



Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School
Together we live, learn and flourish
Newsletter 1: Autumn Term 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a start of a new school year and a very warm welcome to all our new families that have joined our wonderful school. We officially welcome Miss Cross and Mrs Gardener who both start in Willow Class this term.

It has been a wonderful first few days in school. Lots of laughter and smiles and work! The heat has been a great surprise and the children have done so well to manage in rising temperatures.

While the school has been quiet lots of have been done inside to improve the environment. Chestnut class has had a complete makeover and now looks amazing with the new furniture in place, the library has taken on a new life with books clearly displayed and a lovely quiet area for all children to use, the hall has been improved and changed so it is a more functional space and Oak girl's toilets have had a much-needed new lease of life. A massive thank you to Mr Clayton who has worked incredibly hard this holiday to complete all these jobs. Maintenance of our school is never ended and there are more jobs to do over the next half term to make sure the school is Winter ready!

Our School Vision

When I first joined the school in 2019, one of the first things we did as a staff was rewrite the school's vision, 5 years later the school is very different, and the time is right to relook at where we are now as a school and what we want for our children, staff, parents, and community.

The school's vision has been revised to reflect this and is now:

Ampney Crucis is a school family, where, through different experiences our children grow surrounded by love, so they are strong both in body and in mind.

We support and respect each other, working as one to welcome all and walk alongside those who need it most, looking outward, recognising when one part of our community suffers, we all suffer yet when one flourishes, we all flourish.

At Ampney Crucis we all flourish together.

"God himself has put the body together in such a way as to give greater honour to those parts that need it. ²⁵And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another. ²⁶If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. "

Together, we Live, Learn and flourish

In the half term before the summer holiday, we asked all stakeholders in our school which values they felt reflected our school community the most. Lots of children and adults chose the same values so this was a good indication of what we should have as the final three. This is not to say that any other values are unimportant, but it means we can explore with the children what these three mean in a deeper, more meaningful way.

Our Values for our school are now

- Respect
- Courage
- Compassion

In the coming weeks we will be talking to the children about the vision, with a very specific focus on RESPECT for this term.

Positive Relationships and Behaviour

Our behaviour policy is one firmly built on relationships between children and the adults in school, so we know the children extremely well and can help them navigate their emotions, change of circumstances and friendships amongst other things. This isn't to say that children don't make mistakes from time to time and need help to unpick their behaviours and start to build strategies to ensure their behaviours do not impact others and their own well-being. Our Behaviour policy is available on the website for all to read.

We have added an aspect to enhance what we do already and that is a whole school strategy called Zones of Regulation. There are 4 zones and children can be in anyone of these or more than one at any one time and it is fine to be in any one of them. We talk to children about how we can see they are feeling angry so in the RED zone and what might help them move into the yellow zone and be calm. This is to help children recognise their feelings and self-regulate them.

More information can be found here:

[The Zones of Regulation Overview: Curriculum and Learning Outcomes \(hes-extraordinary.com\)](https://hes-extraordinary.com)

A separate information leaflet will be emailed to you giving more information.

Introduction to the roles of Responsibility for this year

Towards the end of the summer term we had a lovely presentation evening for the Year 5 and 6 children where awards were given to Year 6 children and Year 5 children were awarded responsibilities for this coming year.

Congratulations to:

Head Boy – Guy

Head Girl – Ella

House Captains Wilkie- Harley and Sophia

 Newton- Sophie and Edward

 Dodd- Gabriel and Hugo

Sports Captains Viv, Isaiah, Jacob, Reuben, Henry and Dan

Year 6 School Council Amelia and Noah

These children will be carrying out different responsibilities across the year, working with children from all the classes and adults too.

School Councilors from all the classes will be decided and announced in the next newsletter.

Where do I go for information?

For calendar dates, keeping up with what goes on in school and information about your child's class please look at the school's website on a regular basis.

Class teachers and Teaching Assistants are available throughout the week at the beginning and the end of the school day for quick questions and queries.

If you have a concern or you wish to speak in private to staff then please contact Ms Chadwick in the office and she will pass on your message so the teacher can contact you directly.

If it is a matter relating to Beech Tree, other clubs after school, music lessons, and more general enquiries please contact Ms Chadwick.

If your child is Absent?

In the case of your child being absence due to illness, please notify us by using the Absence tab on the School Spider app. If you use this method, there is no need to call or email.

Music in our School

Over the last few years, we have worked hard in school to boost the children's engagement in PE providing them with a range of experiences from cricket to cross country to dance festivals and archery. We know there is always room for improvement and this year I hope to introduce an opportunity for Year 5 and 6 children to join a football club and to increase the profile of Netball across the school as well.

We now want to focus on another aspect of the curriculum and this year it will be **Music**. There are lots of good aspects of music already going on in school, singing and Young Voices, individual music lessons and class music but we want to enhance this even more. Willow Class will be all learning the violin this term followed by Maple class learning the ukulele in January. Mrs Hopkins is our music lead, and she has been planning how to bring more music into our everyday provision.

Both in class and in worship we will be listening to and learning about different music genres, composers, and singer/songwriters.

The musician of the month is **David Bowie**, and the Genre is **Baroque** with focus on composers such as **Johann Sebastian Bach, Vivaldi and Handel**.

So, if your child comes singing "Heroes" or "Let's Dance" you know why!

There are opportunities for the children to learn violin, clarinet, piano, drums, and guitar with music teachers from either Gloucestershire Music or Let's Play Music. If you would like to sign your child up to learn a musical instrument, please email Ms Chadwick for details.

Enjoy a lovely sunny weekend.

Mrs Wood