that all requests are made in writing to the Headteacher with sufficient notice.

We would like to remind parents that the national penalty notice framework takes into account unauthorised leave of absence over a 3 year period. For example, PN issued in a first year would double if parents removed their child in a second year. In a third year this could result in the local authority taking the parents to court.

Thank you for your support in ensuring high attendance and continuity in your child's education.



Did you know?

When children attend school they:

- Can achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves
- Learn how to be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends

A two-week holiday in term-time means the **highest** attendance your child can get is **94.7%**. This is 65 hours of missed school time.

Meet Your Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)

Megan

Hi, I'm Megan (she/her) from the Mental Health Support Team. I am a Trainee and I'll be working at Oldbury-on-Severn Primary, say hello next time you see me!



What is MHST?

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is here to help your school to develop ways to look after the mental health of its students, staff, parents and carers.

Our EMHPs do this by supporting your school to understand what you need and giving 1-1 support to students on anxiety, low mood and other struggles with wellbeing.

Our EMHPs are also trained to provide staff training and offering lessons on wellbeing.

Our logo is an otter because, like otters, we work as part of a team and we use tools! Some of our favourite tools are self-care, challenging negative thoughts, problem-solving and managing worries. We want to share these tools with you so that you can look after your own wellbeing and build your resilience.

If you would like to know more then chat to me, the Mental Health Lead or any trusted adult in your school.



Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) work as part of the MHST in your **selected schools**, either **1:1** or **in groups**. We are trained to provide **early** intervention, Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (**LI-CBT**), which is a type of brief talking therapy to help with **anxiety**, **low mood**, and other **wellbeing** struggles. It does take work so you need to **want** to work with us.

***We do not offer a crisis service.**

To submit a self-referral
click the website link below
OR scan the QR Code.

[Self Referral Form](#)



Contact Details



0117 403 8735



awp.mhstenquiries
@nhs.net

How can you access us?

Speak to a trusted member of staff in school who will work with the school **Mental Health Lead (MHL)** to make a referral to us.

OR

If you would prefer **not** to speak to a member of staff directly and think we are the right service for you, then complete a **self-referral** form by scanning the QR code or going to our website.



We will then meet with your MHL or review your online referral. Even if we are not the right service for you, we will still help your school to think about what options may be helpful.



If LI-CBT is suitable for you, then you will start meeting with your EMHP.

The MHST is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. We are working with **selected schools** across Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos.

To find out where we work, check out our webpage:

<https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/mh-schools/mental-health-support-team-mhst-2>

This leaflet is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.





Many social media platforms, messaging apps and online games have minimum age requirements or age ratings. These are there to help protect children from content, contact and features that may not be suitable for them.

We encourage families to check the age guidance before allowing children to download or use a new app or game and to talk regularly about what they are doing online. Even when children seem confident with technology, they still need our guidance, boundaries and supervision to help them stay safe.

Age Restrictions

FOR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Age 13 Ask.fm Facebook Google + <i>US and all countries not mentioned under 14 and 16</i> Instagram ooVoo Pinterest Reddit Snapchat Tumblr Twitter LinkedIn <i>all countries not mentioned under age 14, 16 and 18</i> Swarm by Foursquare DATING / CHATTING APPS Meet Me Tinder Omegle Skout <i>communities for 13-17 and 18+</i>	Age 15 Burn note <i>Common Sense Media rating</i>
	Age 16 WhatsApp LinkedIn <i>Netherlands</i> Google + <i>Netherlands</i>
	Age 17 Periscope <i>Common Sense Media rating</i> Vine Whisper
	Age 18 LinkedIn <i>China</i> Yik Yak Kik Flickr <i>But kids 13-17 can sign-up with parental permission</i> YouTube <i>But kids 13-17 can sign-up with parental permission</i>
Age 14 LinkedIn <i>United States, Canada, Germany, Spain, Australia and South Korea</i> Google <i>Spain, South Korea</i>	

As of June 2016

Disclaimer: For the safety of your child, check the terms of service regularly.

WhatsApp



Parent WhatsApp groups can be a brilliant way to build connections and strengthen our school community. Like any group chat, though, they work best when everyone uses them thoughtfully.

They are great for:

- Reminders – *“Is it Christmas Jumper day tomorrow?”*
- Finding the missing water bottle!
- Helping each other with dates and events
- Arranging playdates and parties
- Sharing useful information
- Welcoming and supporting new families

They are less helpful for:

- Trying to work out what has happened at school without the full picture
- Discussing individual children, families or members of staff
- Answering questions that the school team can quickly clarify

A useful rule of thumb is: if it's about school and you need an answer, please ask us. We would always much rather have a conversation and help.

Our parent community is such a valued part of Oldbury, and we're really grateful for the way our families support one another and the school. We hope our parent groups continue to be friendly, supportive spaces that reflect the warmth and kindness of our school community.

