

Date	Activity
<b>Thursdays</b>	Year 5 Swimming lessons until Easter
<b>5 Feb</b>	Feet First Festival (Selected Children)
<b>8 Feb</b>	Dental Survey (Selected Children)
<b>9 Feb</b>	Term 3 Ends
<b>19 Feb</b>	Term 4 Begins
<b>23 Feb</b>	Choir Trip to Young Voices Concert
<b>29 Feb</b>	Year 3 Trip to Cadbury World
<b>13&amp;14 Mar</b>	Height & Weight (Yr R & 6) / Vision Checks (Yr R)
<b>22 March</b>	Term 4 Ends: 2pm finish
<b>8 April</b>	Inset Day
<b>9 April</b>	Term 5 Begins
<b>w/c 13 May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATS (all Year 6 children MUST attend)</b>
<b>20-24 May</b>	Y6 Residential to Grittleton House Adventure
<b>24 May</b>	Term 5 Ends
<b>3 June</b>	Term 6 Starts
<b>19 July</b>	Term 6 Ends: 2pm finish
<b>22 July</b>	Inset Day
<b>21-25 Oct</b>	Y6 Residential to Grittleton House Adventure
<b>New Event or Change of Date/Time</b>	
<b>FOGS Event</b>	

Welcome Back and a Happy New Year to you all.

### Lunch Boxes

Children are encouraged to bring in a healthy lunch box to school. Please ensure that lunches contain some savoury items, and not too much sugary foods. Fizzy drinks, chocolate bars or sweets should not be brought in. Crisps, chocolate covered biscuits or wafers are allowed. Please no nuts or nut based products, this includes Nutella based products too.

Please think about the amount of food put into the lunchbox—please only add what your child can manage.

### Reception 2024

Reception 2024 admissions will close on midnight on Monday 15 January. If you have an older child in the school, an application will still need to be made, please also ensure that you provide the sibling details, a place is not automatically guaranteed.

If you have any queries about applying for a place at school for your child, please contact Co-ordinated Admission

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/)

**Don't be late!**  
Applications must be submitted by **15 January 2024**

Was your child born between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**?



Any child born between the above dates can start school in the school year starting from **1 September 2024**. Gloucestershire County Council co-ordinates the admission of children to primary or infant school therefore you must apply to us to receive a school place for your child by the closing date **15 January 2024**

If you have not heard from us by 1<sup>st</sup> December, you must contact us so we can send you the information you will need to apply for a school place. If you do not apply on time, you may not get a place at the school you want.

**Key dates**

November 2023 – You should receive a letter from us advising you how to apply for a school place.  
15 January 2024 – Deadline for making your application.  
16 April 2024 – Allocation Day (find out which school we can offer your child).

### Requests for Donations

Our Reception classes are looking for some good quality smallworld Toys, such as Happyland to add to their collection. If you are having a Spring Clean following Christmas and may have some of these toys that you are able to donate, please do let us know.



## Smart Watches

Just a reminder following Christmas, that whilst we appreciate that smartwatches are more accessible to children now, we would rather that they weren't worn at school. This is due to a few factors, they can cause distractions in class, some of them are of high cost value, the size of some of them and those with cameras will pose a safeguarding issue.

If they are worn, they are done so at your risk, however, if the watch was believed to have a camera on it, it would be removed from the child for safe keeping, and returned to them at the end of the day.

# Art Competition



## Landscape Artist of the Year

Draw, paint or collage your favourite landscape



All entries on A3 or smaller

**Closing date: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, entries to Mrs Migliaccio Y1B**



The Big Ambition survey has been launched by Rachel De Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, to hear from all children and young people in England aged between 6 and 19 years old. The survey closes next Friday 19 January. If you wish to take part, please visit [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Series



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[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

## What you need to know about...

# AGE RATINGS



## What are they?

### 'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

**16 & UP ONLY**

**12-15**

## Know the Risks

18+

### Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

### Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

### Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. Kudos is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

### Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, smaller development teams are sometimes reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

## Spot the Signs

### Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

### Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

### Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game without realising their inappropriateness.

### Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants to move the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in shared area where you can see the screen.

### Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping an eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been a new purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

## Safety Tips

### Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

### Review parental controls

Review your parental controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

### Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble for playing the game in the first place.

### Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

## Our Expert

Heather Cardwell



Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.

You are invited to a public share event

## A435 Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve Cycleway

Section 2 Phase 1: Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (GWSR) bridge to Bishop's Cleeve

**Where:**

Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club, Southam Lane, Southam GL52 3PE

**When:**

Thursday 25 January 2024 from 10am-7.30pm

Funded by UK Government

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

Gloucestershire County Council invites you to view details of the A435 Cycleway – Section 2 Phase 1 GWSR bridge to Bishop's Cleeve.

Section 2 of the A435 Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve Cycleway will deliver the first phase of cycling and walking improvements alongside the A435 Evesham Road between Cheltenham Racecourse Roundabout and Bishop's Cleeve, including around the GE Aviation Roundabout. This new cycleway will link into Section 1 of the scheme, from the Honeybourne Line to Cheltenham Racecourse Roundabout, which is currently under construction. Section 2 has been split into two phases, with north of the GWSR bridge (Phase 1) planned to be delivered in summer 2024 and south of the bridge (Phase 2) in the following year.

The public share event provides an opportunity to view scheme plans and details of Section 2 Phase 1 GWSR bridge to Bishop's Cleeve and meet the project team to discuss the project.

**Where:** Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club, Southam Lane, Southam GL52 3PE

**When:** Thursday 25 January 2024 from 10am-7.30pm

If you are not able to attend the Public Share Event, or wish to view the information online, all details of the scheme are available on the scheme webpage [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/a435cycleway](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/a435cycleway)

Have your say

The scheme survey will be open from 25 January to 7 March 2024.

To find out more and to complete our survey, scan the QR code or go to [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/a435-racecourse-bishops-cleeve](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/a435-racecourse-bishops-cleeve)

If you can't access the link or attend one of the in-person events, a hard copy of the survey can be requested by phoning 08000 514514.

Sign up to receive updates on the scheme as it progresses via the scheme webpage. If you have any questions, please email [majorprojects@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:majorprojects@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

We look forward to seeing you.



## Fun Science

### HALF TERM ACTIVITY CLUB



WED 14-THU 15 FEB, 10AM-3PM  
BOURNSIDE SCHOOL, CHELTENHAM

atoms reactions stars  
molecules planets  
rockets

SEE [TINYURL.COM/FEB24SCI](http://TINYURL.COM/FEB24SCI) FOR INFO AND TO BOOK PLACES NOW!

Families  
Magazines

More than 4 million parents a year rely on us to get the best out of local family life!



Here is the link to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Jan/Feb 2024](#) for you.

The Jan/Feb 2024 issue is packed full of useful information for parents including:

- How to make pancakes downloadable
- The importance of art in curriculum
- Best new books for kids around the world
- Helping your child with spelling
- And much more .....