



*Loving one another, building each other up*

# Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 15

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents,

## Christian Value – Term 3

Our Christian Value for life this term is

# Perseverance



## School Census Day – Hot School Meals – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

15<sup>th</sup> January is the national schools census day. School funding for the next financial year (April – March) is based on number of children registered at school on this day, also numbers who are on the SEND register, free school meals register and even those who eat a school meal on this day. So as to maximise the amount of funding we can receive we encourage as many children as possible to order a hot dinner on this day. The menu on this day will be as follows:

**Chicken Enchilada Bake with Rice**  
**OR Jacket potato with Vegan Bolognaise**  
**OR Jacket potato with Cheese**  
**Seasonal Vegetables**  
**Jam and Coconut Sponge with Custard**



Please ensure menu slips are handed in during registration on a Monday morning. Meals should be paid for in advance through our online payment system [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com). Those children who are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are entitled to a free meal under the Universal infant free school meal scheme, as are those entitled to free school meals.

## Rags to Riches Clothing Collection – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Do you have clothes in your wardrobe that you no longer wear, maybe last year's fashions, or that buy that was too good to leave but it's not really you after all?

Please help us fundraise by donating your good quality unwanted, re-useable (clean, dry and wearable) clothes and accessories (please pair and tie shoes together)

Your donations become affordable clothing in other countries so please do not send poor quality, dirty or wet items, and no duvets, pillows, curtains, books, CDs or bric-a-brac.

STOP and THINK - is it something you'd wear out and about yourself or pass to a friend? If not, no-one else will want to wear it either, so unfortunately, it's not reusable and can't go in the bag.

Even if it's only one t-shirt please bring it in, as it will all help our school.  
If you can involve family, friends and neighbours please do.



**Please bring your donations to school on the morning of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 before 9.00 a.m. and leave in the covered area outside the rear entrance door.**

**Thank you.**

## Holiday Requests

Please remember that the Government's guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. A Request for Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website at the following link or from the school office:

[https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance\\_at\\_school/169684](https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance_at_school/169684)

You may be issued with a penalty notice for taking your child out of school during term time. Please note that a penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £80 if paid within the first 21 days which increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. Thereafter, if the penalty remains unpaid this may lead to prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.



## Contact Details – Can we get hold of you in an Emergency?



As most of our communications are now through email or postings on the school website it is even more important that we have up to date contact details for you. If you or your emergency contacts have changed telephone numbers, email addresses or have moved house please let us know as soon as possible.

If you are not sure please check with the school office or send an email to [admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk) with your new details. Thank you.

## Chestnut Class

Just before Christmas, Chestnut Class finished their class book 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. They enjoyed it so much they unanimously voted to read the sequel 'Finding Bear' next! Here are their reviews of 'The Last Bear':



Delilah - I loved it because April was friends with a polar bear!



Scarlett - I liked it because April was so determined to get Bear back home.



Florence - I liked it because Bear and April were good friends and Bear went back to his normal home (Svalbard).



Noah - I liked it because April saved Bear.



Ivy - I liked it at the end when April hugged Bear really tight.



Zak - I only liked a little bit of it. I liked the bit where Bear ate all of the peanut butter.



Taylan - I loved it because I thought it was funny that peanut butter went on April's foot and Bear licked it.



Lola - I liked it because it was sad and happy. I really liked that Bear got saved in the end.



Harley-Mae - I liked it because I really like polar bears.



Nolan - I loved it because it was funny and I loved Bear's origin story.



Alisha - I loved it because I didn't know what was going to happen next.

We have started reading the book 'Finding Bear' by our focus author Hannah Gold.

Our English lessons this term are based on the book 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. We are currently working on writing the story of how Bear came to be on Bear Island by himself. We will then go on to write a formal letter based on global warming.



In addition, we are also learning about these topics:

<b>History</b>	Why did the Romans settle in Britain?
<b>DT</b>	Electrical Systems: Electric Poster
<b>PSHCE</b>	Emotional Regulation
<b>Science</b>	Classification and Changing Habitats
<b>Computing</b>	Sequencing Sounds
<b>Spanish</b>	Pets and Colours
<b>RE</b>	What do Christians learn from the Creation narrative?

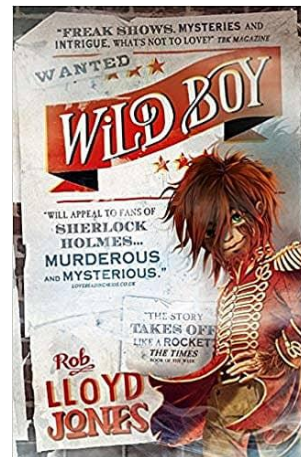
## Maple Class

Maple Class have made a great start to Term 3. In Computing this week, we have continued learning about vector drawings, focusing on how to be effective and precise in our digital creations. Pupils have been developing their design skills and learning how to use tools thoughtfully to improve the quality of their work.



We have also begun our new class reader, *Wild Boy* by Rob Lloyd Jones. The story is set in Victorian London and follows a boy with an extraordinary power of observation and detection. When he is wrongly accused of murder, he is forced to go on the run, driven by hunger, hardship and a desperate search for the truth.

The novel explores themes of survival, friendship and injustice, capturing the children's interest right from the very start.



We are very excited about our upcoming visit to SkillZONE in Gloucester on Thursday 29th January. SkillZONE is a unique, life-sized interactive safety village run by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service that helps children learn essential life skills in an engaging, hands-on way.

During the visit, pupils will explore a range of real-world scenarios — from road and rail safety to fire awareness, online safety and personal decision-making — all designed to help them recognise risks and make safer choices. The experience is highly interactive, with realistic environments such as a road crossing, a house, a train carriage and community spaces, bringing classroom learning to life in an exciting and memorable way.





### Holly Berries Class

I hope you all had a wonderful, restful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year! It has been lovely hearing the children share their favourite holiday memories as we settle back into the school routine.

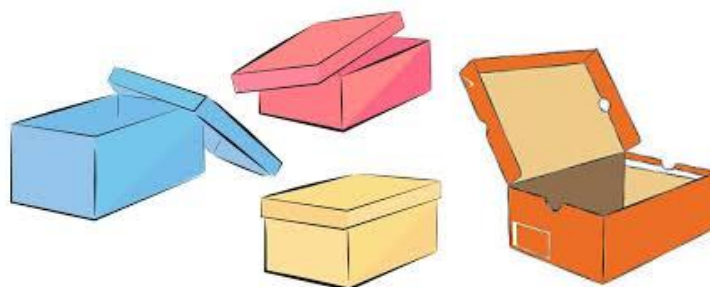
I am absolutely delighted to introduce myself as the new teacher for Reception, Year 1, and Year 2. I am excited to embark on this learning journey with your children.

What to expect this term:

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Maths	Maths Mastery Understanding number	Place value (within 20) Addition and Subtraction (within 20)	Multiplication and division
English	A key priority for us this term is achieving writing mastery. We will be specifically focusing on improving letter formation, introducing new vocabulary, and refining grammatical accuracy to help every student express themselves clearly.		
	Science	Living things: Microhabitats	
	Geography	What is it like to live in Shanghai?	
	DT	Cooking and nutrition- A balanced Diet	
	Computing	Creating media: Digital photography	
	PSHE	Keeping Safe	
	RE	What is it like to be born in a Christian home?	

### Cardboard Boxes

If you have any unwanted shoe boxes or similar items at home, we would be grateful if you could bring them into school. Mrs Webb is collecting them for art projects planned for upcoming sessions. Thank you.



## Emergency Closure Procedures

Hopefully we won't need to do this anytime soon but just in case we need to close the school, here is a reminder of our procedures. **Please ensure that we have up to date contact details for you.**

If we need to close the school we will:

- Send you a text message / email through Eschools
- Announce the closure on Radio Gloucestershire – 104.7 fm
- Post the closure on <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> (please note new address)
- Post the closure on our school website [www.littledeanprimary.co.uk](http://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk)
- Post the closure on our facebook page
- If possible a member of staff will be on site to advise of the closure.

## Diary Dates

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Maple Class' Skillzone

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Full Governors meeting

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Preschool Stay and Play

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

Maple Class Activity Day

w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Year 6 SATS week

## Term Dates

These are also available on our website

**2025 / 2026 – Please see website for full details**

**Term 1** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Term 2** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Term 3** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Term 4** Monday 23<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Term 5** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

**Term 6** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**INSET Day 3** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**INSET Day 4** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

**INSET Day 5** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026