

Building Community, Enriching Lives

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Key Stage 1 Football

We are so proud of Skylarks Class who represented the school so well today at the Atlas Sports Key Stage 1 football festival. Thank you so much to the parents who kindly dropped them all off at Archway Secondary School where the children spent the morning in the sunshine learning football skills and then playing matches against other schools.

We came away from the day having been chosen to demonstrate one of the activities in front of all the other schools, winning all our matches with a huge number of goals scored and most importantly being chosen as the winners of the 'Sportsmanship' certificate of the day by the Atlas Sports coaches! What an achievement. I could not have been prouder. The children all represented the school so well, bringing **joy**, demonstrating **harmony** with their team-mates and **compassion** to the other teams.

When we first arrived, we gave the children their new sports kits which we brought for them over the summer. We have brought enough for Key Stage 1 and 2 so that every time the children represent the school at a sporting event, they can wear their new kit with pride! It makes a real difference to the children to feel part of a team and raises the profile of sport in our school.

We have booked lots of Atlas Sports events this year, which children in Key Stage 1 and 2 will be able to take part in. We will organise the kits so they come home to you the night before in a drawstring bag with a number on so that we can keep track of who has which set. If you can dress your child in the kit on the day, then wash it and return it in the bag after, that would be fantastic. The kit consists of t-shirt, shorts and socks. If the socks don't fit, please don't worry, they can just wear the shorts and t-shirt.



There are many more photos of the full event and all your children on the school website [here](#).

Swimming

I know that some of you will have been wondering about swimming lessons and when they will restart in school. As some of you may know, swimming is on the Key Stage 2 national curriculum so all children in every school in the country must go to swimming lessons at some point in their primary school career.

In the past at Longney, the children have been swimming every year, which gave us some breathing space to plan how we would do the swimming going forwards as all children in school have already met the national curriculum requirement. Going swimming every year is very costly for parents and the school and takes up a large amount of curriculum time. As a result, at present, we will take Swifts class each year for the next few years so that all the children receive swimming lessons on their journey through Longney. We are currently in the process of booking sessions for later in the year. More details to follow for Swifts class.

Theatre Trips

This year, we have decided that we would like to take the children to a theatre show instead of the pantomime. This will give them the chance to see a show that is age-appropriate and a real spectacle. Mrs Hinde has been working hard to provisionally book two shows which we are really excited about! On the 9th January, year 4, 5 and 6 will be travelling down to Bristol Old Vic to watch their version of 'The Little Mermaid'. You can read about the show online [here](#).

On the 20th December, Reception, year 1, 2 and 3 will be visiting Cheltenham Everyman Theatre to see a performance of the traditional tale 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. You can read more about the show [here](#).

More details will follow in a Ping to the classes involved soon.



These shows will complement our English curriculum in school well and introduce the children to some classic literature and an exciting theatre experience. We can't wait!

Stroud Book Festival

On Thursday 7th November, year 4, 5 and 6 will be travelling by coach to Stroud Book Festival at the Sub Rooms. They will be hearing a talk by Eloise Smith, author of 'Winner Takes Gold'.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to hear a real-life author speak. Eloise Smith is not just an author but an Olympic fencer and three-time commonwealth gold medal winner! We are sure she will be an extremely inspirational speaker for the children to hear. Look out for a School Ping soon with the details about the day for those who are attending. Click on the photo below for more information about the event.



Anti-Bullying Week

We wanted to start the term by spending time focussing on anti-bullying and our new values of **compassion** and **harmony**. This has ensured that all the children in school now have a shared language for talking about bullying so that they can talk to us if they have any concerns and know what to do if they ever experience bullying during their lives.

During the week, we focussed on the following themes: anti-bullying, cyber-bullying and how to keep yourself safe online, celebrating difference with a particular focus on understanding neurodiversity, working in **harmony** through teamwork exercises in their House teams and showing **compassion** within their classes, the school and beyond.

Each class shared their compassion within the community. Swallows class were visited by Edward's horse and heard about how to be kind to horses and show care and respect towards them. Skylarks class prepared care packages for the staff at Gloucester Royal Children's Centre. Goldfinch class made dog toys to take to Teckels Animal Sanctuary nearby. Swifts Class made and decorated cookies to share with those in need at Gloucester Feed the Hungry. It was a fantastic opportunity to show the children what a difference we can all make by giving our time and energy to others and showing compassion. Well done everyone.

