

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

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**Headteacher: Mike Riches**



6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear families,

I want to say a huge thank you for your kind words and wishes following my recent letter explaining that I will be moving on from being the Headteacher at Iron Acton at the end of this academic year. As I mentioned, it has been a great pleasure to be a part of the team over the last 11 years. The interview process for a new Headteacher for Iron Acton and Hawkesbury will take place before the end of this term and you will be notified of the outcome of this as soon as information is available.

Please note: Rangeworthy will be pairing up with Old Sodbury Primary School from Easter and this means I will be handing Rangeworthy over to a different Headteacher at that point.

In other news...

**School will be closed to all children this coming Monday.** Staff will be working together to understand and begin to implement the Government's newly published writing framework so that we can continue to raise standards in writing.

Thank you to all for your attendance at parent/teacher meetings this week. We hope you found it helpful to understand more about your child's progress across all aspects of school life. If you were unable to make your appointment please arrange this through the school office or with the class teacher.

Thank you all for your support of the school.

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: 93.1%

Falcons: 96.1%

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/>

### **Safeguarding update**

#### Mobile phones

You may have recently heard media coverage about mobile phones being banned in schools. As you will be aware, we don't currently allow children to bring phones into our school anyway. We do now have a mobile phone policy which sets out expectations regarding this – if you would like to see a copy, please contact the school office or check the school website policy page.

The NSPCC has published some useful guidance for families which focuses on children, phones and online safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

#### Online safety

The UK government has launched the 'Kids Online Safety' campaign to help parents and carers support their children to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

The campaign brings together practical, trusted guidance on how to start meaningful conversations about online life, understand the types of content children may encounter, and build critical thinking skills so young people can question what they see and make safer choices.

It also offers advice on using tools such as parental controls, recognising potential risks, and knowing where to seek help or report concerns. The overall aim is to make online safety an ongoing, open dialogue within families rather than a one-off conversation, helping children feel supported as they explore apps, games and social media.

You can find the resources here:

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **Immunisations**

The School Immunisation team can offer the MMR vaccine to any school aged child who has not yet had 2 doses. The MMR vaccine helps to protect your child against Measles, Mumps and Rubella and 2 doses are required for full protection [A guide to the MMR vaccination for all](#) If you are unsure whether your child has had 2 doses please contact your GP or the School Immunisation team at [sirona.mmr@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.mmr@nhs.net)

### **Mental health support**

The mental health support team has asked for the following message to be shared along with a flyer which is attached with this newsletter:

In January we launched a new offer specifically for parents and carers – online webinars in small groups together with EMHPs and senior staff from the MHST. We had an incredible response to this offer which far exceeded our capacity to deliver. **I am writing to let you know that we have now decided to make this a rolling offer to all our schools.** Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime (12-1pm) we will be running online webinars for parents and carers on a variety of topics.

As there was such a response to our last topic of **'An introduction to anxiety'**, we will once again be offering these in March and April. Please see attached a leaflet, which includes a link to register interest. Once submitted, we will contact parents / carers directly with instructions on how to book a suitable date and time.

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### Children's mental health week

*We created a big map which was all about things we love. It was all about ourselves and the things that make us feel good.*

Jasper, Year 5

*I created a map of everything I enjoy and other things I wish existed but they don't like a place where humans can't go – no buildings or people to destroy it.*

Henry, Year 6

### LGBT history month

*We learnt about scientists from the past. We found out about Elke Mackenzie – she was a scientist.*

Buddy, Year 6

*Elke Mackenzie was transgender. She helped us understand evolution and different types of lichen.*

Evie, Year 5

*We wrote poems all about how it would feel to be underwater. This was inspired by Elke's underwater polar exploration.*

Ruby-Leigh, Year 6

### World Book Day

*We did a quiz all about world book day. We read 'The Invisible' – she feels invisible because everyone ignored her.*

Willow, Year 5

*We did an activity called 'I see you'. It's all about the book 'The Invisible'. This means nobody should feel invisible. We made compliments and letters to show we know people are there.*

Evie, Year 5

*We spoke about people who might feel invisible and wrote them a letter.*

Mrs Frohlich

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Celebrating this week**

The following children were celebrated during our Friday celebration service for showing the 'courage to care':

**Barn Owls –**

Alfie E for excellent vocabulary.

Archie B for courage to care for the classroom.

**Falcons –**

Joshua C for increased effort in Maths.

Etta B for being a kind and caring friend.

**Buzzards –**

Mylo S for exciting imaginative writing ideas.

Georgia B for excellent learning behaviour in class.

**Golden Eagles –**

Evie W for superb improvement in handwriting.

Guy D for superb care and support for others.

**Well done to each of you for your efforts.**

**Term 4 calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Information</b>
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.
All-age service at St James the Less	15.03.26, 10am	All families are invited to attend the monthly service.
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.
Easter service	02.04.26, 2pm	All families are invited to join us in the church.
Final day of Term 4	02.04.26, 3.15pm	
First day of Term 5	20.04.26, 8.45am	

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