



Governors' Newsletter

The newsletter from the Governing Body
of Deerhurst and Apperley C of E Primary School
July 2025

Learning and living as children of God

(Ephesians 5:1) You are God's children whom he loves. Try to be like God

Thanks from the Chair

It's been an exceptionally busy term in school with book looks, Sports Day, and the fantastic KS2 production of "Oliver with a Twist"! As we close the 2024/25 academic year, the governors wish to extend some special thanks:

- To Mrs Neveu for providing another incredible school year for the children and for your unwavering professionalism and good grace (even when facing a challenging situation!)
- To Mr Clark whose inspirational development of competitive sports and promotion of physical activity in school led to us receiving the Gold Award for the government-led School Games scheme this year.
- To Mrs Perry for her support for the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community which led to the school being awarded the prestigious Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Mental Health Champions Award.
- To our fantastic parent volunteers: Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Ross who generously give their time to support reading in school, to the phenomenal Mrs Mulligan who runs the school choir, our own Mrs Witney who runs the ever-popular Camp Kindness clubs and to Mrs Rayson and Mrs Mulligan for providing the children with the opportunity to take part in Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Primary Schools Wildlife Quiz through their Nature Club.
- Our heartfelt thanks to all the staff in school for their commitment, hard work and endless enthusiasm for ensuring that all the children receive a truly outstanding education. This includes our Little Deers team, Julie and Fran, whose never-ending cheer and gentle words have brightened the mornings of preschoolers and parents alike.

We'd also like to thank every parent and carer for your support to the school this year. We know that it can be a challenge keeping up with everything going on, but you've all done a wonderful job and we really value your involvement and positivity. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer break, and we look forward to seeing you back in school on 2nd September!

Andrew Matthews
Chair of Governors

School News

Farewell to Year 6

The governors would like to say a massive "thank you" to our wonderful Year 6 pupils who will be heading off to secondary school at the end of this term. They've been fantastic role models for the younger children in school this year, and we know they'll be ambassadors for Deerhurst & Apperley CofE Primary at their new schools.

Good luck, Year 6... we look forward to hearing about all your exciting adventures!

Governor Spotlight

We were delighted to welcome Fran Tyler to the governing body as a parent governor this year. Fran tells us:

“I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve as a parent governor. I bring over 15 years of experience in education, having worked as a teacher and currently as a SENDCo in Cheltenham, where I am passionate about supporting the needs of all learners. I previously served on a school governing body, gaining valuable insight into strategic leadership and school improvement. My family and I moved to Apperley seven years ago, and I now have two children attending the school—one in Reception and one in Year 3. I’m committed to contributing to the continued success of the school and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.”

Term Dates for 2025/26 and 2026/27

The approved term dates for the next two academic years are now on the school website:

<https://www.deerhurst.gloucs.sch.uk/academic-calendar-20172018/>

Thanks to the PTFA

We’d like to thank the PTFA for their phenomenal contribution to the school this year. Sam Butler (Chair), Vikki Pearce (Secretary) and James Alderman-Bowers (Treasurer) along with Sarah Morgan, James Warner, Elin Paulson, Chloe Brown, Fran Tyler and Jess Rayson have worked tirelessly to raise funds for the school, and we’ve been so grateful for the lovely new Hub building and all the wonderful extras (iSing Pop for example) that the school simply couldn’t afford without their help.

Special thanks to Sam Butler and Vikki Pearce who have stepped down from their positions as their children leave the school this year. They have been replaced by Fran Tyler (Chair) and Fran Alderman-Bowers (Secretary).

Community News

Healthy Start

Did you know that if you’re more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under age 4 and you receive benefits you may be able to get help to buy healthy start food and milk? If eligible, you’ll receive £8.50 per week for each baby under 1 and £4.25 per week for each child aged between 1 and 3.

To find out more and apply, please visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply.

The Library Challenge 2025

The library challenge is taking place in libraries across Gloucestershire between 12th July and 13th September.

This year’s theme is “The Natural World” and there are lots of fun activities for children to take part in (all free!)

You can find out more here: <https://gloslibraries.uk/welcome-library-challenge>

We look forward to seeing all the bronze, silver and gold certificates in September!

The logo for 'The Library Challenge' features the text 'The Library' in white above 'Challenge' in a larger, stylized white font, all set against a blue square background with a thin rainbow-colored horizontal line.



Family Hubs

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Family Hubs are designed to support children aged 0 to 19 (or up to 25 for those with special needs). GCC have recently commissioned new providers for the Family Hubs, and are running a series of events over the summer to listen to families to find out what they would like to see included in the Gloucestershire Family Hub network.

Why not pop along to the Family Fun session on the **7th August at Brockworth Children and Family Centre** to find out about activities for families in Tewkesbury and receive some free goodies!

Local Government Reorganisation Survey

You may be aware that the government has announced its intention to reform the structure of local councils in Gloucestershire. The county is currently served by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and one of six district councils (Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury). The proposed changes will see these councils replaced with one larger, unitary authority. The three options being developed are:

- One council covering the whole county
- Two councils with an east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Cotswold) and west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud) split.
- Two councils, with one being an enlarged Gloucester city (referred to as 'Greater Gloucester') and the other covering the remainder of the county.

Residents are being asked to feedback on how local services can best meet their needs through a survey which will run until 9th August. Please do take a moment to fill this in:

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/gloucestershire-county-council-local-government-reorganisation-survey/surveys/county-wide-local-government-reorganisation-survey>

The next edition of the Governors' Newsletter will be shared in December. If you have a question for governors, or would like to find out more about what we do, please do get in touch via chair@deerhurst.gloucs.sch.uk