



September Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians

A very warm welcome back to all our children, families and staff at Slimbridge Primary School.

It is hard to believe that we have already completed two weeks and two days of the new school year. The term has begun exceptionally well, and there is a real sense of positivity around the school. Classrooms are busy with learning, children are embracing new challenges, and it has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, hard work and enjoyment in every aspect of school life.

I have been particularly impressed by the excellent behaviour demonstrated by all pupils.

Our children have returned ready to learn, showing kindness, respect and consideration for one another. The positive attitude and teamwork on display each day truly reflect the values that make our school such a special place to be. We have lots of fun things to experience this term and are excited about the term ahead,

Best Wishes from
Mrs Hillman

Email contacts:

Class 1: ducklingclass@slimbridge.gloucs.sch.uk
Class 2: goslingclass@slimbridge.gloucs.sch.uk
Class 3: avocetclass@slimbridge.gloucs.sch.uk
Class 4: heronclass@slimbridge.gloucs.sch.uk
Class 5: flamingoclass@slimbridge.gloucs.sch.uk

Welcome to the new reception children

A special welcome must go to our new Reception children, who have settled into school life exceptionally well. They have approached their first weeks at Slimbridge with confidence, curiosity and excitement, and it has been a delight to see them making new friends, exploring their learning environment and embracing new routines so quickly. They are already becoming valued members of our school community. They have especially liked riding the trikes and meeting Holly the school therapy dog.

I would also like to thank our new Reception parents and families for their support during this important transition. Starting school is a significant milestone for children and parents alike, and your encouragement, trust and partnership with the school have helped make the experience such a positive one. We look forward to working closely with you throughout your child's journey at Slimbridge. A reminder to all parents that we value highly the relationship between home and school and if you have any concerns whatsoever we are always happy to help. Please use tapestry or class emails to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.





Holly Dog

Holly continues to be a much-loved member of the Slimbridge Primary School community and has enjoyed a wonderful start to the term. Recently, she joined Class 2 for a story time session, where she enjoyed listening alongside the children. These sessions provide a lovely opportunity for children to relax, build confidence and develop a positive attitude towards reading.

One of Holly's favourite activities is playing ball, and many of the children enjoy taking turns to throw and catch with her. Not only is this great fun, but it also helps to develop children's coordination, communication and turn-taking skills.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in school, Holly follows clear routines throughout the day. She has set times for toilet breaks and consistently uses the same designated area, allowing us to monitor this carefully and maintain a safe and hygienic environment for all. Holly is on her lead for the majority of the school day. The exceptions are during supervised activities such as playing ball or taking part in story sessions, when she can interact more naturally with the children. We are delighted by the positive impact Holly continues to have on our pupils and look forward to sharing more of her adventures throughout the year. 🐾



PGL

Our Year 6 pupils will again enjoy PGL this year. The dates are booked for Monday 24th May to Wednesday 26th May 2027. We hope as many children will be able to attend as possible as this is a fantastic opportunity to try new challenges as well as build relationships with friends. Please let Mrs Rymer know if you would like to attend. All Y6 should have received their letters by now explaining the trip.



Back gate entrance

We are trialling encouraging our children to become more independent so now have staff positioned on the back gate so that pupils can walk into school independently.



Brass Lessons

We are delighted to share that our Brass Ensemble tuition has now begun, starting with Class 5. Working in partnership with Gloucestershire Music, we were pleased to welcome Mr M into school to lead the sessions and inspire our young musicians.

The children have already shown great enthusiasm and have enjoyed their first opportunity to explore brass instruments and develop their musical skills.



Music

Ensemble tuition provides a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn together, build confidence and experience the joy of making music as part of a group.

This year, we are proud that all classes will receive music tuition, funded through the school's budget. We firmly believe that music plays an important role in children's creative, social and emotional development, and we are excited for every pupil to benefit from these enriching experiences throughout the year. We are also proud to announce that once again the school has been awarded a Music Mark for strong contributions to music.

Parking and Keeping Our Children Safe

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in helping to keep our school community safe. We would like to remind everyone to park considerately and respectfully when dropping off and collecting children. Please do not block the entrance to the staff car park, as this can prevent staff from accessing the school on time and can create additional hazards for children and families moving around the site.

We would also kindly ask that parents and carers who are able to park a little further away from the school consider doing so, leaving the closest parking spaces available for those who need them most, including families of our children who are wheelchair users and others with accessibility needs. By working together and showing consideration for one another, we can ensure that our school remains a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Dates

Term 1 Autumn 2026

Date	Who?	Event
Monday September 28th	Whole School	INSET DAY
Thursday 15 th October	Whole School	Parents' Evening
Thursday 15 th October	Whole School	Photographer in school
Monday 19 th October	Whole School	Parents' Evening
26th-30th October	Whole School	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 2 nd November	Whole School	Return to school gates open at 8:40 a.m.
Wednesday 11 th November	Whole School	Remembrance Day Assembly
Friday 13 th November	Reception to Y6	Nasal Flu Vaccine
Friday 13 th November	Whole School	Children-in-Need Day: come to school in pyjamas/spotty clothes
Monday 7 th December	Y1, Y2 and Y3	Nativity Performance in school hall 5:00p.m
Tuesday 8 th December	Y1, Y2 and Y3	Nativity Performance in school hall 2:30 p.m.
Thursday 10 th December	Reception	Reception Class Nativity 1:30 p.m.
Thursday 10 th December	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11 th December	Little Otters	Nursery Nativity 2:15 p.m.
Thursday 17 th December	Whole School	Christmas Dinner in hall
Friday 18 th December	Whole School	Party on a plate day - please bring in a party food selection for your own child on a plate Term ends at 1:30 p.m
Monday 4 th January	Whole School	INSET DAY
Tuesday 5 th January	Whole School	Return to school 8:40 a.m. gates open

Uniform and Equipment reminder

A huge thank you from the school team for the effort that has been made by all parents and families with the children's school uniform. The children have started the new year looking extremely smart.

Just a reminder that if children arrive wearing casual sports clothing instead of their school uniform, they will be expected to change into the appropriate clothing before joining their class.

To ensure that every child has equal opportunities and access to the same resources, children should not bring pencil cases into school. All stationery and learning equipment will be provided by the school, ensuring that every pupil has exactly what they need to succeed.

We are fortunate to have a supply of free, good-quality pre-loved uniform available in the school entrance hall throughout the year. Please help yourself. Families are warmly encouraged to make use of this resource whenever needed, helping to ensure that every child can attend school in the correct uniform.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining our high expectations. By working together, we can ensure that every child starts each school day ready to learn and proud to be part of our school community.

Well done to our certificate achievers this week.

