



## TUTSHILL C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'Love One Another, Know Ourselves, Believe and Grow'*

### START OF YEAR NEWSLETTER (September 2024)

Welcome Back

It is a pleasure to welcome our parents, carers and pupils back to school after the summer holiday and I am looking forward to getting to know the children and their families over the course of this year. We are really pleased to welcome new families to our school community and it is lovely to see how well the children have settled. We have a busy term planned with meet the teacher mornings and after school clubs. The meet the teacher meetings are information sharing sessions with the class teacher but please don't worry if you are unable to attend as a copy of the PowerPoint will be put on our school website on the relevant class page.

The school website holds all the information that you, as parents, need to know. You can find information about what your child is learning, for example, what they are learning this term, how we teach reading, how we teach art across the school, starting in the early years moving through to Year 6. In addition to this information, you can find information about school clubs, school meals, absence forms, holiday club and medical forms- including forms that must be signed and issued to the school office to enable the school to administer prescribed medicines. The school calendar will also inform parents of what is happening and when. Please be sure to check the school website before calling the school office.

#### Open Days (for parents of prospective EYFS in Sept 2025)

Thursday 3rd October - 2pm  
Friday 11th October - 11am  
Thursday 17th October - 9.30am  
Friday 8th November - 2pm

Thank you,

Mrs E Gomersall

#### Meet the Teacher:

Year	Date	Time
Reception	Tuesday 17 September	8:55 – 9.20am
Year 1	Monday 16 September	8.55 – 9.20am
Year 2	Monday 16 September	8.55 – 9.20am
Year 3	Wednesday 18 September	8.55 – 9.20am
Year 4	Thursday 19 September	8.55 – 9.20am
Year 5	Friday 20 September	8.55 - 9.20am
Year 6	Tuesday 17 September	8.55 – 9.20am



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### Forest Edge Federation

Please use the school website to familiarise yourselves with members of the Governing Board. We have held our AGM this week with a very clear set of actions set out for the year ahead. Children will become familiar with the members of the board as they attend school to visit lessons and take the time to talk to children to hear their voice. Governors will also be keen to hear the voice of parents and will be soon be sending out parental questionnaires.

### Seesaw Login

Your child will be coming home with their new 'Home Learning' log in for Seesaw and an access code for families. Due to changes in the system, we will no longer be using Seesaw as a direct messaging service between teachers and parents as the inbox folder is no longer allocated to individual classes. If you wish to contact a member of staff, then please do so through the School Office.

### European Day of Languages

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, we will be holding a European Day of Languages in school. On this day, each class will learn about the culture and languages in a different country. Children are invited to come to school dressed in the colours of the flag of the country they will be studying or in a costume that they feel represents that country (as a famous person, in a national costume, in a football kit from a team in that country, etc.).

*\*Please note that Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 will still have PE on this day\**

The countries are:

Year 6 - Spain

Year 5 - Switzerland

Year 4 - Iceland

Year 3 - Italy

Year 2 - The Netherlands

Year 1 - France

Reception - Wales



If any parents/carers speak another language (it doesn't have to be fluently or linked to one of the countries above!) and would be interested in leading a short language session on the day with a year group(s) of their choice, please let Mrs Hart know via the office. We would also be keen to hear from any parents/carers who use languages as part of their job and would be interested in talking to the children about the role languages play in their working lives. Many thanks for your continued support.

### Attendance

Please see new updates regarding Attendance and Punctuality on the enclosed link below:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-attendance-and-exclusions-and-welfare/attendance-and-absence-from-school/>

Parents are responsible for making sure their children attend school regularly and on time. This means every day the school is open; children are expected to attend. Children must be on school premises by 8:45am ready for registration, the school gate at by the office will be open from 8:35am.

The Attendance Officer in School Mrs Joubert is monitoring attendance and parents will be contacted should discussions surrounding your child's attendance and punctuality be needed.

We will be monitoring attendance in school with rewards, certificates and attendance monitoring on the website.



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We actively encourage parents to make health and dental appointments outside of school hours. We do however recognise that medical appointments issued by healthcare professionals occur in school hours and as such, will be authorised. We understand that children will be unwell and we do not encourage poorly children to attend school. Please refer to the school website for guidance if your child is too unwell for school.

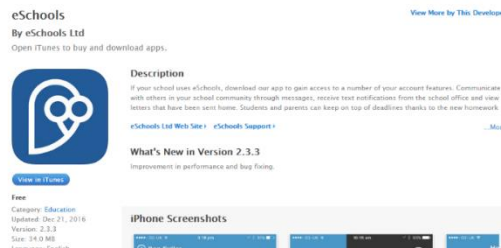
## Communications

Our principal forms of communication are:

1. Our (eSchools) school website at [www.tutshillcofeschool.co.uk](http://www.tutshillcofeschool.co.uk);



2. The accompanying iOS and Android eSchools app for smartphones and tablets; and



3. Our school newsletter.

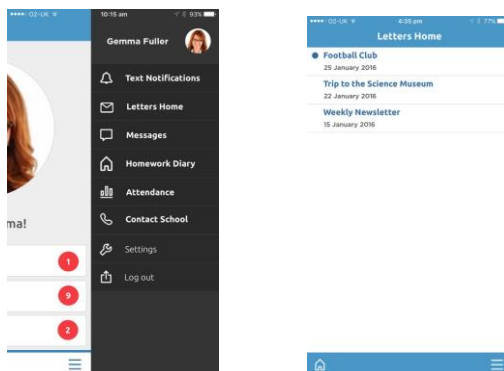
In addition to all the information you have already been able to access on our school website as an external user, the underlying system and complementary app provide our outbound email and communications platform with you once your child has started school.

The iOS and Android app enables you to receive an alert as soon as we send an email and it offers direct access to the contents of the email without troubling you to log in to your email account. A couple of sample screen shots are shown below:



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You will be provided with login credentials for your personalised eSchools account which will be required for the app during the Induction Programme.

When using the school website on a desktop, these same login details will also enable you to:

- access information specific to your child's class;
- review your child's attendance record; and in due course
- see details of homework or projects set for completion along with other functions.

We would be grateful if you would create your eSchools account for use with the app and the desktop website as soon as possible upon receipt of your login details so that we can be sure that we can keep you informed.

Year	Platform	What it contains	
R	Tapestry	Childs learning diary against EYFS goals. This is a platform that will only share learning- no communication will come from Tapestry re school updates	
All school	eSchools	Email:	Newsletter regarding whole school events and school calendar. 3 x term- end of first week of term, mid-term and last week of term
		Text:	For last minute notifications that need to get to parents quickly- weather warnings, school closure etc.
All School	Seesaw	Class SeeSaw is a learning platform that allows parents to see what is happening in their child's class. It allows class teachers to send updates and reminders that are solely relevant to that class.	

We have been receiving an increasing number of messages from parents sent to class teacher using this platform, sharing comments and informing class teachers of absence. The above platforms are for teachers to communicate with parents/carer.

All notifications of absence, sickness or medical appointments must go to the School Office. The class teachers will be teaching during the day and are not expected to check SeeSaw so messages like this will unfortunately be missed.

Any comments or questions regarding school activities, please can these be directed to the School Office.

Newsletters will be sent to parents at the start, middle and end of term.



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### Online Learning Journal (Reception children only)

Children will be observed as part of everyday experiences and some of these observations will be recorded using Tapestry. You will be expected to download the Tapestry app to be able to view these observations, comment and upload your own observations to form your child's individual learning journey.

### Sickness Absence

Please report any absences to the school office via email to [attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk) or answerphone message by 9:15am. Please do not use Seesaw to report illness.

### Free School Meals

#### Could Your Child Benefit from Pupil Premium Funding?

Tutshill C of E Primary School can receive additional funding for any child receiving Free School Meals. This is separate from the Universal Free School Meals which are given to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The Pupil Premium funding is allocated solely to the registered, eligible<sup>†</sup> pupils and is used to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for those children. For example, at Tutshill School we spend the Pupil Premium funding on:

- 1:1 support teaching;
- Class supported teaching;
- Group work;
- Pastoral activities e.g. cooking and gardening;
- Tutoring;
- Purchased resources for mathematical development and emotional resilience;
- Enrichment activities

In order to support the eligible children's learning and personal development.

Additionally, registering for Free School Meals also entitles your child to:

- Free musical tuition;
- Free school trips; and
- A school uniform bursary.

*† In order to qualify for Free School Meals for your children you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:*

- *Income Support;*
- **Income-based** *Jobseeker's Allowance;*
- **Income-related** *Employment and Support Allowance;*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;*
- *The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;*
- *Child Tax Credit, **provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit***
- *Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit; or*
- *Universal Credit.*

As a parent/carer you can apply for Free School Meals online along with your Admission applications. The Free School Meals Portal also includes an online eligibility checking service which provides instant feedback – so they can easily confirm if you are entitled. For more information and to make an application visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>



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### School Uniform Policy

Our school uniform remains unchanged and consists of:

- A light blue polo shirt\*, shirt, or blouse
- School sweatshirt\* or navy jumper or cardigan
- Smart grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore (skirts should be of an appropriate length and style)
- Grey socks/tights
- Dark coloured appropriate sensible shoes.
- In summer, children may wear grey shorts/blue checked dress
- Hair tied back with navy/black hair bobbles. Hair will be tied back should it reach shoulder length.

### PE Kit

- Navy T-shirt\* and navy shorts
- Navy jogging trousers/leggings and jumper/sweatshirt
- KS1 (Reception, Y1 and Y2) daps/black or white trainers; and
- KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 and 6) black or white trainers (no colour/logos/names).

ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM AND OTHER ITEMS OF CLOTHING MUST BE NAMED.

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is a key priority at Tutshill C of E Primary School.

We:

- ensure adults who come into contact with children have enhanced cleared from the Disclosure & Barring Service (which has replaced Criminal Records Bureau);
- communicate child protection procedures to all staff, parents and visitors. We would ask that should you hear, see or read anything which troubles you about a child, do not ignore it, but report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, DSL: Mrs E Gomersall
- For further information on safeguarding, contact the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board: [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk). Tel: 01452 583638.

**Safeguarding of pupils is everybody's responsibility. Should you have any concerns please report to the DSL - Emma Gomersall or DDSL – Natalie Fryer, Amanda Cooper and Robyn Howells**

### PE Days

- Reception : Thursday & Monday
- Year 1 : Tuesday & Thursday
- Year 2 : Tuesday & Friday
- Year 3 : Wednesday & Friday
- Year 4 : Monday & Thursday
- Year 5 : Wednesday & Friday
- Year 6 : Monday & Wednesday

### Reminders

- Packed lunches should not contain any nuts as we have children with nut allergies.
- Please log onto ParentPay and book lunches.
- Please inform the office of any contact, medical details that may have changed so that we can keep pupil records up to date. Thank you.



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### Autumn Term One Clubs

We have some exciting clubs planned for this term. Here is a list of the clubs that we will be offering. They will start in the week commencing 16th September and will run for six weeks.

Bookings will open in ParentPay at 1pm on Monday 9th September.

Monday	3.15 – 4pm	Cookery (there will be no session in the week commencing 21st October) (£2 per session - £10 in total)	Year Three and Year Four
Monday	3.15 – 4.15pm	Bushcraft (£5 per session - £30 in total)	Year Five and Year Six
Tuesday	3.15 – 4.15pm	Balanceability (learning to ride a bike for complete beginners) (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year One and Year Two
Tuesday	3.15 – 4pm	Hockey (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year Five and Year Six
Tuesday	3.15 – 4.15pm	Bushcraft (£5 per session - £30 in total)	Year Three and Year Four
Wednesday am	8.10 -8.40am	Fun Circuits (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year One – Year Six
Wednesday	3.15 – 4pm	Board Games (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year Three and Year Four
Thursday am	8.10 -8.40am	Running Club (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year One – Year Six
Friday am	8.10 -8.40am	Outdoor Gym (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year One – Year Six
Friday	3.15 – 4pm	Multi-Sports (£2 per session - £12 in total)	Year One and Year Two

### Art Club

We are very excited to be running a new art club during this academic year. All year groups will be given the opportunity to attend over the year. It will be taking place on Thursday afternoons from 3.15 -4.15pm and will cost £6 per session for six weeks. The art club will be offered to children in Year One and Year Two in Autumn Term One. A separate letter will be sent to these year groups on Monday with further details.



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### Diary Dates for September 2024 – Jan 2025

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
<b>Sept</b>	2	Inset Day
	3	Term Begins
	13	Tutshill School Bat Walk Y5&Y6
	16	Meet the Teacher Year 1 and Year 2
	17	Meet the Teacher Reception and Year 6
	18	Meet the Teacher Year 3
	19	Meet the Teacher Year 4
	20	Meet the Teacher Year 5
	26	School Photos
<b>Oct</b>	3 & 4	Life Education Visit
	3 & 11 & 17	Open Days (for parents of prospective EYFS in Sept 2025)
	24	Term Ends
	25	Inset Day
<b>Nov</b>	4	Term Begins
	8	Open Days (for parents of prospective EYFS in Sept 2025)
	12	Flu Vaccinations
<b>Dec</b>	20	Term Ends
<b>Jan</b>	6	Term Begins

#### School Contact Details

Telephone: 01291 622593

Email: [office@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:office@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk)

Attendance: [attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk)

PTA email: [ptatutshill@gmail.com](mailto:ptatutshill@gmail.com)





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**Parentkind** – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

Optional - The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage

Optional - Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most, such as (classroom resources, wet weather games, ipads and educational visits)

**INTRODUCING  
CASHPOT  
FOR SCHOOLS**

You scan we donate ££s

**ASDA**  
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

Download and opt-in today

Only with **ASDA** Rewards

**Parentkind**

Selected stores. Minimum spend £2+. Exclusions apply including Asda Express & George.com. Subject to availability. UK 18+. App & Opt-in required. 0.5% of the value of a customer's eligible shop is donated. Publicly funded primary schools, must register with Parentkind charity 1072833. Full T&C's at [asda.com/cashpotforschools](https://asda.com/cashpotforschools). Rewards T&C's at [asda.com/rewards/terms](https://asda.com/rewards/terms). Ends 30.11.24



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Rose Horrex Year 4 and Alice Horrex Year 6 is taking part in a sponsored walk in Caldicot Castle for families to raise funds for Ty Hafan Children's Hospice in October.

**Tŷ Hafan**   
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE  
HOSBIS I BLANT

**DARK RUN**

**GLOWSTICK & MEDAL**

<b>CYFARTHFA CASTLE</b>	<b>25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b>
<b>CALDICOT CASTLE</b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b>
<b>NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER</b>

**It's time to glow crazy with a NEON fun run/walk in the dark with a spooky twist!**

**Sign up today at**  
[www.tyhafan.org/darkrun](http://www.tyhafan.org/darkrun)

**ENTRY**  
**£10 adult**  
**£5 child**  
**+ booking fee**



 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR Registered in Wales: No: 3077406 Registered Charity No: 1047912



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

In 2023 the Forest of Dean Health Forum conducted a survey on your future health care needs and produced a survey report. This was sent to all interested parties, including Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB).

There has been a recent response from the

Board and the Forum has convened a special meeting on September 21st at 10.30 am (Sedbury village hall).

This meeting will give representatives from ABHB an opportunity to present future health care plans for the Sedbury/Chepstow area, to local residents.

You are cordially invited to attend and offer your views on these. Should you wish to attend please contact Forum secretary, Claire Smeeth via

[forest.health.forum@outlook.com](mailto:forest.health.forum@outlook.com)

Or. [Clairesmeeth@aol.com](mailto:Clairesmeeth@aol.com)

Or myself Albert Weager at

[albweager@aol.com](mailto:albweager@aol.com)

Best wishes to you all, Albert Weager

Forum Chair