



23rd October 2026

School Community Newsletter

An exceptional school at the heart of the community, where every student has the curiosity, skills & confidence to make the world a better place

KEY DATES

October - December

Mon 26 Oct - Fri 30 Oct
October Half Term

Mon 2 Nov
INSET Day
Tue 3 Nov - Mon 9 Nov
GCSE Re-sits

KS3 Cross Country
Wed 4 Nov
Year 7-13 Meet the Tutor Evening

Thu 26 Nov - Fri 27 Nov
Year 11 Flu Vaccinations

Mon 30 Nov
Year 7 Maths Test
Wed 2 Dec
Year 7 Maths Test

Mon 7 Dec - Fri 18
Year 12 In Class Assessments

Mon 7 Dec
Year 8 Maths Test

Wed 9 Dec
Year 8 Maths Test

Thur 10 Dec
Year 11 Parents Evening

Tue 15 Dec
Year 9 Maths Test

Fri 18 Dec
Community Newsletter

Message from Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done for reaching the end of term! It has felt calm, focused and productive in school over the last eight weeks (yes eight!), but we have seen some tired young people in the last few days. Thank you for continuing to send your child to school every day, through the coughs and the sniffles. Our attendance as a school is holding strong at 94%. We know that strong attendance leads to strong outcomes which maximise opportunities and options for our young people. We will continue to keep you informed regarding attendance figures so we can work together to keep children attending school.

As the weather has changed, a reminder that it would be helpful for all students to have a warm, waterproof coat for the winter months. Hoodies are not part of our uniform policy and will not protect students from the elements. We thank you in advance for supporting us.

We continue to be a Mobile Free School and this has had a significant impact on the learning environment in school. Students are more focused and engaged in their tasks with less distraction and we look forward to the continuing progress students will make in their learning. However, we have identified an area of focus we would benefit from your support with. As students regain access to their devices at the end of the day, this has led to some distracted behaviour when crossing the road outside the school gates. We will continue to reiterate the importance of staying focused on the traffic until they have crossed the road. Please can you also talk to your child about this, to emphasise the importance of safety first.

It has been a joy to welcome so many visitors to The Castle School this term. It has been wonderful to see prospective parents and carers with their children for Open Evening and Open Tours. I have been proud to walk people around the school and to show off our amazing students and colleagues working in collaboration to maximise progress. You can feel the warmth and ambition in the school and the feedback has reflected this. In Term 2 we will be opening our doors to current parents and carers, offering tour spaces so you too can see your child's school in action. More details to follow.

Regarding Meet the Tutor Evening, I am assured that Class Charts are now back online and I can only apologise for the disruption and disappointment I know rescheduling will have created. The new date will be Wednesday 04 November, and bookings will open during half term for you to secure a slot.

Well done to Year 7, Year 12 and all our new starters for completing their first term with us – you are now part of the family! Year 12 have proven themselves to be excellent ambassadors for the school in several external events. Year 7 demonstrated their growing confidence at the Halloween Disco this week! Well done to Year 11 and Year 13 for being so focused during your return to school. Good luck to Year 11 for their PPEs after the October break. We look forward to supporting you through this important year.

Finally, enjoy some well-earned family time if you can over the half term break and we look forward to welcoming all students back to school refreshed and rejuvenated on Tuesday 03 November.

Best wishes,
Mrs Cowper





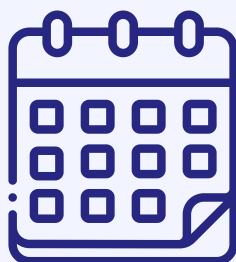
Important School Updates



Term Dates 2026/27

Please see below the term dates for the 2026/27 school year:

Thu 3 Sep 2026 - Fri 23 Oct 2026
Mon 2 Nov 2026 - Fri 18 Dec 2026
Mon 4 Jan 2027 - Fri 12 Feb 2027
Mon 22 Feb 2027 - Thu 25 Mar 2027
Mon 12 Apr 2027 - Fri 28 May 2027
Mon 7 Jun 2027 - Fri 23 Jul 2027



Please also note that our Term 2 INSET Day is on Monday 2nd November.

Meet the Tutor Evening Update

From Mrs Cowper's message: Regarding Meet the Tutor Evening, I am assured that Class Charts in now back online and I can only apologise for the disruption and disappointment I know rescheduling will have created. The new date will be Wednesday 04 November, and bookings will open during half term for you to secure a slot.

School Menu Update

From the beginning of Term 2, our school meal menu's will be updated with some fresh new options! Please check out the link below to our website to find out what your child could see in our canteen next term.

[The Castle School - Catering & School Meals](#)



Drop Off Locations

We have been informed of numerous occasions where parents have been using The Castle School staff car park for drop offs and as a turning zone. It would be greatly appreciated by all of the staff at the school if this could please not be done as on particularly busy days, it can cause our staff delays in getting onto site. Please ensure that your child is dropped off safely somewhere away from the road directly opposite the school, as traffic on this road can cause risk to students crossing the road before and after school.



School Uniform Donation Request

We are looking for preloved school uniform donations! If you have any preloved school uniform from **The Castle School**, we would be really grateful if it could be donated to us. If you wish to do this, please drop the preloved uniform into our school reception anytime within the usual school day. Thank you.





General School News



Flu Vaccination Consent Forms

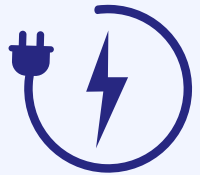
Please find linked below the Flu consent letter for this season. Please also note that flu vaccinations for all years will be taking place on the 26th & 27th November 2026.



<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2026/consent?v=3>

Personal Battery Chargers

Students are advised against bringing personal chargers to school site due to the possible fire risk.



Prospective Gardening Club

The Castle School

Mrs Colwill, Head of Year 11
and Year 11 Prefects are looking to run a
Gardening Club!

We are aiming to grow some fruit and veg
and flowers to brighten up reception,
student centre and learning support.

We would be grateful for donations of:

- bulbs, seeds and seedlings
which will flower/have fruit or veg
March-July

We also need some equipment if anyone
has anything they could donate:

- compost
- trowels
- gardening gloves
- plastic pots (small to medium)
- bamboo poles & netting
- watering cans

Please bring any donations
to reception





Food Bank Collection

The Castle School would like to thank all the students, parents and members of the local community that contributed to our food collection today, ahead of it being collected by the food bank to be given to those who need it most. Thank you all, this will make a big difference to many!



Extra Curricular Timetable - Term 1+2

At The Castle School, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our vibrant extra-curricular programme is designed to inspire, challenge, and empower every student to discover their passions, build lasting friendships, and develop skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

Please use the link below to see our Extra Curricular Activities for Term 1+2. [The Castle School - Extra Curricular](#)



Please note that upon clicking the yellow box on our website to access the page with our activities, you may need to zoom in due to the high volume of clubs available.

Summer 2026 Artwork Collection

GCSE & Year 13 Summer 2026 Art students, you are now able to collect your exam and coursework, please email ruth.gale@cset.co.uk to pre-arrange a convenient time to collect your work.





Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 rugby team has started their time at Castle in great fashion.

With superb numbers at training, the boys have been committed and have been superbly coached by Year 11 Bon students Will Gibbin, Connor Ball, Oscar Nguyen, Ryan Kensley and Oli Spacey (plus a couple of PE teachers!).

They started with a good showing at the Bristol Schools 7's tournament playing some tough opposition winning 1 and losing 2 games. Seb Hayes was voted player of the tournament.

Playing in regular games, they fought hard against Downend and just lost by 4 tries to 3. Isaac McDowall was voted man of the match.

Against Marlwood, the boys played some great rugby and won 8-3. Frankie Bacon was voted player of the match.



Schools Cross Country Race

The first South Glos. Schools cross country race was held at Bradley Stoke recently and Castle produced some amazing results. Well done to all runners!!!

Year 7 boys:

Theo Stevens - 1st
Oscar Payne - 4th
Josh Ferris - 5th
Jesse Harrison - 7th
Clark Hathway - 10th

Year 7 girls:

Harriet Cheaker - 27th

Year 8/9 boys:

Seb Guzman - 1st
Jacob Irwin - 4th
Lucas Adams - 5th (with no shoes!)
Fernando Zoku - 7th

Year 8/9 girls:

Molly McKinstry - 6th
Beatrix Denno - 16th
Valeria Martin - 17th

Year 10/11 boys:

Hayden Halmshaw - 2nd
Josh Neate - 3rd

Year 10/11 girls:

Grace Booth - 1st
Holly Darton - 4th
Amelia Brown - 8th
Grace Studzinski - 10th

We look forward to the Downend event and the championships at Pomphrey Hill in November.



Year 7 Netball Team

The Year 7 netball team have enjoyed a fantastic term, competing in league fixtures and proudly representing The Castle School. Throughout their matches, the girls have demonstrated resilience, determination and teamwork.

The team competed in three separate league fixtures this term, facing Chipping Sodbury, Bradley Stoke and Patchway. They showed great enthusiasm throughout, finishing with a 9–1 loss against Chipping Sodbury, an 8–8 draw against Bradley Stoke and a fantastic 4–3 win against Patchway. The girls demonstrated resilience by continuing to work hard and support one another in every match. Well done, girls, on a brilliant term of netball!



Year 13 Biology Field Trip

Y13 have been keeping busy - on their recent biology trip, completed required practical work using quadrats and transects on a rocky shore and a salt marsh. They also did a crab population study and used mammal traps, catching three voles (some students gave these names!).



Year 12 Photography Trip

The yr12 photography class spent the morning at Bristol Botanical Gardens earlier this term, creating imagery inspired by 3 artists they have been studying.

They were exploring working in natural light, having to adjust camera settings as they moved around the different environments that the gardens offer. They were impeccably behaved and fun to spend the morning with. We look forward to seeing the work they produce as a result.

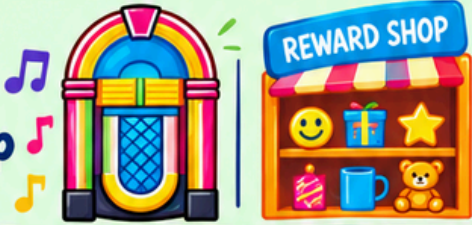




LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

in the Main Hall

Games • Music • Fun for Everyone!

Monday	Bingo	
Tuesday	Board games and cards	
Wednesday	Reward shop (Week 1) Juke Box (Week 2)	
Thursday	Juke Box (Week 1) Reward shop (Week 2)	
Friday	Karaoke	

★ ★ Come along and join in! ★ ★

From Our Community



Mojo Active Holiday Club - 1



MOJO ACTIVE Holiday Club

HOLIDAY CLUB BUILT FOR ADVENTURE.
GIVE YOUR CHILD THE CHANCE TO EXPLORE, PLAY, LEARN NEW SKILLS AND ENJOY ACTION-PACKED DAYS IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

-  LOCATED IN NORTH BRISTOL WITH 80 ACRES OF PRIVATE FIELDS AND WOODLAND.
-  WIDE RANGE OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY CHILD TO ENJOY!
-  WRAP AROUND COVER IS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM 8AM-6PM
-  OFFSITE SPECIAL DAYS WHERE CHILDREN CAN LEARN NEW SKILLS SUCH AS SCUBA DIVING OR SURFING

SCAN HERE TO DISCOVER OUR HOLIDAY CLUB



MOJO ACTIVE, OVER COURT FARM, ALMONDSBURY, BRISTOL, BS32 4QF
CALL US ON 01454 660 075

 **Ofsted**
raising standards
improving lives



Half Term Hangout Space



Good company! **THE HANGOUT** All welcome!

A relaxed half-term hangout for local teenagers

-  Drinks & refreshments
-  Board & card games
-  Crafts & creative activities
-  Chat & good company

★ Come along, bring a friend and stay for a while. ♥

No pressure. No booking.
Just a welcoming space to hang out.

 **MONDAY - FRIDAY**
26TH - 30TH OCTOBER |  **2PM - 4PM**

 **ST MARY'S CHURCH**
CASTLE STREET, THORNBURY BS35 1HQ

Your Parish Church
THORNBURY & OLDBURY





Bikeability Cycle Training

OCTOBER HALF-TERM -HOLIDAY COURSE



Monday 26th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026

Practical cycle training delivered by South Gloucestershire Council's Bikeability team for trainees who live or go to school in South Gloucestershire. Children build confidence and essential skills with qualified, DBS checked instructors.

You will need: a roadworthy bike and a correctly fitted helmet.

Courses

Learn to Ride (Year 3+)

Cannot yet ride with pedals / without stabilisers. 1.5 hrs • Playground

Level 1 (Year 3+)

Already riding without stabilisers; build confidence & control. 1.5 hrs • Playground

Level 1 & 2 (Year 5 & 6 and older)

For riders who can cycle with control. Assessment in playground then on road: road position, priorities, hazards & junctions.

Level 3 (Year 6+ with Level 2 completed)

More complex roads & traffic situations. 2 hrs

How to book:

Book online: Bikeability Holiday Cycle Training - South Gloucestershire Council

- **A non-refundable booking fee** of £5.50 applies.
- **Places are limited:** one course per child per holiday period.
- **Cancellation:** 48-hour notice required
- Bikes may be available by prior agreement; bring your own helmet.

Contact us: cycle.training@southglos.gov.uk

Locations:

Bradley Stoke Community School, Fiddlers Wood Lane, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9BS
St Michael's Primary School, Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8SG





Thornbury Town Council Newsletter



Schools Newsletter Autumn/ Winter 2026

Thornbury Town Council are taking part in some fantastic family events - here are some dates for your diary!



Streamleaze Play Area is almost ready!

Thornbury Town Council's refurbishment of Streamleaze Play Park is almost complete and it includes a brand new goal and basketball hoop combination so bring your ball for a fun game!

Freshwater Lab at Mundy Playing Fields on Tuesday 27th October 11.30am to 2.00pm

Discover the tiny animals living in our streams and ponds, learn how to care for watery wildlife and try some fun nature crafts. Find out about Water Guardians and River Detectives and hear about plans for a new natural water play facility at the Mundy. Meet at the Town Council gazebo in the Mundy Playing Fields park area. All activities are free!



Knit or Crochet a Poppy for Thornbury!

This Remembrance we hope to fill the railings outside Thornbury Town Hall with hand-knitted and crocheted poppies. Patterns are available from the Town Hall or you can create your own design. The RBL website has patterns available too!

Please bring your finished poppies to the Town Hall by **1st November 2026**. Donations to the Royal British Legion can also be made at the Town Hall.

Thornbury Round Table Fireworks on Saturday 7th November - Mundy Playing Fields.

Gates open 17.30 - late

This event raises money for local charities and good causes. It is run by Thornbury Round Table and features fantastic fireworks displays for children and adults with stalls and refreshments. Earlybird tickets: Adults £7.50 | Children £4 from Thornbury Round Table's website.



Remembrance Parade on Sunday 8th November starting at 9.30am outside Thornbury Town Hall

Thornbury's annual Remembrance Parade brings together the Town Mayor, MP, veterans, serving personnel, cadets, uniformed youth groups, local organisations and emergency services, led by the Mace Bearer and Royal British Legion Standard.

The parade will be followed by a memorial service at St Mary's Church, with wreaths laid in memory of those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts.



Thornbury Christmas Lights Association - Saturday 21st November 2pm - 7pm on Thornbury High Street

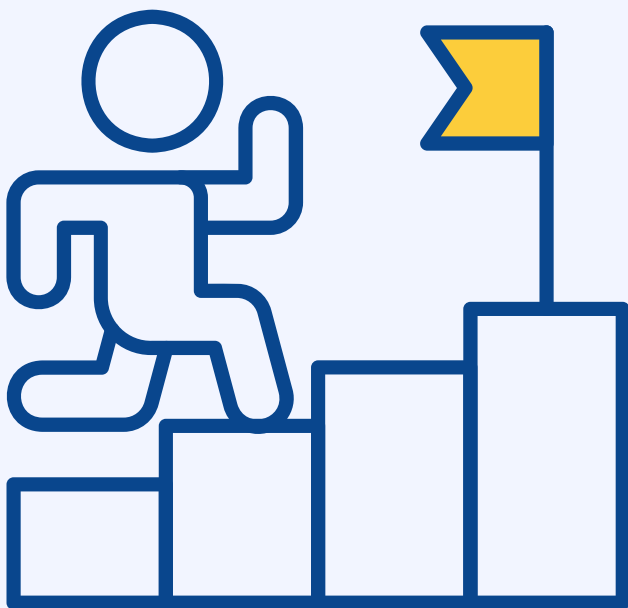
This event starts the countdown to Christmas! Held on Thornbury High Street the event features rides, refreshments and music. The Light Switch On is run by the wonderful Thornbury Christmas Lights Association. Thornbury Town Council will also have a stall with a free competition and freebies - come and say hello!



Town Hall, 35 High Street, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2AR



communications@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Mojo Active Holiday Club - 2

MOJO ACTIVE Outdoor Adventures

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
BUILT FOR BIG KIDS.**

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE CHANCE TO GET OUTDOORS. TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND ENJOY 50 MINUTES OF ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE.

- 50-MINUTE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN AGED 7-12.**
- EVERY SESSION IS DIFFERENT, WITH ACTIVITIES CHOSEN TO SUIT THE GROUP, THEIR ABILITIES AND THE WEATHER.**
- A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ARCHERY, CLIMBING, NERF BATTLES, DEN BUILDING, TUNNEL MAZE AND MORE.**
- LOCATED IN NORTH BRISTOL WITH 80 ACRES OF PRIVATE FIELDS AND WOODLAND.**

SCAN HERE TO DISCOVER OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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