



This term in 'Life in all its Fullness' curriculum, we are focusing on:



This term's we are focusing on the value **Friendship**

Friday 6th September 2024

Life in all its Fullness

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Newsletter

A warm welcome to the new school year! We hope that you have had a lovely summer and that children are settling happily in to their new year groups. It has been a pleasure to see our youngest children starting school this week; attending stay and play sessions with their parents/carers and completing their first sessions on their own!

With all children returning to their classrooms this week, they will start to learn about some exciting new topics and teachers will be able to update parents/carers on Class Dojo. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any connection issues.

Other school information will be sent out via Parent Mail as usual, so please make sure you are connected and we have the correct contact details, to enable you to continue to pick up the updates.

MEET THE TEACHER

On Monday 9th September, parents/carers are invited to attend 'Meet the Teacher' sessions.

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2: 4-4:30pm

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: 4.45pm-17.15pm

Meetings are being held in classrooms and are a chance for you to meet your child's new teacher and ask any questions that you may have.

If you have children whose meetings will be taking place simultaneously, teachers will be making their PowerPoint presentations available on Class Dojo, after the sessions, which will detail what was discussed within the sessions. If parents have any outstanding questions, please contact your child's teacher directly.



START OF YEAR CHECKS

Please ensure that we have up to date contact information, including home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. You can contact the school office by email at admin@camhopton.gloucs.sch.uk with any updates and we can ensure these are processed.

YELLOW-LIGHTED BOOKSHOP BOOKFAIR

Unfortunately, the Yellow-Lighted Bookshop Book Fair has been postponed and will not be taking place on Monday. We have already rebooked a new date, Tuesday 26th November, so we will let you know more details closer to the time.

We're happy to let you know that Stroud Book Festival Tickets are now on sale:

[Stroud Book Festival 2024](#) Lots of events for both adults & children **November 6th-10th**

Events for families:

Are Wolves Afraid of the Dark? (and other amazing questions about animals) - HUW LEWIS-JONES -
Saturday 9 November, 12pm, Lansdown Hall

We're Going on a Bear Hunt & Other Stories - MICHAEL ROSEN Saturday 9 November, 10.30am, Sub Rooms

Happy Birthday, Elmer! Free Storytelling Sessions with Vickie Long Saturday 9 November, 12.30 and 2.30pm, Stroud Library

Relaxed Storytime with Elmer Saturday 9 November, 10.00am, Lansdown Hall

Adventure mice and the Ghostly Galleon PHILIP REEVE & SARAH MCINTYRE Saturday 9 November, 2pm, Lansdown Hall

Blue Monster: A Drawing Workshop PETR HORÁČEK Saturday 9 November,
3.30pm, Museum in the Park

Nick Sharratt's You Choose Extravaganza! NICK SHARRATT Sunday 10 November, 10am,
Lansdown Hall

The What on Earth! Family Quiz ANDREW PETTIE Sunday 10 November, 11am,
Sub Rooms

Make Awesome Comics NEILL CAMERON Sunday 10 November, 15.30,
Museum in the Park

PARENT PAY & FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents need ensure that their child's Parent Pay account is kept in credit.

Children who are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are each entitled to a Universal Free School Meal each day. For children in Year 3– 6 meals are charged at **£2.71** per meal.

If you think that you may be entitled to apply for FSMs for your child, please check the following website for information on eligibility and how to apply - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals>

HEATHY SNACKS & ALLERGIES

If you send your child to school with a healthy snack, this should be something like a piece of fruit or a cereal bar. Please do not sent children with chocolate biscuits or crisps for snack time.

We have children in school with allergies to certain foods, including nuts. Please keep this in mind when packing lunch boxes and snacks.



Home Learning

At Cam Hopton, after research into current educational pedagogy and in response to parental feedback, we have revised and simplified our whole school approach to home learning. Home learning, formerly referred to as 'homework', is anything children do outside of the normal school day that contributes to their learning. For example, parents and carers who spend time reading stories to their children or listening to their children read at home are helping them with their learning.

One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners; we believe that completing home learning tasks is one way in which children acquire valuable life skills. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in extra-curricular activities. Research shows that completing tasks regularly supports retention and therefore we have revised the format of home learning.

Each class will provide a 'Home Learning' handout outlining essential mathematical and literary skills the school has identified as essential life skills. This will consist of reading, phonics (KS1), creative writing or comprehension (KS2), and a variety of essential mathematical concepts (e.g. time and money skills) timetabled to practice over the year.

In Reception and Key Stage 1, there will no longer be an expectation to 'hand-in' termly tasks. Instead, following guidance provided by the class teacher, the children should aim to practice the tasks outlined throughout the week. In Key Stage 2, alongside weekly short practice tasks to support mathematics and reading, the children will complete *one* creative writing or comprehension task a term linked to the topic in focus.

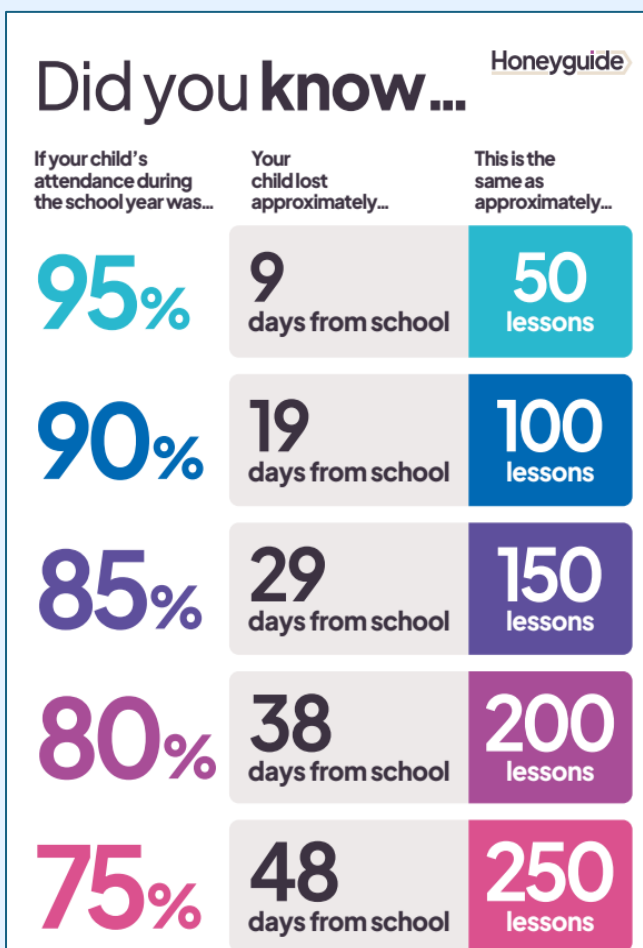
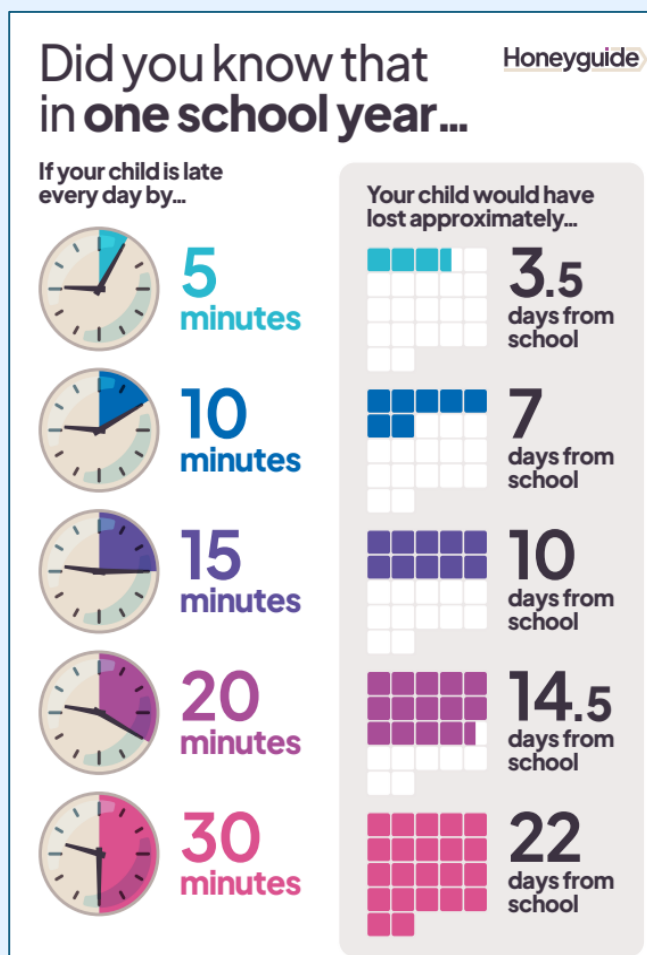
KS1 and KS2 teachers will provide parents with a copy of home learning grids at the 'Meet the Teacher' event this coming Monday 9th September. In addition, copies will be posted on Class Dojo and the school website for ease of access.



ATTENDANCE - New DfE statutory attendance guidance - 'Attendance Counts'

There has been growing national concern regarding declining school attendance rates across the UK. In response, the Department for Education introduced new statutory guidance, effective from August 2024, aimed at reducing term-time holidays and unauthorised absences, and supporting families whose children are struggling to attend.

The primary goal of these measures is to ensure that children do not miss out on their education. Every lesson is a crucial part of your child's learning journey, and frequent absences can significantly hinder their progress. Thank you for your continued cooperation in supporting your child's education.



'Support First'

As the DfE notes, '*Improving attendance is everyone's business*', it is important that we work together in partnership with you, your family, your child, and the wider community.

The new 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' Guidance emphasises a 'Support First' ethos, and recognises that '*the barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families... [It] is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances.*'

At Cam Hopton if you are concerned about your child's attendance, then please contact Miss Skidmore (Deputy Head) as soon as possible so that barriers to attendance can be understood, and appropriate support can be put in place with the aim of preventing further absences.

If you would also like more information, please visit the LA's public attendance pages: Attendance and absence from school | Gloucestershire County Council

NEW & EXCITING UPDATES TO CAM HOPTON'S OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT!



We have had some very exciting upgrades over the summer holiday – including the installation of our new outdoor play equipment! We have been lucky enough to have secured enough funding to upgrade the 'Fort' and install a new trim trail area for the children to use a break and lunchtimes! Children were able to start using them this week & they proved to be a big hit! We are still awaiting some of the finishing touches to be completed on the trim trail, to enable it to be used all year round, but the children can use it in the meantime! We would not have been able to complete this project had it not been for our fabulously dedicated and proactive Parent Teacher Association (PTA), who have been fundraising over the last couple of years. So, we would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has (& continues to) selflessly given up their time to help plan, organise and run the PTA events.



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At the beginning of term I wanted to introduce myself to our new parents. Your children are now part of Cam Hopton and since the 18th century, St George's Church has been closely linked with Cam Hopton School. It is my joy to be a part of the school as Vicar of St George's and you will hopefully see me around school helping to lead Open the Book Collective Worships, leading some RE lessons and in my role as an ex-officio governor.

The Voluntary Aided (V.A.) category of church school which Cam Hopton holds means that it is the legal responsibility of the Vicar in conjunction with the church council (the PCC) to appoint Foundation Governors to the school. The foundation governors must make up two-thirds of the governing body and need to be linked to St George's Church. This is all stated in the school articles and can be found here <https://www.camhoptonprimary.co.uk/governors/governors.html>. This helps school to operate consistent with its Christian heritage and with Christian values. The staff then ably support this in the teaching and care of all the pupils. The school also enjoys attending services in St George's church on a regular basis where you will be warmly invited to attend too. The pupils and staff have also had fun with isingPOP, a Christian led charity which assists with collective worship and learning new and contemporary songs for our 21st century children. There is a worship council at school too which I facilitate. This is where pupils review the Christian distinctiveness and values of the school.

I hope this helps you to understand the important link between Cam Hopton school and St George's church. St George's offers a Messy Church Service on the 4th Sunday of the month which is a great way of children exploring St George's, the Christian faith and getting to know us more.

I hope that your children settle into school life really well. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries with what I have outlined above. It is a great privilege to have this relationship with the school and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Fiona Crocker 07817021196 fiona@camandstinchcombe.org.uk

MESSY CHURCH

Please join us for Messy Church at St George's this Sunday, 22nd September from 3:30pm-5pm!

Here are the dates of upcoming sessions, all from 3.30-5pm:

- 27th October
- 24th November

For more details get signed up to our WhatsApp group, contact Revd Fiona at fiona@camandstinchcombe.org.uk or visit our website www.camandstinchcombe.org.uk



PTA EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!!

Wednesday 18th September – 6.00pm – PTA AGM in the School Hall

All are welcome including new parents/volunteers!

Friday 20th September – PTA Summer Social, 5pm – 8pm. More details to follow but join us for a fun evening with a bouncy castle, games, Greek food and bar. Free entry (includes all games and the bouncy castle!)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 9 th Sept	Yellow Lighted Bookshop Book Fair in school hall (POSTPONED) 16.00pm – KS1 'Meet the Teacher' 16.45pm – KS2 'Meet the Teacher' (see information above)
Thursday 12 th Sept	Year 6 swimming
Friday 13 th Sept	International Dot Art Day
Wednesday 18 th Sept	6.00pm - PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in school hall
Thursday 19 th Sept	Year 6 swimming
Friday 20 th Sept	PTA Summer Social Fundraiser (See below!)
Thursday 26 th Sept	Year 6 swimming
Tuesday 1 st Oct	6.00pm - Year 6 PGL Residential Parents' Meeting in school hall
Thursday 3 rd Oct	Year 6 swimming
Monday 7 th Oct	DSP Individual & Sibling Photos
Tuesday 8 th Oct	9.00 – 11.00am: Reception 2025 Open Morning
Thursday 10 th Oct	Year 6 swimming
W/C 14 th Oct	My Plan Meetings Week 1
Weds 16 th Oct	9.30am – Harvest Service at St George's Church
Thursday 17 th Oct	Caterlink Census Day Menu Year 5 first swim
Friday 18 th Oct	Whole School Wellbeing Day
W/C 21 st Oct	Year 6 Residential to PGL Tregoyd
Tuesday 22 nd Oct	Rags 2 Riches collection
Thursday 24 th Oct	Year 5 swim
Friday 25 th Oct	End of Term 1 for children

Monday 4th November - INSET Day 2

Term 2 starts for children on Tuesday 5th November

Key Stage 2 girls...
Join us for Stroud
High School
Open Evening
Thursday 10
October 5-7.30pm
Scan to register
online or visit
stroudhigh.gloucs.sch.uk



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@stroud.high
X @StroudHigh
Everything Is Possible.



EACH WEEK @ Quarry Chapel

Mon

- YOGA 9.30AM Adults
- PILATES 6.15PM Adults
- CREATIVE CLUB 6PM 8yrs+ & an adult

Tues

- KIDS MAKE & CREATE 3.30PM 7yrs +
- QUARRY COLLECTIVE 4.45PM 13-18yrs
- CREATIVE CLUB 6.30PM 8yrs+ & an adult

Wed

- TEXTILES 9.30AM Adults
- ARTIST BOOKS 1.30PM SGS College
- BARRE 7PM Adults

Thurs

- ART GROUP 10.00AM Adults
- CREATIVE CAFE 12PM 8yrs+ & an adult
- CREATIVE CLUB 6.00PM 8yrs+ & an adult

Fri

- PILATES 11AM Adults
- CRAFT GROUP 1.30PM Adults

Sat

- COFFEE MORNING 10-12AM All
1st Sat of month

Sun

- SUNDAY SERVICE 2.45PM All
1st & 3rd Sun of month

To book/info: www.quarrychapel.org.uk
The Quarry Cam GL11 6JB

