Sapperton Church of England Primary School
Sapperton, nr. Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6LQ

23 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting first term of the autumn, it is wonderful to reflect on how our school continues to grow, flourish and thrive. There is a real sense of energy and possibility throughout our school as we welcome so many new faces into our community, from our youngest learners in Preschool and Reception to children joining us from other local schools. We are also so proud of all the children for showing our values so brilliantly through their kindness, openness, and in supporting the new children to settle so well.

Each child at Sapperton brings their own unique personality, talents and enthusiasm, adding something special to the life of our school. It has been a joy to see friendships blossoming, confidence growing and our children settling into school life. This is alongside building the strong sense of belonging that makes our school such a warm and welcoming place to learn. We are incredibly proud of how our school community continues to grow together, and we would like to thank all our families for being such an important part of this exciting journey.

Communicating with Parents and Carers

The new website has allowed us to create a 'News' section with details of exciting things the children have been involved in. Because of this, we have also revised our newsletter format, moving to written updates that will enable us to share news, reminders and important information more frequently and promptly. We recognise the importance of effective communication and value the strong partnership between home and school in supporting every child's success.

We have introduced an instant chat feature on our website. As this is a new addition, it is still in the early stages of development. However, we encourage you to make use of it when seeking information. We would also welcome any feedback you may have, as this will help us continue to improve its functionality and effectiveness for our school community.

Please note our main communication channels:

- Class updates and reminders: These will generally be shared via Dojo. Please ensure you are signed up and check messages regularly.
- Trips and visits: Information and consent links will usually be sent by text message.
- Website for all dates – you can download the calendar to your own device.

We are aware that some parents have not received text messages this term and Teachers2Parents have reassured us that they have resolved this. In the future, if you believe you missed a message, please do contact the school so that we can investigate the problem.

Please note, Miss Hugh does not work a Tuesday, so if you need to communicate with the office after 9:30am on this day, please telephone the school. Emails and voicemails are checked before then.

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If you need to change collection arrangements on any day of the week, please telephone the office. This is the safest way to ensure that the message has been received by the school.

Music Lessons

We have a number of children currently learning to play a musical instrument through Gloucestershire Music. Learning an instrument can be a rewarding experience and a wonderful way to develop confidence and creativity. If you would like to find out more about lessons for your child, please visit: https://gloucestershiremusic.org.uk/main-menu/gm-peripatetic-service/

Parking in Sapperton

At pick-up time, please park considerately and be mindful of other road users and the residents of Sapperton. There is a 'Keep Clear' marking at the bottom of the lane by the bus shelter, which is there for safety reasons. Please do not park in this area.

We also ask that parents and carers come into the school playground when collecting their children. This enables us to ensure that every child is safely handed over to a responsible adult before leaving the school grounds, unless they have permission to walk home independently.

Toys

Although we love seeing the children's favourite toys from home, we are always disappointed when they become lost or broken. To help avoid this, please can children leave toys at home, where they can be enjoyed safely.

Of course, if there is a specific comfort, wellbeing, or individual need that means a child would benefit from bringing an item to school, please contact the class teacher to discuss the circumstances.

T4U Shoebox Appeal

You have received a letter about this year's Shoebox Appeal. This year, we would love to beat our record of 20 boxes. Please donate items to school that we can use to fill the shoeboxes. These can be delivered to the office and the children will spend some time together making up the shoeboxes. The letter helps guide you about which sort of items to donate. This is another example of the value of generosity, justice and service being lived out at Sapperton.

Attendance

At Sapperton, we know that regular attendance is essential for children's academic achievement, social development, and emotional well-being. We are committed to supporting every child to flourish, and attending school regularly and on time plays a vital role in this.

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In line with our Attendance Policy, we will inform parents and carers when a child's attendance falls below 95%. Research shows that attendance below this level can have an impact on children's learning and overall outcomes.

We understand that periods of illness can significantly affect attendance, particularly over a short period such as a half term. However, we believe it is important to keep all families informed about their child's attendance so that we can work together to provide the best possible support and ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Breakfast Club

We are delighted that our Breakfast Club has become so popular. It is wonderful to be able to offer a calm and welcoming start to the school day for families who benefit from this wrap-around care. Wherever possible, please book places in advance. However, we understand that plans can sometimes change, and children are welcome to attend without a pre-booking if needed. To allow sufficient time to tidy up and prepare the children for the start of the school day, breakfast is served until 8:25am. After this time, we are unfortunately unable to provide breakfast.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of the Sapperton family. We wish you and your families a happy and restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 2nd November. Please see below for important updates from our FOSS team.

With best wishes,

Mrs Crampton and Mrs Cooper

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News and Updates from Friends of Sapperton School (FOSS)

A warm welcome to all our new parents and carers. For those who were unable to attend our AGM in September but would like to get involved in creating something exciting and memorable for our children, we would love to hear from you.

Please email Charlie at friends@sapperton.gloucs.sch.uk to find out more about how you can get involved. We have some exciting events coming up and would love as much support as possible from our wonderful school community. Every little bit of help makes a difference!

Christmas Wreath-Making Afternoon

Join us on **Sunday 29th November, from 4-6 pm**, at Sapperton Village Hall for a festive Christmas wreath-making afternoon.

- **Cost:** £35 per person
- **Included:** All the fun of creating your own Christmas wreath, plus a complimentary drink and mince pie to enjoy while you make.

Additional refreshments will also be available to purchase.

To book your place or find out more, please email friends@sapperton.gloucs.sch.uk or text 07718 251952.

Christmas Light Switch-On and Carols

Our magical Christmas light switch-on and Christmas carols will be returning on **10th December at 5 pm**!

We will also have a very special visitor. The main man himself, Father Christmas!

For those who weren't part of the Sapperton family last year, I can honestly say it was a truly magical evening. We can't wait to bring everyone together again for another festive celebration.

We also have a quiz planned for January and a school disco in February. More details will follow in the new year, so keep an eye out for further updates!

Why Do We Fundraise?

Our aim is to help every child create lasting memories of their time at Sapperton School. Through fundraising, we support enriching experiences, activities and events that bring our school community together and make school life even more special.

This year, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal: to raise a substantial contribution towards the school's proposed **outdoor classroom**. The school anticipates that this project will cost approximately **£20,000**, and FOSS would love to help make this exciting addition a reality.

Alongside this longer-term goal, we will continue to support enrichment opportunities and activities for all our children. Every donation, fundraising effort and helping hand brings us one step closer to making a difference.

A Message from Our Chair, Charlie

After a wonderful time as Chair of Friends of Sapperton School, I have decided that it is time for me to step down and make way for someone new, as both my children are approaching the end of their time at Sapperton.

Being Chair has been a rewarding opportunity to support our children, work alongside the school and be part of such a lovely community. We have a strong committee and a fantastic group of supportive parents and carers, and I would love to see someone new take on this role and bring their own ideas and enthusiasm.

What does being PTA Chair involve?

The Chair helps lead and coordinate the FOSS committee, works alongside the school and other volunteers, supports the planning of meetings and fundraising events, and helps the committee decide how best to use the money raised to benefit our children. Most importantly, it is about bringing people together, encouraging ideas and helping create wonderful opportunities for the school community.

You don't need to do everything yourself! The role is supported by our existing committee, and I would be very happy to help the next Chair settle into the role and find their feet. Enthusiasm, a willingness to get involved and a passion for making a difference are what matter most.

If you feel you might be ready to take on this rewarding role, or would simply like to find out more, please get in touch with Mrs Crampton or Charlie at friends@sapperton.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you to everyone who has supported FOSS so far. Whether you volunteer your time, attend an event, donate or help spread the word, your support is greatly appreciated. Together, we can continue to make Sapperton School a wonderful place for our children to learn, grow and make lasting memories.