



It has been a real pleasure to welcome both children and adults back to school at the start of a new year and a new term. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and happy break, with time to recharge and make special memories. A particularly warm welcome goes to the new children and adults who have joined our school community this term – we are so pleased to have you with us and already feel richer for your presence.



As always, the children have returned to school beautifully, settling quickly back into routines and throwing themselves into their new learning with enthusiasm. This half term, our whole school focus is on Creativity and the many ways we can express ourselves. We launched this theme with a whole school assembly, before exploring it further within classes. From finding inspiration in the natural world to thinking deeply about ideas, expression and imagination, it has been wonderful to see creativity coming to life across the school.

Looking ahead, this promises to be a busy and eventful term. Please do keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming dates and take a moment to read our 'Look Ahead to the Term' section, where some of these events are shared in more detail. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and catching a glimpse of the learning, creativity and community spirit that make our school such a special place.

**Chris Butler**  
Headteacher

## Look Ahead to the Spring Term

Looking ahead to the rest of the term, it is shaping up to be full of fun and engaging activities for both children and staff. There are lots of opportunities coming up for parents and carers to be part of school life, starting with our Open Class sessions. Year 4 have already enjoyed hosting their session earlier this week, and Year 3 will be welcoming parents into their classroom on Thursday 29th January. These sessions run from 9:05am until 10:00am and offer a lovely chance to join your child in a lesson, see learning in action and gain a deeper insight into classroom life. They have proved extremely popular so far and are always a highlight for both children and adults.

We are also very excited about some special events taking place this term. On 24th February, our school choir, led by Mrs Knowler, will head to The O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert as it celebrates its 30th year. The children will join thousands of others from schools across the country to sing together as one huge choir on this prestigious stage – a truly memorable experience for all involved. Later in the term, on Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day, with staff and children invited to dress up as their favourite book characters, bringing stories and characters to life around the school. Please do take a look at the calendar section at the end of this newsletter, which includes all currently booked events and important dates for the term ahead.



# Our Fantastic Forest School

Over the past few months, the children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in our Forest School, embracing the many changes that come with the transition from autumn into winter. This seasonal shift has provided wonderful opportunities for exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning.

In the earlier weeks, the children were busy collecting natural materials such as conkers, acorns, and fallen leaves, using them to create a variety of imaginative designs. As the weather became colder, their curiosity turned to the changing environment, with great excitement shown while exploring patches of ice discovered around the forest.

Despite the chillier days, Forest School remained a warm and welcoming space. The children especially enjoyed gathering around the campfire to warm up, and Ash and Year 1 were treated to a cosy end-of-term hot chocolate before breaking up for Christmas. Birch class have also been making excellent links to their classroom learning through Forest School. As part of their work on money, the children practised paying for ingredients to make hot chocolate and took part in an exciting money treasure hunt hidden around the forest, combining numeracy skills with outdoor exploration.



Tools have been a major focus and source of fascination throughout this time. The children have created an impressive range of items, including stables for horses, Christmas trees, beds for teddies, wands, and even wooden mobile phones. Clear improvements in tool use, hand-eye coordination, and problem-solving skills have been evident as the children have continued to access and use tools confidently over the last few months.

This week, Ash class brought creativity and art into the forest while learning about Jackson Pollock. The children became expressive and imaginative as they created their own paint brushes using natural materials before working together on a large-scale, Jackson Pollock-inspired artwork. This activity encouraged collaboration, confidence, and freedom of expression, transforming the forest into an outdoor art studio.

Forest School continues to be a valued and enriching experience, supporting creativity, resilience, and learning through play in the natural environment. We look forward to many more outdoor adventures in the months ahead!



# Attendance Reminders

Regular attendance is very important and essential for the continuity of your child's education.

We understand that some absences are unavoidable, for instances an illness. Please follow this link for support on how to decide whether or not to keep your child off school if they appear unwell: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

To report an absence: Please call the office, leaving a message on the attendance line, email [attendance@gg.tela.org.uk](mailto:attendance@gg.tela.org.uk) or report this via your Edulink app. Please do so before 8.30am, where possible.

**Further Information: Seasonal illness reminder** – guidance for settings and parents  
In light of the reporting of increased seasonal illness, we want to remind all parents of the key guidance available to help manage seasonal illnesses and keep all pupils, and staff, well.

- [Education Hub Blog](#): Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – please share this blog with parents and staff.
- [NHS Guidance for Parents](#): Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- [Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance](#): Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- [Managing Specific Infectious Diseases: A-Z](#): Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.

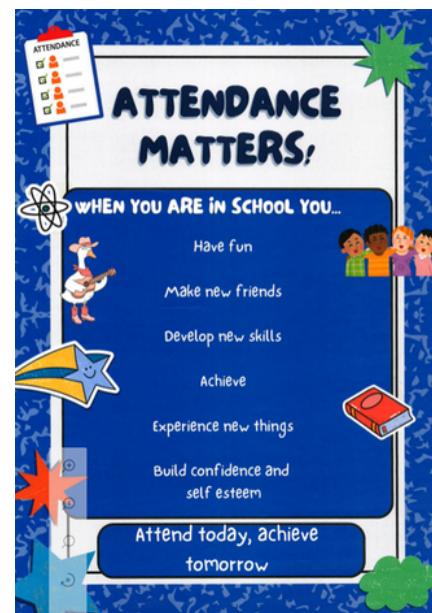


**Medical:** Where possible please book medical and other appointments outside of school hours. If, however, appointments in school ours are unavoidable, please email attendance to inform us of this in advance and where possible, attend school before and after the appointment.

**Lateness:** can also be as disruptive to your child's education as absences. Persistent lateness can add up to considerable amounts of missed learning, even 5 mins can result in approximately 3 days per academic year. Children should be in school and lined up in the playground at 8.50am to enter school with their class teacher. If for any reason your child will be late, they must come in through the office and be signed in by an adult. Please do not drop off your child in the church or main school carpark, to enter school on their own.

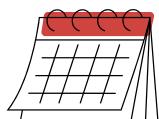
Term time leave is only permitted under exceptional circumstances and at the headteachers discretion. If you require a Leave of Absence form, please email [attendance@](mailto:attendance@) or call in the office, these should be completed and returned with, where possible, at least a weeks' notice.

**Our main aim is for staff and parents to be working together to help all children attend school happily and feel safe and supported.**





## Upcoming Dates



### January

- 28th January:** Year 5 Whipple Museum Trip  
**29th January (09:05):** Year 3 Open Class Session

### February

- 9th – 13th February:** Mental Health Awareness Week  
**16th – 20th February:** Half Term  
**24th February:** Young Voices at The O2  
**26th February:** Year 3 Sedgwick Museum Trip

### March

- 5th March:** World Book Day  
**17th March:** Year 6 Duxford Trip  
**17th March:** Parent's Evening  
**19th March:** Parent's Evening  
**25th March (2pm):** Year 2 and 3 Production  
**30th March:** Easter Holidays Start

## Celebration Assembly

Well done to all of the children who were presented with a Celebration Certificate last week.



Last week's (9th January) certificate winners are:

- Ash:** Mia and Tillie  
**Maple:** Victor and Flynn  
**Birch:** Theo and Sahib  
**Lime:** Felix and Iona  
**Cherry:** Nilesh  
**Willow:** Nane and Jacob  
**Oak:** Marife



This week's (16th January) certificate winners are:

- Ash:** Zachary and Elisse-Jade  
**Maple:** Rosellie and Dante  
**Birch:** Finnegan and Charlie  
**Lime:** Eden and Ethan  
**Cherry:** William and Penny  
**Willow:** Thomas and Celia  
**Oak:** Emaya and Brooklyn





## House Points

Congratulations to this week's House of The Fortnight: **RED HOUSE**



Here are this fortnight's totals:



329



296



257



205



info@smartkidzplayandlearn.co.uk

# WHAT?!

## OMG

## Wow!

## BOOK NOW

Ad-hoc and emergency bookings available as long as you are registered with us!

## WRAP AROUND CARE AT GIRTON GLEBE

Monday to Friday

7:30am to 18:00 (term time only)

[www.smartkidzplayandlearn.co.uk](http://www.smartkidzplayandlearn.co.uk)

WINNERS OF THE PLAY SETTING OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022



SCAN ME

  
**SMARTKIDZ**  
Play and Learn Ltd.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED FC

# SCHOOLS

## TICKET VOUCHER

### APPLICABLE FIXTURES



24TH JAN 2026  
15:00



14TH FEB 2026  
15:00



14TH MAR 2026  
15:00



21ST MAR 2026  
15:00



11TH APR 2026  
15:00

# ADULT AND U18 FOR £12!



THIS CODE ENTITLES THE HOLDER TO 1X ADULT & 1 X U18 SEATED TICKET IN THE MEAD PLANT & GRAB FAMILY SOUTH STAND FOR £12.00. THIS CODE CAN BE REDEEMED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICABLE FIXTURES VIA [CUFTICKETS.COM](http://CUFTICKETS.COM). REDEMPTIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER PERSON AND ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

PLEASE NOTE ALL FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE,  
PLEASE CHECK [WWW.CAMBRIDGEUNITED.COM](http://WWW.CAMBRIDGEUNITED.COM)  
FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.



Anglo Ruskin  
University

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## HOW TO REDEEM...

Please scan the QR code located on the front of the voucher and the code will automatically be applied to your basket, when one adult ticket and one under 18 ticket in the Mead Plant & Grab South Family Stand are added to your basket or enter the code SCHOOLS0126 at checkout, alternatively please call the Ticket Office on 01223 566500.



## HOW TO GET HERE...

The easiest way to get to the Cledara Abbey Stadium is via the Park and Ride. It costs £3.50 to get a return bus ticket from the Newmarket Road Park & Ride, which is located at CB5 8AA. After sorting your ticket/s and checking out the Kids' Zone, head for the Mead Family South Stand turnstiles, which can be found via the path which goes through Coldham's Common. If you have any queries on the day, please talk to our 'Abbey Helpers', who are dotted around the ground ready to take your questions and be of assistance.

## JUNIOR U'S KIDS' ZONE...

Once you have arrived at the Cledara Abbey, why not stop off at the Kids' Zone, which is located just outside of the Club Shop. Open from 1pm-2:45pm at every Saturday home Matchday, it features an inflatable goal, games such as Giant Connect 4, Table Football and Subsoccer, and you may even see an appearance from our First Team players! The Kids' Zone is also the place for our Junior U's to get their Matchday Passport stamped! Ask our staff about becoming a Junior U member - there are loads of fun benefits!

