

# January Newsletter

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our January Newsletter. We hope you have had a fabulous start to 2026. We wish you all a Happy New Year.

We have so many wonderful things to look forward to this term and we can not wait to share them with you. One of the highlights of this week has been hearing the children prepare for the Young Voices concert, which is taking place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January and brings such energy and enthusiasm to our school community. The pupils have been thoroughly engaged and have truly embraced this wonderful opportunity. We are looking forward to the concert!

## Staffing Update

We have welcomed a new SENCO to our team, Mrs Amy Lawes, who will be instrumental in supporting our pupils with special educational needs. Mrs Lawes is an experienced teacher, with many years of experience supporting pupils with additional needs. Miss Beale continues to support our SEN pupils, so that we can provide the best support to our children and families. We are also happy to welcome Mrs Barker (Teaching Assistant) to the Slimbridge family, she brings with her a wealth of expertise in speech and language therapy and Thrive pastoral support. Exciting news, Dan, our Sports Coach, is returning for a term, up until the Easter Holidays and will be supporting PE lessons and after school clubs! I know you will be as thrilled as we are to welcome Dan back to our Slimbridge family.

## National Year of Reading

2026 has been designated the Year of Reading by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust.

At Slimbridge, we already work hard with the children to improve their reading and encourage them to read for pleasure. We already have:-

- Children enjoying reading to Holly the dog
- Volunteers who read with children
- A wonderful school library
- Participation in World Book Day and running our own reading cafe for parents
- Book corners in classes and books in the outdoor classroom to read at play-times

We will also be running a readathon again this year, details of this will follow from Mrs Jones.

We will be looking at what else we can do to encourage the children further. Any ideas welcome!



**Some of the books bought after the readathon in 2025.**

## Mornings

Just a reminder please that the school gates open at 8:40 a.m. and children should be in school by 8:45 a.m. Lessons start at 8:50 a.m. We have noticed more and more families are late, which has a negative impact on your child's learning. Please reach out to ask for help and support if mornings are difficult for your family.



**SLIMBRIDGE**  
primary school

## Young Voices

Young Voices will be taking place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January. The children involved have been working hard to be at their very best and I know they will thoroughly enjoy the concert and the experience of singing in such a huge arena. We have updated our website to include a letters page so the Young Voices letter can also be viewed here. Look out for photos next week on facebook ....



## Music

We wanted to reassure you that music will remain a strong focus at Slimbridge, despite saying a fond farewell to Mrs Carter at the end of the Christmas term. (Please see our December newsletter on the website for our goodbyes and thank you).

We maintain our commitment to music lessons, with our visiting piano, guitar and drum teachers, who will also be extending their time in school to make sure music is high profile. Class music lessons will continue to take place and be a central part of Slimbridge School life.

## Uniform

Just a reminder about school uniform.

You can find the full policy here: [School Uniform Policy](#)

As a gentle reminder, please ensure pupils adhere to our school uniform policy: white polos; burgundy jumpers or cardigans; grey trousers/skirts/shorts, white or black socks (no sports socks with branded logos). No trainers, sports clothes, or hoodies are permitted.

### Newsletters

If you ever miss an email with the newsletter on, then you can read all newsletters from the last 12 months on the school website at [Newsletters](#)

### Whatsapp

Please help us by keeping school whatsapp groups to a minimum and sharing any concerns or updates directly with us instead. Also, please refrain from mentioning any staff members in messages - thank you so much for your understanding.

## Baking Club

Mrs Waterfield is running baking club this term and if it is a success, we will offer more sessions ... let us know if your child really enjoys this offer and if you would like the club open to more year groups. We listen to our parents and always want to make our school the best place it can possibly be. Your feedback helps us to move forward and your support helps us to offer lots of exciting opportunities for our children. A big thank you to everyone.



**SLIMBRIDGE**  
primary school

*Slimbridge where ambitions are nurtured  
"An inclusive school community, empowering GREAT citizens of tomorrow."*





AMBITIONS THEATRE  
PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

# SIX

**TEEN EDITION**

By Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss

## THE KINGS THEATRE

Kingsbarton Street, Gloucester, GL1 1QX

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 2.30pm & 7pm**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 2.30pm & 7pm**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026 - 2pm & 6.30pm**

**£15 Adults, £12 Children**

Tickets are available from

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingstheatregloucester>

Or by telephone 0333 666 3366

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF SIX: TEEN EDITION IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL  
ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS



# THE DODS PRESENT



From the 17th - 24th January at  
**the Lister Hall, Dursley**

Call 0300 102 3637

or visit [www.the-dods.com](http://www.the-dods.com)



# Dates



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Term 3, 4 and 5

Date	Who?	Event
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5/6	Young Voices
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Club	Cross-country Event
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole School	Cricket coaching sessions for each class
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y4/5	Baking Club 3:15-4:30 p.m
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Club	Cross-country Event
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole School	Last Day of Term
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>Return to school at 8:40 a.m</b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Whole School	Parents' Evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	World Book Day Reading Cafe p.m.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Parents' Evening
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Science Week in school
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	School Council	Visit to Parish Council Meeting
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Wear red to school and donate £1
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Last Day of Term: 1:30 p.m. End
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>Return to school at 8:40 a.m</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Athletics Club	Club starts after school 3:15 p.m.
11th-14 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6	SATS Week
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Whole School	Term Ends
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Whole School	Return to school at 8:40 a.m.
Monday 6th-Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6	Residential to PGL
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Whole School	Sports Day (back-up day 15.7.25)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Drama Club	Production: afternoon and evening
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6	Leavers' Assembly: 2:30 p.m.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School	Last Day of Term: 1:30 p.m. End