Coaley Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jen Thomas

As a family, we flourish.

Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12)

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a brand-new academic year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all of our families. It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with excitement once again, and I am delighted to share that all of the children have settled exceptionally well into their new classes. A particularly special welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families as they begin their journey with us at Coaley. We are so pleased to have you as part of the 'Coaley Family' and look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years.

Before sharing some of the exciting developments inside school, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Jones for the fantastic work he carried out over the summer holidays. Thanks to his hard work, the pathway between the main school building and The Nest has been significantly widened. We now have a wonderful, spacious pathway, improved access routes up to The Nest and a secure fence. I am sure you will agree that these improvements have already made a tremendous difference to drop-off and collection times. They will be particularly appreciated during the winter months when travelling between the school building and The Nest becomes a little more challenging. We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort invested in making this area safer and more accessible for everyone.





I would also like to thank the Lorkin family, who kindly brought their watering can into school during the summer holidays to help keep our flowers thriving at the front of the school. Those colourful displays make me smile every day, and after all of the hard work our Eco-Council put into creating and caring for them last year, it is lovely to see that they survived the summer heat thanks to some much-needed extra watering. Small acts of kindness like this help make our school such a special place.

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Inside the school, we are delighted to unveil a new space dedicated to supporting children's regulation, social, emotional and mental health, and pastoral needs called 'Hummingbirds'. This nurturing room is equipped with a wide range of resources including sensory objects, books about emotions, calming light projectors and many other supportive tools. Throughout the week, a number of children have already benefitted from spending time in this welcoming environment, and we are excited about the positive difference it will continue to make for our pupils.







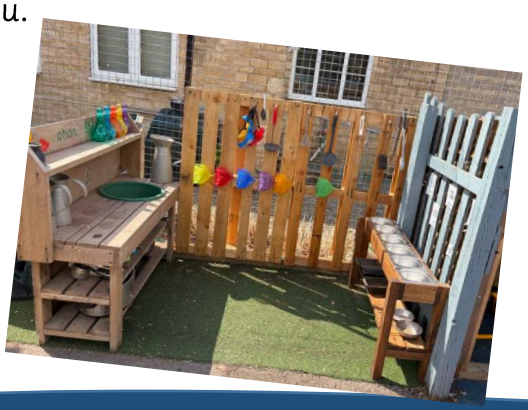
We are also thrilled to share that Robins Class has enjoyed a little classroom makeover over the summer. Our Year 1 pupils and new Reception children have spent the week enthusiastically exploring the many exciting opportunities and resources available to them. The classroom feels vibrant, engaging and full of possibilities for learning and play.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff team. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the staff who generously gave up time during their holidays to prepare classrooms, organise resources and create such inviting, nurturing learning environments. Their commitment to ensuring every child returned to a welcoming and inspiring school has been truly remarkable.

Thank you also to all the parents who attended our Parent Welcome Meeting this week and last. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and to share our plans and priorities for the year ahead. If you were unable to attend, please do not worry. Feel free to get in touch and I will be happy to share the key updates and information with you.







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Finally, I would like to thank all parents for your commitment to promoting strong attendance and for the support you continue to provide. I am delighted to report that our punctuality rates are the strongest they have been at the start of an academic year. This means that nearly every child is arriving at school on time every day, ensuring that learning begins promptly and that children start each day positively alongside their classmates. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the strong partnership between home and school.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, encouragement and commitment to our school community. Working together, we can provide the very best experiences and opportunities for all of our children, and I am excited about everything that lies ahead this year. Here's to a wonderful 2026-27 academic year at Coaley!

Best wishes,

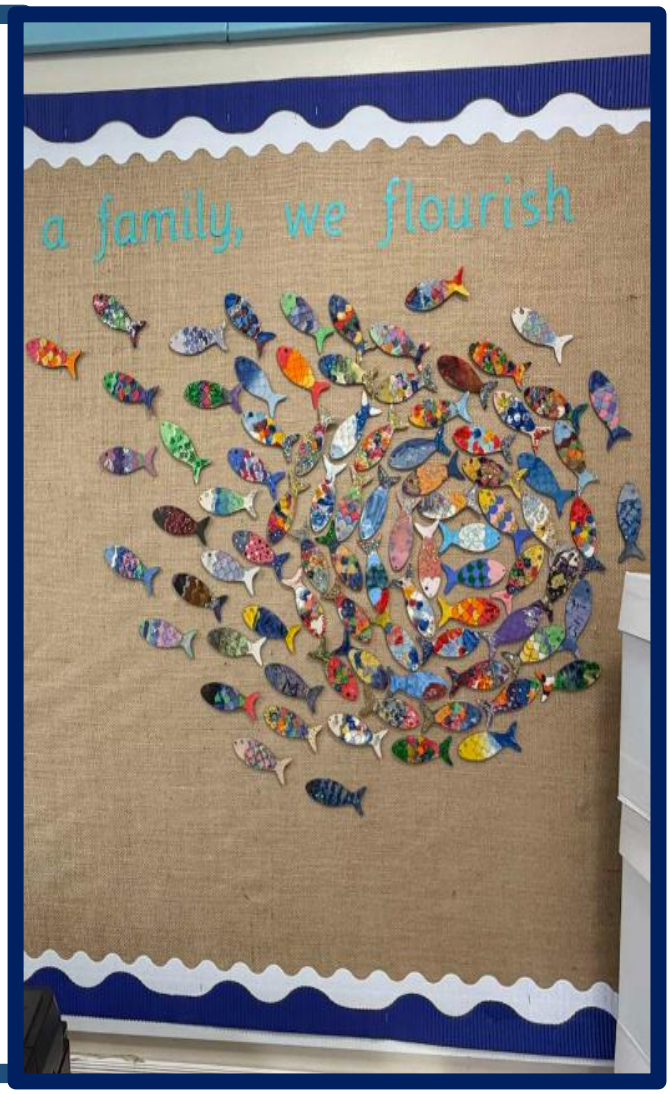
Miss Thomas

As a family, we flourish

This week in school, we have been exploring our vision, "As a family, we flourish." Last year, we reflected on how our school community is like a school of fish. While every fish is unique, they swim together with a shared sense of purpose, supporting and protecting one another. A lone fish can become vulnerable, but a school of fish finds strength, safety, and direction through belonging and working together.

To bring this vision to life, every child decorated a wooden fish, creating the start of a beautiful display in our hallway. Over the next couple of weeks, our Reception children will add their own fish, and parents will have the opportunity to decorate one during our forthcoming coffee mornings.

Fish are an important symbol in the Bible, reminding us of Jesus calling His disciples to follow Him and live in community. Just as Jesus gathered people together to support, care for, and encourage one another, our fish remind us that we are stronger when we journey together. Each fish is unique, but together they form something far greater, symbolising how, as a school family, we grow in faith, kindness, and love, and truly flourish together.



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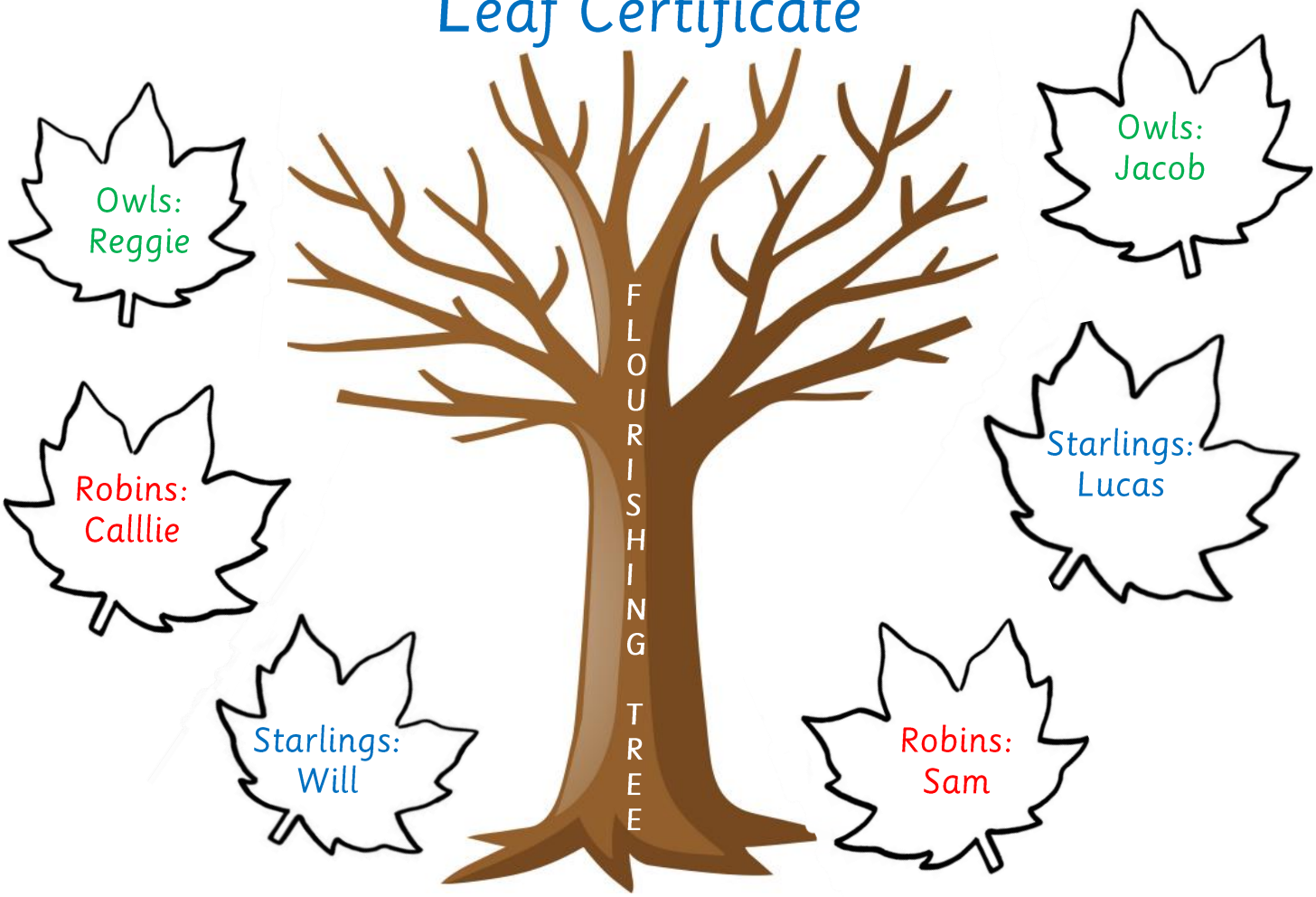
Leaf Certificate

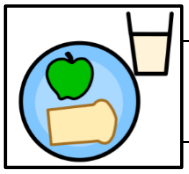


Values Certificate



Robins	James	Evie
Starlings	Cleo	Lana
Owls	Thea	Ruby

Lunchtime Certificate



Leo W

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THE DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER ACADEMIES TRUST
unlocking potential

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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.

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If ever you are unsure about whether you should keep your child off school, please use the guidance below to help make your decision.

Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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THE DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER ACADEMIES TRUST unlocking potential

DIG DEEPER
LOOK CLOSER
THINK BIGGER

DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

Enter here

Win prizes in art and poetry

Children and young people across Gloucestershire are invited to celebrate Black History Month 2026 through poetry, creative writing and art.

Black History Month is a celebration of the achievements, stories and experiences of Black and Brown people throughout history and today. It encourages us to learn from the past, recognise contributions that have shaped our communities, and work towards a more inclusive future.

You might think about people like Mary Seacole, Usain Bolt, President Barack Obama and Naga Munchetty, or perhaps leaders and people you admire from your own community.

Ages 7-11: Create a poem or picture about a Black or Brown person who inspires you. — Top prize: £20 voucher

Ages 12-15: Explore the history of a Black or Brown person or group through art or poetry. — Top prize: £30 voucher

Ages 16-18: What does *Dig deeper, look closer, think bigger* mean for our community? Share your ideas creatively. — Top prize: £40 voucher

Prizes will be awarded in both the art and poetry/creative writing categories.

- A poem or creative writing piece (up to 500 words)
- A drawing, painting, collage or other artwork
- Or both if you would like to.

Closing date: Midnight, 23 October 2026
Winners announced: November 2026
Enter online at:
gloucester.anglican.org/2026/big-ideas-bold-stories-brilliant-prizes