

Friday 16th January 2026



Star Gazing

On the 27th of January, weather permitting, Woodmancote school is extremely excited to be using the relative darkness of our playing field to host a stargazing event. A few lucky year 5 children, from Woodmancote, and another of our local schools, will be guided through the night sky by one of Cleeve School's science teachers, Mr Squires, and his astronomy team. January is an excellent month to see both Jupiter and Saturn, and all being well, the children will be able to see both Saturn's rings and Jupiter's moons!

Cheltenham Young Artist 2026.

Thank you for encouraging your children to enter Cheltenham Young Artist 2026. We have heard back from the judges and they had a very difficult time choosing work from the 450 entries for exhibiting at the Gardens Gallery on the weekend of January 17th and 18th. 50 works have been selected, framed for display, celebrating the creativity of children in the area. We are delighted to share with you that one of our pupils will have work in the exhibition. Congratulations to Lucas Smart with his entry titled Astronomic Hemisphere which will be on display from this weekend.

OPAL

Our new OPAL Team have met and will be communicating with you soon. In the meantime we could really do with some of the following:

Suitcases and Crates-Children love pulling each other along in both of these items.

Dressing up clothes-These can be old adult clothes as well. The children have really made the most of previous donations and they are now looking a bit threadbare!

If you have any of these, please bring them in and speak to either Mrs Kim Screen (Woodpeckers and Lead for Midday Supervisors) or Mr Wood (Pine Class teacher and PE Lead). Both of these members of staff have taken on OPAL and would love your support.

Celebrating Achievement

We recently had our second SLTea with 28 children from across the school and it was an absolute pleasure again. It is worth noting that those selected for SLTea demonstrate exceptional attitude and positive behaviour all of the time. Some of the children have been for SLTea several times!

In addition to SLTea, children are selected to receive Star of the Week certificates each week. These are for exceptional pieces of work, progress or making an effort in an area that they have been encouraged to improve in. Once again, not every child will receive one of these over the course of the year.

We aim to recognise and praise positive behaviour, progress and attainment where it is deserved, whilst also putting in support for children to improve in their academic work or with their behaviour. Can I please urge parents not to expect that their child will receive either of these 2 rewards over the year. There are many other ways in which we praise and encourage, but certificates and invites to SLTea are reserved for truly exceptional work, progress and behaviour. Thank you.

School Uniform

We have been noticing several children coming into school not wearing correct school uniform. Part of our approach to living our ethos of Belonging is that all children wear and present themselves at school in a similar manner.

Can we remind parents of the following expectations.

- All children should wear appropriate dark school shoes unless they have a medical reason not to do so.
- Hair that is long enough to fall into eyes should be tied up or a child should wear a plain hair band. *This goes for boys and girls.* If a child comes to school and their hair is hampering them accessing their learning they will be given a simple elastic band to tie their hair up with.
- If worn, ear rings must only be simple studs.
- No necklaces, bracelets, rings or bangles should be worn to school.
- Hair bands should be plain and not 'ears', sparkly unicorn bands or anything similar.

Jumpers and other items of clothing should be labelled. Last year we accumulated a mountain of lost property! Naming items of clothing and also lunch boxes really helps us to return items.

On days when PE is taught, children should not wear football socks, shorts over leggings or long sleeved tops under t-shirts. On days when children have PE, they are expected to come in their PE kit, which includes the school sweatshirt.

Class teachers in each Year group will liaise with you directly about Forest School/Outdoor Learning sessions.

	Uniform Items
Required Standard School Uniform	Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
	White shirt, blouse or polo top
	Bottle green sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with logo
	White or grey socks or grey tights
	Black / Dark shoes
	Green and white checked summer dress
Required School PE Kit	House colour t-shirt with logo
	Black shorts
	Black tracksuit trousers or joggers
	Trainers
	Children are expected to wear their school jumpers with the above on the days that they have PE
Other Optional Items	Book Bag
	Rucksacks
Little Chestnuts	Bottle green sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with logo
Forest School/ Outdoor Learning	Long sleeved tops Black tracksuit trousers or joggers Sweatshirts (these should be their school sweatshirts) Waterproof trousers or 'all in ones' Wellington boots

The Pancake Flip Is BACK – and It's Batter Than Ever!

Get ready to flip, toss and giggle because our much-loved Pancake Flip is returning on Tuesday 24th February!

All children will take part in this fun-filled challenge, seeing how many times they can flip their pancake.

Sponsorship forms will be coming home over the next couple of weeks, so please keep an eye out. The money raised will help fund educational trips and activities that broaden children's cultural awareness, giving pupils even more opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

Sponsorship money and forms should be returned to your child's class teacher by Friday 27th February.

We hope the children are egg-cited and ready for some flipping great fun – it's going to be a truly pan-tastic day!

Volunteers Needed!

We're also looking for a few helping hands on the day. If you can spare a little time, we'd love your support! It's a brilliant chance to see your little flippers in action and be part of the fun, we promise it'll be worth it!

To volunteer or find out more, please email thepta@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk – we'd love to have you on board.

Thank you for your continued support, together we can flip this into a fantastic fundraiser!

Dates for the Diary

January 2026	
15 th	Year 4 Residential Meeting at 4pm (via TEAMS)
27 th	Year 5 Star Gazing
February	
13 th	Year 3 trip to Corinium Museum
13 th	Last day of Term 3
23 rd	First Day of Term 4
24 th	PTA Pancake Flip
26 th	Spring Disco
March	
w/c 2 nd and 9 th	Year 6 Bikeability
16 th and 18 th	Parent Consultations
17 th	Year 4 to Winchcombe School to see In the Net
19 th	Assembly-Rail safety talk from GWSR (Years 5 and 6)
23 rd - 25 th	Year 4 Residential
27 th	Last day of Term 4

Looking Ahead	
18 th -22 nd May	Year 6 Residential

Staff Emails

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