



ANN EDWARDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Berkeley Close, South Cerney, Gloucestershire GL7 5UW

Tel: 01285 860335 Fax: 01285 860892

Headteacher: Mr Ian Moore

Email: admin@annedwardsprimary.co.uk

Website: www.annedwards.gloucs.sch.uk

Learning and achieving in a caring community

"Do to others what you would want them to do to you." - Matthew 7:12

Our special chosen Bible story is the Parable of The Good Samaritan.

Monday 11th September 2023

Newsletter No 1

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a wonderful start to the school year we've had! Last week, we all enjoyed some really creative and thought-provoking learning around the book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak and it was lovely to see children throughout the school so engaged. As reading and books are so important to everything we do here at Ann Edwards, we will be commemorating what would have been Roald Dahl's birthday on Wednesday 13th September with his work being enjoyed in class and a special assembly led by Lisa from Cirencester Library. It would be lovely if you could share some Roald Dahl books with your children at home around this time too.

Thank you for your patience with communication at the start of term. A routine ParentMail update at the end of the summer led to some ongoing difficulties throughout last week which coincided with problems migrating pupils to their new classes on Class Dojo. If you have any problems with either of these platforms then please politely contact the school office. Also, if you know that a friend or family member is having difficulties either accessing their child's class or the whole-school Dojo page, then please inform them of any updates and ask them to let us know. The governors are currently working with staff to review and further improve communication and we will be in touch with you about this in the coming weeks.

I am really looking forward to working with you this year.

Artsmark Gold Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award by Arts Council England. This is an amazing achievement and is testament to all the hard work of the children and of the staff team, particularly Mrs McLoughlin as Arts Lead and Mrs Jones as Music Lead. We have been working towards this award for the last two years and Mrs McLoughlin and I were awed by having been awarded Gold on our first attempt. I thought it would be helpful to share some of the feedback provided by the awarding body so you can see what this means in practical terms and how it benefits the children at the school.



- 'Your deep commitment to the Arts at Ann Edwards C of E Primary School is palpable in your documentation. You recognise their value supporting your Christian ethos and in bringing children joy – how wonderful! You are offering a rich arts curriculum, and are seeing the positive effects on pupil well-being, creativity, personal development, and their language skills.'



- ‘Music is one of the strengths of your curriculum, with class lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher; peripatetic instrumental lessons on offer for pupils in a range of instruments; steel pan workshops; whole class woodwind lessons for Year 5; and investment in Charanga. The various musical talents of the school have rightly been endorsed by gaining the Music Mark – well done!’
- ‘Pupils enjoy regular opportunities to showcase their work in productions, assemblies, in your school gallery, at the local church, in an arts trail, and in performances (ranging from the local duck race to Young Voices), raising the profile of the Arts with parents, carers and the local community.’
- ‘The introduction of a new drawing scheme of work has raised standards in sketching, and children now confidently use a range of drawing equipment. Workshops led by a professional artist further boosted children’s enjoyment and understanding of different drawing techniques.’
- ‘You have made a positive start to gathering the views of your children about your arts provision through your Arts Council.’

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve our Artsmark Award, we had to develop our arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Dr Darren Henley CBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said:

“I would like to congratulate Ann Edwards Church of England Primary School on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum, every pupil can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life.”

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is every staff member’s responsibility. We will work in partnership with you, including seeking consent when we feel that support from external agencies such as Early Help or social services is required. However, please remember that we do not need to seek consent when we judge that a child is at serious risk of harm and that information sharing or seeking consent at that point could place them at greater risk.

Our Safeguarding policy is currently being reviewed following updates to guidance to schools this summer and will be presented to the full governing body for consideration before the final, agreed version is published on our school website.

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ian Moore, Headteacher
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Hannah Singh, SENDCo
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Amy Connolly, EYFS Lead
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Emma Jones, School Business Manager

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in the community then please refer to the guidance below. Referrals by members of the public can be made anonymously.

To report a concern if you are a member of the public

During office hours

You can call Children and Families Front Door Service on 01452 426565 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

You can also discuss your concerns with someone who works with children and families, such as your health visitor, social worker, school nurse or teacher (all schools have a teacher responsible for child protection).

Out of office hours

If you think a child is in immediate danger please call the police on 999.

The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) are available for emergencies, out of office hours, which cannot safely wait until the next working day. You can call them on 01452 614194.



EDT is not intended to provide the same level of service that is available during normal office hours.

Children’s Mental Health Support

Mrs Hannah Singh, our special educational needs and disabilities coordinator (SENDCo) is our children’s mental health lead; Mrs Singh’s working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We also have two new members of staff qualified to work as emotional literacy support assistants (ELSAs): Mrs Nikki Pink and Miss Claire Betts. I have produced the following overview of our graduated provision for children for your information and we will be setting up a designated section on our school website this term.

Graduation of child mental health support at Ann Edwards Church of England primary School

1.	Universal Offer	Care and support for all children from trained and emotionally available adults throughout the school.
2.	ELSA groups (time-limited)	Weekly small-group sessions with a certified ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) – one half-term.
3.	ELSA 1:1 (time-limited)	Weekly 1:1 with a certified ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) – one half-term.
4.	ELSA or PAT 1:1 (longer-term)	Weekly 1:1 with a certified ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) or Pets As Therapy Session – linked to longer-term goals and/or child protection / child in needs planning.
5.	Specialist external intervention	Specialist external mental health support either on the school site or at a specialist setting, including play therapy and psychotherapy.



Staff Update

The deputy headteacher, Miss Lund, remains absent from school due to illness. To help during this time, Mrs Donna Roberts has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher, working Monday and Tuesday each week with some additional support when I am required to be off-site, for example attending the Y4 Braeside residential. Mrs Roberts is highly experienced, warm and person-centred and it has been lovely having her join us this term.

Alongside myself and Mrs Roberts this term, the Senior Leadership Team is made up of Mrs Hannah Singh (SENDCo) and Mrs Emma Jones (School Business Manager). The school’s Middle Leadership Team comprises Mrs Amy Connolly (EYFS, P4C, Oracy and Early Reading Lead), Mrs Vicki Roseblade (KS1 and Mathematics Lead) and Mrs Tina Jones (KS2, Music, and KS2 English Lead).

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that Mr Mobey’s health has improved and he has begun a year-long secondment at a local primary school before he is due to return to Ann Edwards for September 2024.

Please see the school website for a full organisation staffing overview.

Absence in Term-Time

If you require your child to be absent from school, please can we ask that you complete an absence request form which is available from the school office. Headteachers are not allowed to authorise absence during term-time other than in exceptional circumstances. If your child is absent from school due to illness then please contact the school office on a daily basis.

Parent/Carer Teacher Meetings, Assessment and Reporting

To start off the new academic year, I thought it would be helpful to share the following again as well as for new parents and carers joining us.

September	We begin the year with a 'Meet the Teacher' session straight after school in the first week back for children in Years 1 to 6. Families of each Reception child are offered a home visit.
October	We hold our first parents' evening via telephone. Feedback to me has been that there is often less to say here and it's more of a 'getting to know you' and 'how your child has settled in' conversation. There is also less work in books to see at this stage.
January	We hold a 'book look' like we did this year, where parents and carers can come into school to celebrate their children’s books with them.
April	Face-to-face parents' evenings in school - parents and carers look through their child/ren's books and then meet with the teacher. This will include discussions around attendance (as required) and key priorities for the remainder of the academic year.

This programme ties in to the following assessment schedule.



You should expect assessment information three times a year: a general update in the autumn then more detailed in the spring and summer. Autumn and spring are via parents' evening and the summer via the end-of-year annual report. The timing is the autumn parents' evening is arranged so that we can feedback on how children have settled in, but our first formal assessment point takes place at the end of the long term. However, we do baseline the children in September so we can update parents and carers on that, specifically any deviation from the previous end of year information.


We don't necessarily share 'scores' from any more formal tests used but rather whether a child is significantly below, working towards age-related expectation, currently working at age-related expectation or working at greater depth. We also celebrate progress for children irrespective of their attainment. We run assessments all through the year, for example end of unit maths assessments, to inform our ongoing teacher assessments and to enable us to make the necessary adaptations. However, we have three, more formal, assessment points where teachers collate all of the evidence from across the term to state where they are at that point. Teachers and leaders then review and analyse this information to identify changes to quality first teaching, establish the intervention timetable and inform any referrals.

Please note that, when used, test papers are just one part of our assessment process and we do not send papers home.

Did you know?

...That you can find more information about our Music curriculum [here](#).

Yours Sincerely



Ian Moore
Headteacher

Our PTA Amazon wishlist can be accessed here: list can be accessed [here](#):

Key Dates:

EYFS Transition into School – AM/PM Swapped	Mon 11 th – Fri 15 th September
EYFS Transition into school – All AM + lunch	Mon 18 th – Fri 23 rd September
Open the Book - (Yr6 Yew Parents) 9am	Tuesday 19 th September
PTA - AGM School Hall – 7.30pm	Wednesday 20 th September
EYFS in All day	Monday 25 th September
Phonics Workshop for Parents and Carers	Thursday 5 th October, 2.15pm
Yr5 & 6 Trip SkillZone	Mon 9 th /Tues 10 th /Weds 11 th Oct
Parents Evening - Yr1 - Yr6	Tuesday 10 th and Thursday 12 th October
Harvest Festival Service – All Hallows 9.30am (EYFS Parents)	Friday 13 th October
New EYFS Open Morning 9.30 – 11am	Tuesday 17 th October
Parents Evening - EYFS	Tuesday 17 th and Thursday 19 th October
Y6 Residential – Morfa Bay	Monday 23 rd – Fri 27 th October
Y4 Residential – Braeside	Wednesday 25 th – Fri 27 th October
Half Term	Monday 30 th – Friday 3 rd November
First day of Term	Monday 6 th November
Open the Book – (Yr5/6 Sycamore Parents) 9am	Tuesday 7 th November
Y6 Morfa Bay assembly 9am	Wednesday 15 th November
Children In Need	Friday 17 th November
Open the Book (Yr3/4 Chestnut Parents) – 9am	Tuesday 21 st November
Y4 Braeside assembly 9am	Wednesday 22 nd November
Whole school visit to Christmas Tree Festival	Monday 11 th December
KS1 Christmas Production – Dress Rehearsal to pupils	Tuesday 12 th December (PM)

KS1 Christmas Production

PTA Christmas Play

EYFS Nativity

Church Christmas Service – All Hallows (Y3/4 Parents)

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

Last day of term

INSET Day – school closed

First Day of Term

Open the Book (Yr3/4 Holly Parents) 9am

Last Day of Term

INSET Day – school closed

Half Term

Open the Book (Yr2 Birch Parents) 9am

Scholastic book fair

Open the Book (Yr1 Bay Parents) 9am

World Book Day

Tempest Class Photos

Comic Relief

Prayer Space Week

Parents' Evening

Easter Service – All Hallows (Yr1/2 Parents) 9.30am

Last day Of Term

Easter Holidays

First day of Term

Y5 Cycling Proficiency (2 weeks)

Open the Book (Yr1 Beech parents) 9am

Bank Holiday

KS2 SATS

Open the Book (Yr 5 Oak Parents) 9am

Experience Pentacost – All Hallows (Year 5 /6) 10am – all day

Experience Pentacost – All Hallows (Year 5/6) – AM

Last Day of Term

Half Term

INSET Day – school closed

First Day of Term

Prayer Space Week

Y4 Multiplication Check

KS1 Phonics Check

EYFS New Parents meeting

Y6 Leavers Service Gloucester Cathedral

Open the Book (Apple Parents) 9am

Armed Forces Day

Sports Day

Y6 Dress Rehearsal to pupils

Y6 Performances to Parents

End of Year Church service (Yr5/6 Parents)

Last day of Term

INSET Day – school closed

Thursday 14th December PM and

Evening Performances

Friday 15th December

Monday 18th December

Tuesday 19th December

Wednesday 20th December

Thursday 21st December (1.30pm finish)

Friday 22nd December

Monday 8th January

Tuesday 16th January

Thursday 8th February

Friday 9th February

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Tuesday 20th February

Thursday 22nd – 29th February

Tuesday 5th March

Thursday 7th March

Tuesday 12th March

Friday 15th March – TBC

Monday 18th – 22nd March

Tuesday 19th & Thursday 21st March

Friday 22nd March

Friday 22nd March (1.30pm finish)

Monday 25th March – Fri 5th April

Monday 8th April

Monday 15th April – 27th April

Tuesday 23rd April

Monday 6th May

Monday 13th – Friday 17th May

Tuesday 21st May

Tuesday 21st May

Wednesday 22nd May

Friday 24th May

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June

Tuesday 4th June

Tuesday 4th – Friday 7th June

Tuesday 4th June – Friday 14th June

Monday 10th June – Fri 14th June

Tuesday 11th June 5.45 – 6.45pm

Wednesday 12th June

Tuesday 18th June

Friday 28th June

Wednesday 3rd July

Monday 8th July PM

Tuesday 9th July PM and Thurs 11th

July Evening

Wednesday 17th July

Friday 19th July (1.30pm finish)

Monday 22nd July