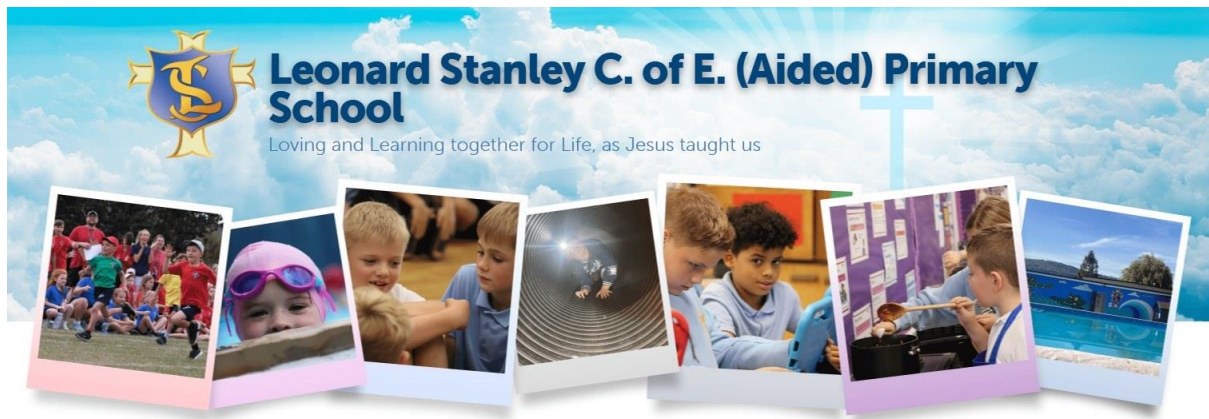




Leonard Stanley Newsletter 2026

Weekly Newsletter, Friday 13th February 2026

From the Head Teacher

Dear parents/carers,

As we reach the half-term break, it feels like a real achievement. It has been an extremely busy and successful few weeks, even if the persistent rain has limited our playtimes and games sessions.

Today also marks the end of an era for **Chris Knapp**. Chris joined Leonard Stanley in 2013, first working in YR with Mrs March before moving on to lead our Early Years provision. She has played a key role in shaping our new set-up this year and has ensured the very best care for our youngest children. We send her our warmest wishes for the future. We are close to appointing her successor; however, due to contractual arrangements, they will not be able to start immediately. In the meantime, the pre-school will be overseen by **Lisa Osborne**.

We would also like to thank **Ellie Young**, a third-year student from the University of Gloucestershire, who has supported Year 1 over the last nine weeks. Ellie's placement has been a great success, and we wish her all the best in her future teaching career.

This term has been filled with exciting learning across the school.

- **Year R** celebrated Chinese New Year and welcomed the *Year of the Horse*. Today they also delighted us with their wonderful Percy the Park Keeper costumes.
- **Year 1** enjoyed their annual Great Fire of London event around our fire pit—always a highlight.
- **History Club** visited St Swithun's Church, exploring its rich history.

- **Y3 and Y4 gymnasts** represented the school brilliantly at the Atlas competition at Stratford Park.

We are incredibly proud of **Fern in Year 6**, who entered a national competition on the dangers of carbon monoxide in the home. Her poster won first place, earning her a well-deserved prize. Thanks to Fern's achievement, the school also received a monetary award, which we will put to excellent use. Well done, Fern!

A huge thank you to **FOLSS** for hosting a fantastic film night, which even ended with an impromptu disco for the older children. Their ongoing support makes such a positive difference to school life, and we are very grateful.

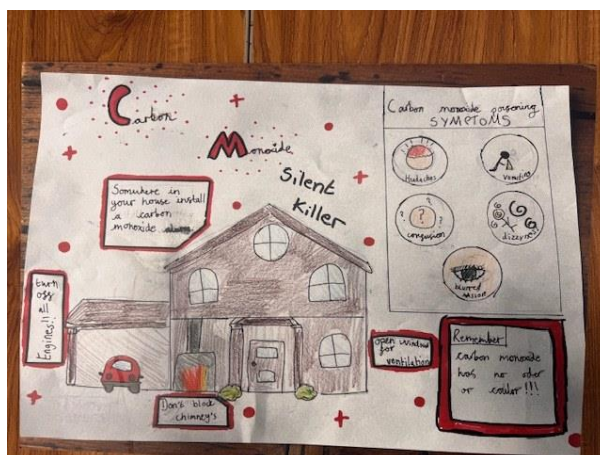
Please take a moment to read the important information below regarding **parking** and **school uniform**.

Wishing you all a lovely half term. School will be a hive of activity during the break as the final installation of our new heating system takes place.

Mr Milner



1 - Fern explaining the design to Mr Allen



2 - Fern's winning design

School Uniform

As advised earlier this week, our new navy-blue uniform has arrived — and children are very welcome to start wearing it straight away. We've reassured them that it's absolutely fine, and we were excited to spot our very first navy jumper in school this week! We'll be phasing the change in over the next two school years, with a full move to navy by September 2028. Until then, please feel free to continue passing down items. FOLSS are working hard to use up their existing stock and at this time would like to advise they would welcome donations of *very good quality*, gently used items only — please don't feel you need to hand everything in. We would advise that very worn items be recycled via a charity or your local textile recycling bank; please check if they are happy to accept branded items.

Ongoing parking concerns

We continue to receive a number of recent complaints from local residents about unsafe parking at drop-off and collection times. Please remember that parking on or opposite junctions and in restricted areas is illegal and puts our children at risk. We understand that parking can be more challenging in poor weather, but our children's safety and others must always come first—we would much rather a child or parent arrive a few minutes late than be placed in danger. As a school community built on kindness and respect, it is important that we show consideration to our neighbours and work together to keep everyone safe.

Safe parking is everybody's responsibility, and we would encourage you to report any unsafe or illegal parking to the police or to us to ensure the safety of all our community.

After-School Clubs

Next term, our after-school opportunity is as follows:

Monday: Gymnastics (Year 2 & 3), Netball (Year 3 & 4) and Hockey (Year 5 & 6)

Tuesday: Times Table Rockstars (Year 4)

Wednesday: Netball (Year 5 & 6)

These will go live on Edulink between 4 & 5 pm this evening.

Y4 Barbara Hepworth Sculptures

We made some clay sculptures inspired by Barbara Hepworth. It was quite tricky at first, but we persevered to complete our sculptures. We had to make sure they had holes in so that light could shine through as well as making sure they were sturdy and were able to stand by themselves. It was really fun! Ailla, Lacey, Lyra - Year 4



Great Fire of London Day in Year One

The children made bread as the fire started in a bakery. They made houses that we then burnt in our own Great Fire of Leonard Stanley. It was amazing how quickly the houses burnt. They wrote with a quill like Samuel Pepys did and buried a time capsule with Miss Young. The children then made fire jars and, of course, ate the bread that we made.

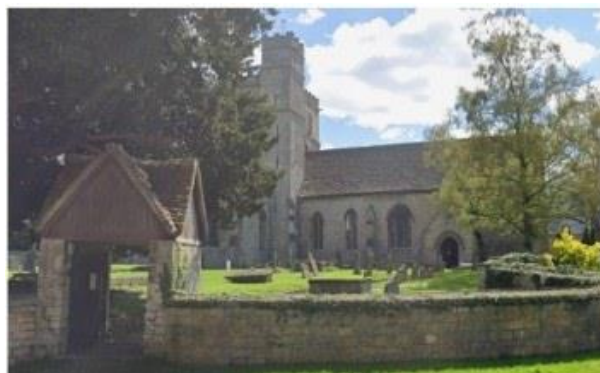






History Club's visit to St Swithun's

On Tuesday, history club walked down to St Swithun's Church. Pat, a church warden, gave us a tour and told us about its history and different features. We learnt that the people who built the church were called monks, and they lived behind where the church is now. Pat told us about old doorways that have now been filled in, but we could still see the outline of them in the church. We also saw an old staircase which leads to a gap high on the wall. There used to be a wall across the church to split it into two separate areas. We saw lots of gravestones on the floor and on the walls of the church, and we got to go where the choir would usually sit. Mr Hawksbee even tried on some of the vicar's outfit!





3 - This used to be a doorway from the monks' home into the church where they would pray and worship.



4 - Above the doorway now is a memorial for people who were very popular in the local area during their lives. There were lots of these around the entire church.



5 - Here is a picture of the nave at St Swithun's Church. It is where we have lots of our ceremonies and worships now. It used to be divided into two parts!



6 - This is a picture of an old staircase that is no longer used. It leads from the ground floor up to what used to be a second-floor/balcony area. There also used to be a divider underneath the large window that would split the main church area into two sections. The balcony area would allow people to see both sections at the same time.



7 - This area of the church is one of St. Swithun's transepts. It had lots of gravestones on the floor, so we had to be very careful where we were walking. In this picture, you can see the outline of there would have once been a door

Home Reading Challenge

HOME READING CHALLENGE – Well done to all children who have read at home to an adult at least 3 times this week:

Y6 = 96%

Y5 = 97%

Y4 = 97%

Y3 = 100%

Y2 = 100%

Y1 = 79%

A super week, well done!

Our School Charity



8 - Our chosen school charity this year.

My Happy Mind



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115688

Managing children's digital lives

Parenting in the Digital Age

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and keeping up with the fast-changing digital world your child navigates every day can be challenging.

We've put together **up-to-date guidance on children using digital devices** — click here to access it: ([Link](#)).

A few important reminders:

- Please think carefully about how mobile phones and tablets are used at home.
- Children in primary school should **not** be using social media or WhatsApp groups.
- Avoid leaving devices in children's bedrooms overnight — we've recently had several issues with late-night messaging between pupils.

For practical tips on making devices safer for children, visit the **Advice section on our school website**, where you'll find instructions on how to lock down devices effectively.

FOLSS News

FOLSS Move Night

The Movie Night raised a wonderful £365, which will go towards purchasing aprons to protect the children's new school uniform. We will be investing in some updated equipment to ensure any future movie events run more smoothly – thank you to everyone who volunteered their time.

Self-Portraits

Children will be coming home with an order form and PIN code to buy personalised self-portrait items such as mugs, tote bags, fridge magnets and more.

Order online using their PIN code at the [following link](#).

Orders close on the 18th February and will be delivered in time for Mother's Day 🌸



WE NEED A GRANTS COORDINATOR

FOLSS PTA urgently needs a volunteer Grants Coordinator(s) to search & apply for larger school project funding.

- No experience necessary - just strong writing & communication skills.
- No set minimum hours commitment.
- You will liaise with the Co-Chairs & school to establish what is needed & find suitable grants.
- Obtain quotes, complete application forms & follow the progress of bids.

Email friendsofleonardstanleyschool@gmail.com for more info & expressions of interest. Thank you!

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Please note the dates for 2026/27 are now on the school website.

Friday 13/02/26 - School Closes at 3:15pm for Half Term

HALF TERM

Monday, 23/02/26 - School Reopens

Wednesday 18/03/26 - Pre-School Inset Day

Friday, 27/03/26 - School Closes at 1pm for Easter Holidays (No OOSC Club)

EASTER HOLIDAYS

SUMMER TERM

Monday, 13/04/26 - School Reopens

Monday, 04/05/26 - School Closed - Bank Holiday

Friday, 22/05/26 - School Closes at 3:15pm for Half Term

HALF TERM

Monday, 01/06/26 - School Reopens

Friday, 26/06/26 - School Closed - Inset Day

Friday, 17/07/26 - School Closes at 1pm for Summer Holidays (No OOSC Club)

Community Information

Shrove Tuesday Family Fun



Junior Bake Off – young bakers needed for new series



Cheltenham Town Women FC

We're excited to invite the **Leonard Stanley C. of E. Aided Primary School** community to join us at **Kayte Lane Stadium** this March, as **Cheltenham Town Women FC** host **three consecutive Sunday home fixtures**.

The Robinesses compete in the **FA Women's National League Southern Premier**—the highest level of semi-professional women's football in England and **just one step below Women's Super League 2**. These matches provide a great opportunity for families to enjoy **high-quality women's football locally** in a welcoming, family-friendly environment.

Sunday fixtures at Kayte Lane are particularly popular with families, offering an affordable and enjoyable afternoon out close to home.

March Home Fixtures

Kayte Lane Stadium, GL52 3PD

- **Sunday 8 March** – Cheltenham Town Women vs **AFC Bournemouth Women** Kick-off: **2:00 pm** | Gates open: **12:30 pm** Buy tickets [HERE](#)

- **Sunday 15 March** – Cheltenham Town Women vs **Bristol City Women Academy** Kick-off: **2:00 pm** | Gates open: **12:30 pm** Buy tickets [HERE](#)
- **Sunday 22 March** – Cheltenham Town Women vs **AFC Wimbledon Women** Kick-off: **2:00 pm** | Gates open: **12:30 pm** Buy tickets [HERE](#)

Fire Rivers Fostering

*There are children in **Gloucester and surrounding areas right now** who need a safe, loving home.

*You don't need to be perfect – just patient, caring and willing to learn.

*Could fostering be something you've never considered ... but should?

Fostering Myths –

Busted!

You have to be married **X**

You need a spare mansion **X**

You have to be a stay at home parent **X**

You just need a spare room and a big heart

Contact Five Rivers Fostering – 0333 0603 962

carer.enquiries@thefosteringcompanynelttd.co.uk

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BRIMSCOMBE MILL

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT THE MILL

Tuesday-Saturday 10am+

Pool table, table tennis, games machine

Pay as you can kids jacket potatoes 12-2

Daily craft table 10-12.30

Crafternoons everyday book online

Daily Scavenger hunt with a prize

Silly Science performance Book online

Family fun Silent Disco Book online

Pokemon swap, pop up toy sale, pancake making

Kids Stuff Stroud

Visit the website for the full programme and bookings

THE LONG TABLE

The Greatest Showman

Circus and Dance

Half Term Holiday Camp 2026

Full Day £65 9-4pm (inc lunch)
Half Day 9-12noon £35

Online Booking

Calling all circus stars aged 5-12years!
 join us for a dazzling day of Greatest Showman inspired aerial circus, dance, arts and crafts and showtime fun!

Woodchester Endowed C of E Primary School
Thursday 19th Feb 2026

BOOK NOW

www.cirquedudance.co.uk 07583802102

February Half Term at the Museum!

It's a busy Half Term packed with hands-on activities, creative workshops and plenty for families to explore. Creative makes, family fun and brilliant ways to dive into history all week long.

Art Explorers: Arts & Crafts Trail

Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb | £2 per trail

Follow the trail through puppets, pottery and nature-loving makers, try creative challenges and design your own patterns. Finish it and you'll earn a nature-inspired stamper to take home.

Making Folk: Crafting Charms and Folk Motifs

Sat 14 Feb, 1-4 pm | £5

Get creative with natural materials, beads and fabric as you make your own charms or stitch folk-inspired motifs. For all ages, proudly part of Gloucester Folk Trail.

Hands On History: Object Handling with the Birdlip Mirror

Sun 15 & Wed 18 Feb | £1 donation

Take a closer look at our Birdlip Mirror replicas and discover their stories with our Visitor Experience Assistant. This relaxed drop-in is free, with a suggested £1 donation. Great for families aged 3+.

Brick Builders Club: The Great Outdoors

Tue 17 Feb, 10am - 1pm | £3 per child

Get creative with nature-themed LEGO challenges inspired by our Arts & Crafts displays. Build landscapes, dream up wild creatures or invent something totally new. Pick up fun prompts and let your imagination take over. Suitable for ages 5+.

Glorious Glevum Tour

Wed 18 Feb, 2-3pm | From £5

Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, our resident auxiliary soldier. Discover why the Romans chose Gloucester, what daily life looked like and the hidden treasures inside the museum.

Medieval Mercenary Tour of the Eastgate Chamber

Sat 21 Feb, 2-3pm | From £5

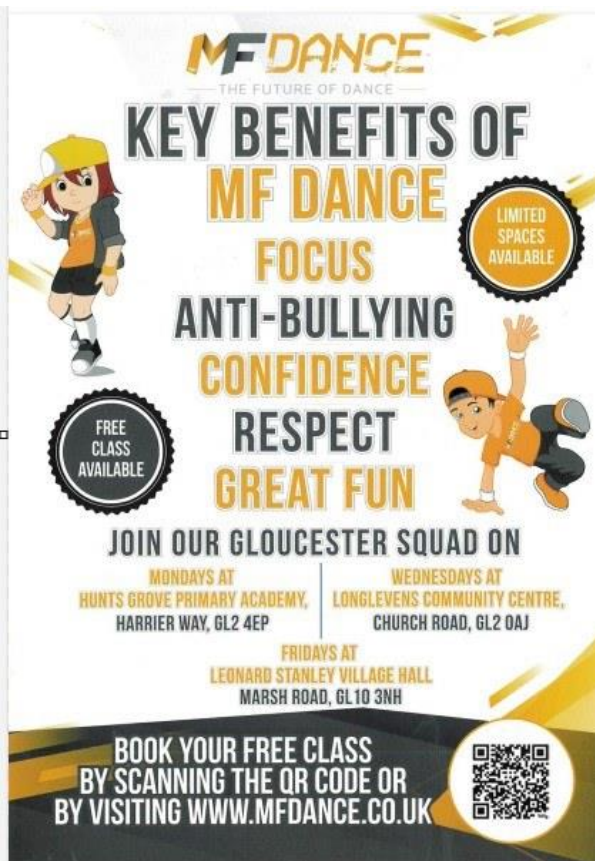
Join Sir Miles, our medieval mercenary, for a fascinating trip into the Eastgate Chamber. Explore its history, uncover old myths and hear the superstitions that have surrounded this hidden space for centuries.

MUSEUM OF GLOUCESTER

Scan me for more info!



Local sports clubs



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**KEY BENEFITS OF
MF DANCE**

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- ANTI-BULLYING
- CONFIDENCE
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- GREAT FUN

JOIN OUR GLOUCESTER SQUAD ON

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HUNTS GROVE PRIMARY ACADEMY,
HARRIER WAY, GL2 4EP

WEDNESDAYS AT
LONGLEVENS COMMUNITY CENTRE,
CHURCH ROAD, GL2 0AJ

FRIDAYS AT
LEONARD STANLEY VILLAGE HALL,
MARSH ROAD, GL10 3NH

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BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR
BY VISITING WWW.MFDANCE.CO.UK

QR CODE

FREE CLASS AVAILABLE

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



7th January 2020

TABLE TENNIS

**MAIDENHILL SCHOOL
SPORTS CENTRE**

TUESDAYS

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES ARE WELCOME

5:30PM TO 6:30PM – JUNIORS
6:30PM TO 7:30PM – LADIES
7:30PM TO 9PM – ADULTS/ADVANCED JUNIORS

TO BOOK A PLACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:
STROUDTTCLUB@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL 07768 527743

STROUD TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Table Tennis PremierClub