

*'Courage to Care' Listening, Welcoming, Nurturing, Celebrating*

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**Headteacher:** Mike Riches



9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Welcome back**

It's been great to welcome you all back to school this week following the Christmas and New Year break. The children have settled well and are quickly getting back into the swing of school life. It's a much quieter term than the last one but I hope you enjoyed all the school events we put on in the lead up to Christmas. Please see a list of dates and events at the end of this newsletter including celebration services that you can attend.

We said goodbye to Emily-Jane in Y2 at the end last term. Emily-Jane and her family have moved to Cumbria. We wish them all the best as they move on.

Welcome to Georgia who has joined us in Year 4. It's great to have you and your family with us at Iron Acton.

We're also very pleased to have Mrs Hales back with us in the office this week. Mrs Hales will work alongside Mrs Maslen for the next two weeks before resuming her normal hours.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year.

Mike Riches

**Value of the term**

This term we will be focusing on 'people Jesus meets' through our daily collective worship (or assemblies). We will explore several different characters from the Bible to help the children to understand a range of important values such as hope, wisdom, dignity, community and joy. Sessions are usually led by Mr Taverner or Mrs Wood and are always done in a very inclusive way whilst recognising that we are part of a church school.

We'll also head over to the church to hold one of our daily assemblies next Monday. This is a good opportunity for the children to have a look around and spend some time in the calm and quiet environment.

**Weather**

We aim to keep the school open at all times even if it snows. However, there may be times when it is necessary to close the school at short notice if we do not feel it is safe to be open. We will aim to inform you as soon after 7am as possible if the school is closed and this will be through the school texting system.

Please do let us know if your contact details have changed so that we can keep our systems up to date.

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### **Attendance matters**

Thank you all for your support in ensuring your child is in school and on time every day. This is the best way to help them to succeed in school. Please be reminded that, for this reason, term time absence requests will only ever be agreed in exceptional circumstances. If you would like to request a term time absence please speak to the Headteacher in the first instance.

Our whole school target for this year is 96%. Our current attendance has fallen to 95.4%. Attendance for each class currently stands as follows:

Barn Owls: 92.9%

Falcons: 96.1%

Buzzards: 96%

Golden Eagles: 95%

Please be reminded that the NHS has advice and support to help families determine whether or not their child can attend school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### **Term 3 calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Information</b>
All-age service at St James's Church	11.01.26, 10am	All families are invited to the monthly service.
Celebration service with families	16.01.26, 2.45pm	Join us in the school hall.
Lockdown practice	19.01.26	We'll gently run through with the children what to do in the event of a lockdown.
Year 2 parent information session – spelling	20.01.26, 9am	Come and join us in the hall.
Year 1 parent information session – phonics	29.01.26, 9am	Come and join us in the hall.
LGBT history month begins	01.02.26	We'll share more nearer the time.
Children's mental health week	02.02.26	We'll share more nearer the time.
Outdoor learning day	09.02.26	
Safer internet day	10.02.26	
Celebration service with families	13.02.26, 2.45pm	Join us in the school hall.
Final day of Term 3	13.02.26, 3.15pm	

### 2025-2026 term dates

<b>Term</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Ends</b>
Term 1	Monday 1 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025
Term 2	Monday 3 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025
Term 3	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026
Term 4	Monday 23 February 2026	Thursday 02 April 2026
Term 5	Monday 20 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
Term 6	Monday 1 June 2026	Tuesday 21 July 2026