

Newsletter / February 2026

LYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY CHILD
ACHIEVES A LOVE OF LIFE AND OF LEARNING.



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

We hope you have a lovely half term. I just wanted to send out a few reminders ready for when we return in Spring 2. We have noticed that children are not always coming to school in the correct uniform. Please see details of our expectations further in this newsletter. If you need any support with school uniform please see Nikki (Family Support Worker) who will be happy to assist you. I have included information about the importance of reading with your child. With World Book Day coming up, (5th March 2026) now is the perfect time to improve our reading habits. Thank you as always for your continued support.

READING SUGGESTIONS

- ☒ The Day the Crayons Quit by Oliver Jeffers, Cassie Roberts Year 2
- ☒ Sugarlump and the Unicorn by Julia Donaldson, Miss Armitt
- ☒ Any Bluey Book, Charley Edwards Year 2

Communication

I would like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of speaking respectfully and kindly to staff. Every member of our team cares deeply about the children and works incredibly hard to provide the best possible experiences for them. In return, we ask that all communication – whether in person, by phone, or via email – remains polite and respectful. A positive and supportive partnership between home and school makes a huge difference to our whole community.

Wrap Around Care

Wrap Around Care at Severnbanks School is available for all children at Lydney C of E.

Children are collected and transported by minibus to Severnbanks School, to play and take part in organised activities.

They are also provided with a snack and drinks.

Further details including fees and timings, can be found on our school website.

<https://www.lydneycofe.co.uk/after-school-club/>



SCHOOL NEWS

LOOK AT OUR
LEARNING!

OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS
TERM IS COURAGE

Reception

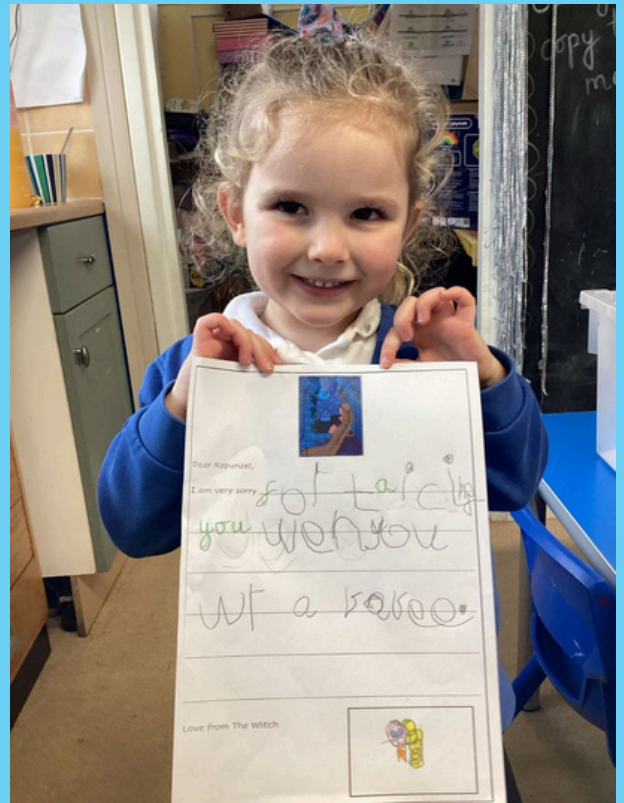
Music and Movement.
Today we performed our Jiggle
Scarf dance to Class 4.



What do many
Christians believe
about God's love?

We listened to the song Love is
something if you give it away.

We filled a heart
with red and pink
things to show love.
We then talked
about who we
might give our love
to.



SCHOOL NEWS

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Class 1



Class 2

RE -
Judaism



Class 2 have been looking at what can be found in a Jewish synagogue. They looked at different items such as the torah scrolls and at items of clothing worn by men. They created stained glass windows with Jewish symbols on, similar to the windows you might find in a synagogue. Look out for them in the windows of Class 2!

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Class 3

Class 3 learned all about the Ancient Roman army and how several factors made it so successful. We became the Roman army and practiced different formations to see how this helped protect the soldiers and make them stronger. The children followed the Latin commands for stop, go, slow down and form rows.



Class 4



To end our
archery
lessons we
held a
'Treehouse'
tournament

Well done
to Hazel
who won 2
rounds

SCHOOL NEWS

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Class 5

Thursday 5th February 2026.

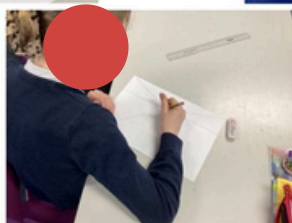
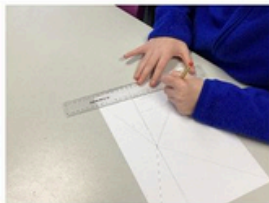


Young Minds Matter came to talk to us about
stress and how we can cope with it.

Class 6

Art & Design
Street Art: Lesson 2
12/1/25

We have been looking at using
perspective and depth to help draw 3D
style drawings of actual city streets.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Expectations

Our pupils represent the community and are ambassadors of Lydney C of E Primary School. We encourage our pupils to wear their uniform with pride. We are firm believers that school uniform encourages a good ethos, reduces bullying and enhances equality. It is our hope and expectation that all Lydney C of E Primary School pupils will wear the school uniform as follows:

- Grey or black skirt/trousers (no leggings) or pinafore dress
- White polo shirt or blouse
- Royal blue coloured 'Lydney C of E Primary School' sweatshirt or cardigan or unbranded plain royal blue sweatshirts or cardigans
- Grey, black, white or navy socks
- Black shoes or trainers (no open toe shoes or heels)
- Grey, black or white tights/socks
- Summer uniform also includes blue/white summer dresses or grey/black shorts

PE Kit

A named bag containing the following:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Black or navy shorts/joggers
- White, black or grey socks
- Black daps (plimsolls, pumps)
- Trainers



- No jewellery should be worn to school apart from a watch (not smart watches) and stud earrings.
- Long hair must be tied up for PE and no jewellery should be worn during the lessons.
- Stud earrings that cannot be taken out should be covered up with tape.
- Make up and nail varnish should not be worn.

Where to Purchase Uniform

School uniform can be ordered by following the following website addresses.

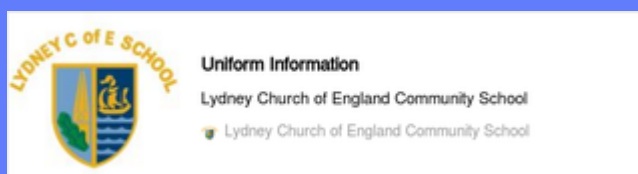
<https://myclothing.com/collections/lydney-church-of-england-community-school-vc-7519>

https://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk/school/lydney_c_of_e_community_school__lydney

At various times during the year, our Friends of School organise a used uniform sale, which is held in school, where items are sold at very reasonable prices; these will include sweatshirts, cardigans, coats etc.

Parents/carers can contact us through the school office admin@lydney.gloucs.sch.uk for any further support with uniform. We are able to get new uniform through the local baby bank for those families who need it.

Please use the following link to read our full uniform policy.



THE IMPACT OF REGULAR READING

World Book Day

- The theme for World Book Day in school this year will be bedtime stories. Children can come to school in their pyjamas. If your child does not wish to wear pyjamas, they can come in school uniform instead.
- We are planning to take each class to the local library next term where they can sign up if they have not already done so.
- We are looking for mystery readers to come and join us. If you would be interested in coming in to school to read to your child's class please let us know. Just don't tell them. It is a surprise!
- We will be running 2 competitions for World Book Day. We would like to see your children reading in the most unusual places. Please send in a picture. The most unusual will win a prize. The second competition is creating a mask using a paper plate, that will be provided, for a book character of your choice. Prizes will be given out to the most creative.



The Impact of Regular Reading

Child A



Reads **20 minutes** per day

3,800 minutes per school year

1,800,000 words exposed to per school year



Child B



Reads **5 minutes** per day

950 minutes per school year

282,000 words exposed to per school year



Child C



Reads **1 minute** per day

190 minutes per school year

8,000 words exposed to per school year



The Million Word Gap by Age 5

The number of words children will have heard by age 5 based on how often they are read to:

Child A



Never read to:
4,662 words

Child B



1-2 times per week:
63,570 words

Child C



3-5 times per week:
169,520 words

Child D



Daily: **296,660 words**

Friends of Lydney C of E

A big thanks to the friends for raising money to purchase the following things for school:

- Glockenspiels
- Bee Bots
- Sing Up membership



Thank you!

TERM 4 CLUBS

23/02/26 - 27/03/26

Monday Years 5 & 6 -
Netball (Current children keep their places)

Tuesday Years 5 & 6 -
Boys Football (Prostars)

Tuesday **ECO Council members ONLY** -
ECO Club (Current children keep their places)

Wednesday Years 1 & 2 -
Gymnastics (Prostars)

Thursday Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 -
Choir (Current children keep their places)

Thursday Years 3 & 4 -
Cricket

The clubs will be going live on Monday 9th at 6pm
on Parentpay (Closes Friday 13th)

LIMITED PLACES ON EACH CLUB

Think, Reflect
or Pray

1 Samuel
Chapter 17
Verses 16-50
Find
10 slingshots

What did you learn
about courage
from this
story?

What is your
favourite part
of the story?
Why?

How could
you be more
courageous this
week?

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COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **COURAGE**. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT COURAGE TOGETHER...

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

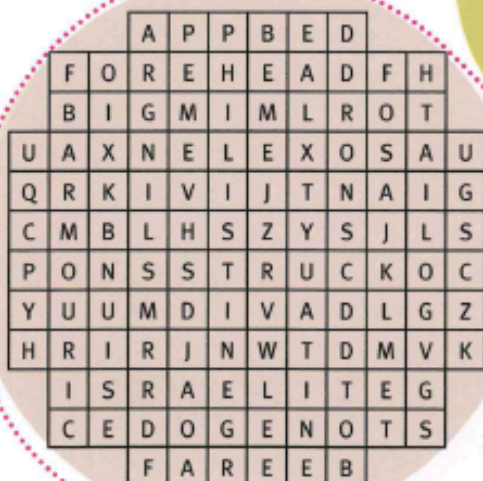
Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

Nelson Mandela



READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Whole story based on 1 Samuel 17

QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

ARMOUR

COURAGE

GOLIATH

PHILISTINE

SOLDIER

BOY

FOREHEAD

GOD

SHIELD

STONE

DAVID

GIANT

ISRAELITE

SLING

STRUCK





FAMILY FOCUS & HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Children of Courage

Each year awards are presented to children throughout the country who have shown outstanding bravery and **courage** in overcoming huge challenges in their lives. (Google 'UK children of **courage** awards' to see some examples.)

Design a nomination for a child that you know and believe should be recognised for their **courage**. Remember, there are different kinds of **courage** and different ways of showing bravery.

The nominations will be displayed in the Challenge Gallery at school.



Example Nomination sheet



Name of child who has shown **courage**

.....

Has shown **courage** by

.....

This bravery should be recognised because

.....

.....



HALL OF FAME

Bravery v. Slavery

Harriet Tubman was born nearly 200 years ago in Maryland, USA. Her family were slaves which means that they had to work for the people who 'owned' them. Slaves had no pay and no rights and they could be bought or sold like property. As Harriet grew older she was afraid that she would be sold and sent far away from her family to work for strangers. She decided to try to escape. This needed great **courage** because Harriet knew that if she was caught she would be cruelly punished. After many adventures and with the help of kind people along the way, Harriet managed to escape to Canada, where slavery was banned.

It would have been safest for Harriet to stay in Canada and make for herself a comfortable and easier life, but she was determined not to forget her family and friends who still suffered as slaves in America. She made her way back and forth to Maryland not once, but *nineteen times*, facing great danger and showing amazing bravery as she helped slaves to escape to freedom. By the end of her life Harriet had helped to free around 300 slaves!

After her death Harriet received many honours for her bravery. A ship was named after her, and in 1995 the US government issued a postage stamp to celebrate her **courageous** life.



FASCINATING FACTS

In case of emergency – Dial 999

"Help...my house is on fire!"

"Help....there's been an accident!"

"Help.... burglars are breaking into the house over the road!"

- The emergency number, 999, was introduced in London in 1937.
- In an emergency, phoning 999 will connect you quickly to an 'emergency control centre'. An operator will ask which service you need, fire, ambulance or police. The operator will be able to track your call to discover where you are and soon help will be on its way.
- Firefighters, police and ambulance crew all risk their own lives on occasions to help other people who are in danger.
- Additional emergency services operate in some places such as mountain and cave rescue, coast guards, air sea rescue.
- Over 30 million 999 calls are made each year.
- About half of all calls are hoaxes. Not only do hoax callers break the law, they put people's lives in danger as it takes longer for real emergencies to be dealt with.

KEY DATES AND INFORMATION

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:
WWW.LYDNEYCOFE.CO.UK FOR UPDATES

Policies

Policies are updated regularly. A number of school and trust policies have recently been updated and can be found on the following websites.

<https://www.lydneycofe.co.uk/policies/>
<https://www.sfat.uk/policies/>



HOMEWORK



To help your children maximise their learning potential and make the best possible progress, our teachers set homework each week that reinforces what has been taught in class. The expectation is that children complete the following homework each week:

- Read at least 4 times a week to adult which is recorded in their reading record. Reading is absolutely vital!
- Maths pages from the practice journals. This matches exactly what is taught and how it is taught in class.
- Spelling practice for spelling rules that have been taught in class that week ready for a weekly test.



Keep an eye on Seesaw.

This is our online learning platform and an important method of communication with you. You will find lots of pictures about what your child has been learning.

Healthy Eating



We understand that healthy snacks can be an important part of the diet of young people. In the Early Years and KS1 fruit and vegetables are provided as snacks. We encourage KS2 to bring in a healthy snack for morning break.

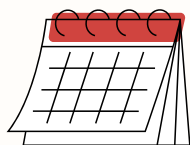
Please see the link below for advice on healthy snacks.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

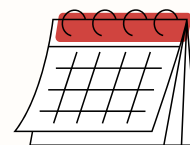


At Lydney C of E, we use Studybugs to help parents easily log absences and ensure good communication between home and school.

While Studybugs sends automated notifications, we understand that every situation is unique. The system doesn't replace the personal touch, so please feel free to call or visit the school if you'd like to discuss anything. We're here to support you in the best way possible.



CALENDAR DATES



February 2026

13.02.26 Mid-year reports to parents
Half Term 16.02.26 – 20.02.26
23.02.26 – 06.03.26 Y5 Bikeability

March 2026

17.03.26 Y5/6 Netball Tournament
25.03.26 1:45pm and 26.03.26 6pm Year 3/4 performance
26.03.26 Girls football final Milkwall or St Johns
27.03.26 My Plans sent home
27.03.26 Easter Service at St Mary's
27.03.26 My Plans to parents
Easter Holidays 30.03.26 – 10.04.26

April 2026

13.04.26 pupils return to school
14.04.26 and 16.04.26 Parents' evening
24.04.26 Y6 Houses of Parliament

May 2026

W/C 11.05.26 Y6 SATs
18.05.26 – 22.05.26– Y6 France Residential
Half Term 25.05.26 – 29.05.26

June 2026

1.06.26 Return to School
w/c 1.6.26 and w/c 8.6.26 Multiplication Times Table Check
w/c 8.6.26 Phonic Screening

July 2026

8.07.26 1:45pm and 9.07.26 Y5 & 6 evening performances 6pm
8.07.26 My Plans sent home
10.07.26 reports out to parents
15.07.26 Move up morning
17.07.26 – Leavers' service
20.07.26 Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
21.7.26 Summer Holidays