



Loving one another, building each other up

Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 9

14TH November 2025

Dear Parents,

Open Day – 4th December 2025

Information packs will be sent out shortly by Gloucestershire County Council to all families that have a child due to start school in September 2026. (Child will be aged 4 on or before 31/8/2026)

We would like to invite parents to visit the school, to meet the staff, and see the classes. We are holding an open day on Wednesday 4th December 9.30-11.30am. All are welcome to join us!

If you have any questions or can't attend the open day but would like to arrange a visit on another day/time then please contact the school office on 01594 822171 or email admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk to arrange an appointment.



Jazzy Jars Non-uniform

A reminder that the friends are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 21st November in exchange for Jazzy Jars, please see below message from the Friends regarding this:

"Please ensure that all Jazzy jars contain pre wrapped sweets only, this is to avoid cross contamination of any kind.

It doesn't just have to be a jar, it can be a decorated plastic tubs or even a Christmas mug/cup – just make sure it's something you don't mind eating or drinking from.

Thank you for your support and happy creating!"

The Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 28th November at 3.10pm. As always the friends are looking for volunteers on the day to help run stalls/set up.



Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools - Clothing Collection 11th November



Thank you for your donations this week. We collected 19 bags and raised £20.73 for the school. Our next collection will be on 5th February 2026

Consultation to Join a Trust

You should have received an email regarding the governing board of Littledean Church of England School formally seeking views on plans to join the Diocese Gloucester Academies Trust (DGAT), an Academy Trust.

The proposed change means that the school will formally join a larger family of schools and will be under the direct legal governance of DGAT. The change means that Littledean Church of England School will no longer be responsible for its own governance.

Your views are important to us and we ask that you either return the paper copy that was issued to children, or complete the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/e5TZ7d289t>

Please note that the consultation ends at 12.00 p.m. on Friday 28th November 2025.

Attendance

We have had a very positive attendance monitoring meeting this week. Thank you, please continue to send your child into school on time every day they are well enough to attend.

We have noticed that there is a higher than normal number of absences due to medical appointments. We understand, especially with Doctors and Dentists, that you accept which ever time is offered. For more routine appointments we ask that where possible they are taken outside of the school day, towards the end of the school day or during school holidays.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



The Doodle Bug – 24th November

Ian Brealey from The Doodle Bug is visiting the school on Monday 24th November to lead workshops with each of the classes. The focus will be maths, art and developing a growth mindset. The day will end with a celebration assembly which parents are warmly invited to attend. This will take place at **2.40 on Monday 24th November**.

<https://thedoodlebug.net/pages/maths-art-workshops>

Clothing in School

As the weather is starting to grow colder and wetter we ask that children bring in a warm waterproof coat in to school each day. We try to go outside for break times and lunch times even if it is a little bit cold and wet.

Also most of our PE sessions will be held outside, we suggest children wear tracksuit bottoms, gloves and hats for their PE sessions.

We ask that the children taking part in Forest Schools bring a change of socks and if they like to get really muddy during the sessions a spare pair of trousers that they can change into.

Although we have a small amount of spare clothes for our infant children we are always looking for donations of pants, socks, trousers, tops for when they have those small accidents. If your child comes home in spare clothes we ask that it is washed and returned as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Holiday Requests

Please remember that the Governments guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time unless there are exceptional circumstance. 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

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.

Phonics Presentation

Thank you so much to everyone that joined us for the parent phonics presentation this week. We hope it was informative.

We appreciate your commitment to your child's learning and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Here is the link to the parents section of Little Wandle:

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Food Bank Donations

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be collecting donations for The Forest Food Bank.

Examples of items to donate include:

- Tinned foods (beans, soup, vegetables, fruit, meat, fish)
- Pasta, rice, and noodles
- Cereal and porridge oats
- Tea, coffee, and long-life milk
- Biscuits and snack bars
- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant)
- Household items (toilet rolls, washing-up liquid, cleaning products)



All donations are greatly appreciated and will help support local families in need.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

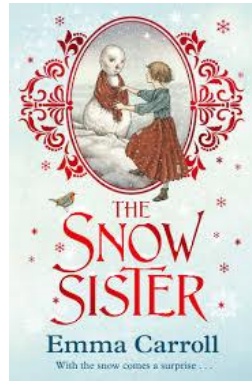
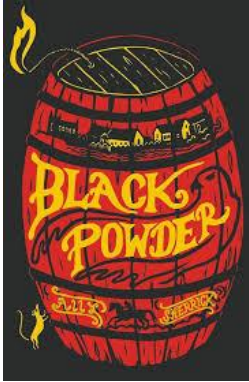
You should have received an email earlier this week with details of our Christmas lunch taking place on **Wednesday 17th December**. Please can you return your child's meal choice to us before 24th November as meals need to be pre-ordered this year.

We will also be asking children to come into school wearing their Christmas Jumpers on this day.



Maple Class

Maple Class have settled back into school well after the half-term break. This term, we're continuing with our class reader, *Black Powder*, and hope to finish it in the next couple of weeks. After that, we'll be diving into our new book, *The Snow Sister* — we can't wait to get started!



In English, we'll be focusing on writing stories and newspaper reports. We're looking forward to using some of the techniques we explored in our poetry unit — like personification and similes — along with some new ones we're learning and refining this term, such as "show, don't tell," adverbial phrases, and a variety of sentence openers. With all these skills coming together, we're hoping to produce some amazing stories.

Over the next few weeks in Maths, we'll be strengthening our skills in short and long multiplication and division before moving on to Miss May's favourite topic — fractions!

Maple Class Get a Taste of Spain!

This year, KS2 have begun learning Spanish and are working incredibly hard to master the basics of greetings such as *hola*, *adiós* and *¿cómo estás?*

Today, Maple Class took their learning a step further by making and eating some traditional Spanish dishes. On the menu were **Moorish Lamb Meatballs (*Albóndigas de cordero morunas*)** and **Spanish Garlic Prawns (*Gambas al ajillo*)**.

The verdict from the children? "*They were delicious!*"



Term Dates

These are also available on our website

2025 / 2026 – Please see website for full details

Term 1	Monday 1 st September 2025 – Friday 24 th October 2025
Term 2	Monday 3 rd November 2025 – Friday 19 th December 2025
Term 3	Monday 5 th January 2026 – Friday 13 th February 2026
Term 4	Monday 23 th February 2026 – Friday 27 th March 2026
Term 5	Monday 13 th April 2026 – Friday 22 nd May 2026
Term 6	Monday 1 st June 2026 – Monday 20 th July 2026

INSET Day	1	Monday 1 st September 2025
INSET Day	2	Monday 3 rd November 2025

Diary Dates

Friday 21 st November	Friends' Non Uniform – Jingle Jars
Wednesday 26 th November	Full Governors Meeting
Monday 24 th November	The Doodle Bug Visit
Friday 28 th November	Friends' "Santa's Christmas Boots" Event
Thursday 4 th December	Open day
Monday 15 th December	Whole School Pantomime Visit
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 29 th January 2026	Maple Class' Skillzone
Thursday 23 rd April 2026	Maple Class Activity Day