

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

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School
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Headteacher: Mike Riches



13th February 2026

Term 3 comes to an end

We've come to end of another term and it's now the mid-point of the year. It's been a much quieter term than the one before Christmas but during this time it's been great to see the children working well in their classes and making excellent progress.

We've celebrated children's mental health week and we hope you can come along this afternoon to classrooms from 2.30pm to see what they've been doing. We've also learnt about people who've made a difference as part of our LGBT history month celebrations. It's great to see the positive and inclusive attitudes that the children at Iron Acton have towards each other.

I'd like to say a huge thank you once again for all you do as families to support the school. We aim to come across as a friendly and approachable team so please do speak with us if you ever have any questions or comments about school life.

Next term, we will hold our second set of parent/teacher meetings. Please do sign up for an appointment through the school office so that you can find out more about how your child is getting on at school. We look forward to meeting with you.

Mike Riches, Headteacher

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 now stands at 95.4%. Attendance for each class currently stands as follows:

Barn Owls: 92.7%

Falcons: 96.3%

Buzzards: 95.9%

Golden Eagles: 95.1%

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/>

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World Book Day

World book day is due to take place on **Thursday 5th March**. Teachers will prepare a number of activities which are aimed at immersing the children in a range of books. As part of the day, we invite children to wear their pyjamas to school for the day. Please note: we are not asking children to dress up as a book character this year as we know this adds a lot of pressure at home for many families.

Staffing update

Following interviews this week, the following appointments have been made:

- Mrs Sonia Gould will join us as a teaching assistant, supporting teaching and learning in Barn Owls Class.
- Mrs Claire Bemrose will join us as administrative assistant.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Maslen for working with us in the school over recent months during Mrs Hales's absence. It has been helpful to have her knowledge and expertise at this difficult time. We wish her well as she moves on from her time at Iron Acton.

Visiting author

We are delighted to tell you that Helen Peters will be visiting our school on Tuesday March 3rd. Helen is a very popular children's author, whose books have received recognition both in the national press as well as national children's book awards. She will be giving two talks to the school, the first to children in Barn Owls, Falcons and year 3 and the second being for pupils in Golden Eagles and year 4.

After each talk, Helen has offered to do a book signing. If you would like your child to buy one of her books, please send them to school with some cash in a sealed envelope with their name and class written on the front. As the book prices will vary from £7 up to £10, we recommend that you enclose a five pound note together with pound coins. We will not be able to accept card payments.

To find out more about Helen, please follow the link below:

[Helen Peters | Children's Author](#)

Friends of Iron Acton needs your support

The Friends of Iron Acton is a parent led group that works to provide additional funding for the school as well as social events for children and adults.

The Friends AGM will take place on **Wednesday 18th March** at Lauren O'Connell's house. Please see the Friends chat for more information.

All parents/carers are invited to come along and be a part of this meeting. You don't need to do or say anything (although that would be appreciated too!) but your support in being there would be hugely appreciated.

Mental health support

Please see attached flyers for more information about each of the following support services.

SilverCloud Mental Health and Wellbeing Service:

Open to parents of children age 5+ and children aged 13+.

Available programmes:

- Living Well with ADHD - young people (age 13 yrs and upwards)
- Space from Anxiety - young people (age 13 yrs and upwards)
- Space from Low Mood - young people (age 13 yrs and upwards)
- Space from Low Mood and Anxiety - young people (age 13 yrs and upwards)
- Supporting a Child with ADHD - parent/carers
- Supporting An Anxious Child - parent/carers
- Supporting An Anxious Teen -parent/carers
- Supporting an Autistic Child - parent/carers
- Supporting an Autistic Teen -parent/carers

These are self-guided programmes based on CBT principles, where a supporter checks in weekly online.

For further information and contact details: [South Gloucestershire Council- SilverCloud Page](#).

Self-Harm Support group available for parents and carers:

A 4-session online support group for parents and carers of young people who self-harm. Running in March 2026. Facilitated by a qualified Mental Health Support Worker with specialist expertise in suicide prevention and self-harm.

Free webinar from Thrive for Children's Mental Health Week

Free live webinar, [The Neuroscience of Feeling 'At Home': Why mattering supports belonging and wellbeing.](#)

Live online between 12:00-12:45 GMT on 11th February. As the date has already passed, you can sign up anyway to receive a recorded version.

Term 3/4 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
LGBT history month begins	01.02.26	
Celebration service with families	13.02.26, 2.45pm	Come to classes from 2.30pm then join us in the school hall.
Final day of Term 3	13.02.26, 3.15pm	
First day of Term 4	23.02.26, 8.45am	
Year 6 Bikeability	25.02.26 26.02.26	
Author visit	03.03.26	Please see above.
Parent/teacher meetings	03.03.26 04.03.26	
World book day	05.03.26	Please see above.
All-age service at St James the Less	08.03.26, 10am	All families are invited to attend the monthly service.
INSET day	09.03.26	School is closed to all children.
Book fair	w/c 10.03.26	This will take place in the school hall.
Theatre performance	12.03.26	All children will have access to a theatre performance in the school hall.
Neurodiversity week	16.03.26	
Friends of Iron Acton AGM	18.03.26	This will take place at Lauren O'Connell's house in the village.
Earth day	27.03.26	We will focus on looking after the environment.
Class photographs	02.04.26	
Easter service	02.04.26, 2pm	All families are invited to join us in the church.
Final day of Term 4	02.03.26, 3.15pm	

Please note: term dates for this year and the next academic year can be found on the school website.