

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

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School
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Headteacher: Mike Riches



20th March 2026

Dear families,

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the Big Wheel and Walk to School this week. We will continue with this next week so please keep going! Some families have parked further afield and walked in from there – thank you for getting involved where you can. Next Friday we encourage children to take part in the council's 'bling your bike / scooter / shoes' initiative. You will have seen a photo of some examples in last week's Friday email. There will be prizes for the winners.

This week we have also spent time celebrating neurodiversity week. We began with an assembly all about neurodiversity, what it means and how it impacts on people in different ways. We focused on some well-known celebrities and the positive side to neurodiversity for them such as dyslexia, ADHD and autism. For more information, please take a look at the website:

<https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/>

We had a great week last week exploring science through a range of science workshops on Friday. Thank you to Friends for funding these for the children.

Our recent INSET day gave staff the chance to explore the newly published writing framework in more depth. Whilst our writing results are always very good at Iron Acton, this will be an area of focus for us over the coming academic year as we strive for the highest possible academic standards.

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 95.5%. Attendance for each class has recently risen and currently stands as follows:

Barn Owls: 93.5%

Falcons: 96.2%

Buzzards: 96%

Golden Eagles: 95.2%

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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Headteacher recruitment update

Trust leaders will join together with Governors and Diocese representatives to carry out interviews for a new Headteacher on **Wednesday 25th March**. They will update you soon after to keep you informed of any decisions made.

Further staffing information ahead of the next academic year will be shared during the summer term once all arrangements have been finalised.

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

Easter service

Our Easter service will take place in the church on **Thursday 2nd April, 2pm**. All families are invited to come and join us for the service. The children will be sharing their learning about Easter and spring time.

Iron Acton May Day celebrations

This year's May Day football match will take place on **Friday 1st May** on the Iron Acton school field straight after school. Mr Taverner will be in touch to organise a team in the coming weeks.

The children have been busy preparing their maypole dancing. This year, Iron Acton children will perform during the morning whilst North Road will perform later in the day. In the next newsletter, a further update will be shared which will make clear the finer details.

Children from Barn Owls and Falcons are invited to get involved in the Fish and Chip dance and this will be followed by the maypole dancing for those in Buzzards and Golden Eagles who have opted in.

There will be a non-uniform day on **Friday 24th April**. In exchange for this we ask that children bring in items for the tombola stall at May Day. This is usually a busy event, so we need quite a few donations – thank you in advance for your generosity.

Celebrating this week

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

Barn Owls – Josephine for being patient and caring with peers.

Falcons – Joshua for showing kindness to his peers.

Buzzards – Sophie for sharing fantastic ideas.

Golden Eagles – Jasper for always showing courage to care in learning and around the school.

Well done to each of you for your efforts.

Friends of Iron Acton School update

Annual General Meeting

This took place earlier this week. Thank you to Lauren and Ben for continuing as co-chairs and to Nicola for continuing as treasurer. There are sufficient committee members for Friends to continue however **the committee needs a secretary**. If you are interested in taking minutes at the meetings, please let a member of Friends know or contact the school office.

Sponsored swim – this Saturday 21st March

Friends have organised a sponsored outdoor swim which will take place this Saturday. This will support the fundraising for our additional learning space which we are looking to install on the school field soon. If you would like to donate please do so using the buckets at the school gate today or in retrospect at some point next week. Alternatively you can use the JustGiving page; [Iron Acton School Running Team is fundraising for The Friends of Iron Acton School](#)

Movie night – Friday 27th March, 3.15 – 5pm

Numbers will be capped at 25 this time. Please book using the parent pay system. Tickets are £5 each for snacks. The film is yet to be selected.

Easter egg hunt – straight after Easter service Thursday 2nd April

Children are invited to take part in the Easter egg hunt on the school field. A donation of £3 is required with £2 per sibling. Siblings who are not primary aged are invited to participate. If cost is an issue, please speak to Mr Riches or Mrs Bagnall.

Bag to school collection – Tuesday 21st April

Bags2School will be collecting any unwanted clothing items. Please bring any donations in bags and leave them undercover in the bus stop outside school by 8.45 that morning. Please don't bring them before that morning as they would be left outside overnight. All proceeds go to Friends for the benefit of the school with the added bonus of clearing out your wardrobes!

Here's a link to show you what they collect: <https://www.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Algars Manor open day – Sunday 26th April

Each year, Friends are invited to sell refreshments at Algars Manor open gardens between 1pm and 5pm. We are looking for donations of cakes which can be sold on the day and volunteers who are willing to do a stint on the stall. This is usually a very busy event so as many volunteers as possible are needed. Please let a committee member or the school office know if you can help.

Thank you to everyone for supporting this important aspect of school life.

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Term 4/5 calendar

Event	Date and time	Information
Easter in a box activity – Year 5	26.03.26, am	Jo Strange and her team will join Year 5 for an Easter experience.
Earth day	27.03.26	We will focus on looking after the environment.
Friends movie night	27.03.26, 3.15 – 5pm	See above
Football match against Rangeworthy	31.03.26, 3.30pm	This will take place at Rangeworthy.
Easter service	02.04.26, 2pm	All families are invited to join us in the church.
Easter egg hunt	02.04.26, 3pm	See above
Final day of Term 4	02.04.26, 3.15pm	
First day of Term 5	20.04.26, 8.45am	
Bag to school collection	21.04.26	See above
Non-uniform day	24.04.26	See above
Algars Manor open day	26.04.26	See above
May Day football match against North Road	01.05.26, 3.30pm	
Iron Acton May Day	04.05.26	

Remaining INSET days:

Friday 26th June

Please note: 1st September will also be an INSET day. Further dates will be notified in the summer term.

Term dates for the next academic year are as follows:

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027