



Friday 9th May

VE Day

What a wonderful celebration we had yesterday. It was great to see all the red, white and blue worn by everyone for the day. Along with learning about the day in our classes, we came together in the hall with our friends from Cabin and sang songs from WW2. We held a one-minute silence as a mark of respect for those who fought and those who lost loved ones. We gave three cheers for our freedom today and then enjoyed a fairy cake, which the children had iced earlier in the day.



Lunchtime Supervisor

We are sorry to say that Ms Sherlock will be moving on from the end of the month. We would like to thank her for all she has done for us over the past few months and wish her the best of luck in her next adventure.

We therefore have a vacancy and would like to ask if you, or anyone you know, would like to join the team in looking after the children at lunchtimes. Please contact the office for more details.

Census Day – Thursday 15th May

Menus have been swapped round for Census day so fish fingers will be on the menu on Thursday 15th May instead of Friday 16th. Please encourage your child to have a school meal on Census day, it makes a difference to the funding we receive in school!

Whole School Tea Towels and Coasters

A reminder to order tea towels and individual pupil coasters via ParentMail. Please note the order deadline is Sunday 11th May 2025.

Football tournament

The year 3/4 team that went to Tuesday's tournament at the Oratory were brilliant and tried very hard in warmer weather than was expected.

We finished 2nd overall in the A competition ahead of Goring and behind Whitchurch.

The Olympic Value Medals went to Alfie for his sheer effort and determination on the pitch and in goal and Sophia for her constant support and encouragement for her teammates.

We were all very proud of them.



Class Updates

<p>Oak</p>	<p>Oak class have been very excited this week to see that the seeds which they planted have started to grow. They also really enjoyed learning some old songs to sing at our VE day celebration yesterday afternoon. We were very impressed at how well they learnt the words and joined in with the singing. Ask them to sing to you at home! We are still working really hard at school on our writing and the children made some brilliant notes for their year 6 buddies. Any help that you can give the children at home with their writing would be amazing as they just need lots of practice. They are working on being confident to write 3 letter words like cat, dog, mat, pen, pot etc by themselves. So they need to hear the word, then sound it out c-a-t, and then write it down remembering how to form the letters. You could get them to do invisible magic writing in the air, write with coloured pens, on a white board or etch a sketch, in some flour when you are cooking- anything which makes it fun. In maths we have been thinking about the position of numbers on a number line and getting more confident with numbers from 10 to 20. Our next stay and play will be on Tuesday 20th May from 8.35 to 9am so we look forward to seeing anyone who can make it then. Have a lovely weekend.</p>
<p>Hornbeam</p>	<p>In hornbeam this week we have all transformed into authors. After learning the story 'Where the Wild Things Are' over the past two weeks, this week we created our own versions. The children took on the role admirably, changing the character, the destination and the method of travel and it was wonderful for them to showcase their skills. In maths, we have been learning how to count on in groups of 2, 5 and 10 - learning accompanying songs to help us remember. In Science we spoke about what plants need to grow, we then planted our own sunflower seeds into a small pot to see which one will grow the tallest. Finally, on Thursday we enjoyed the VE day celebrations with the rest of the school. Learning about how children were evacuated in the war and sent to live in the countryside, looking at the</p>

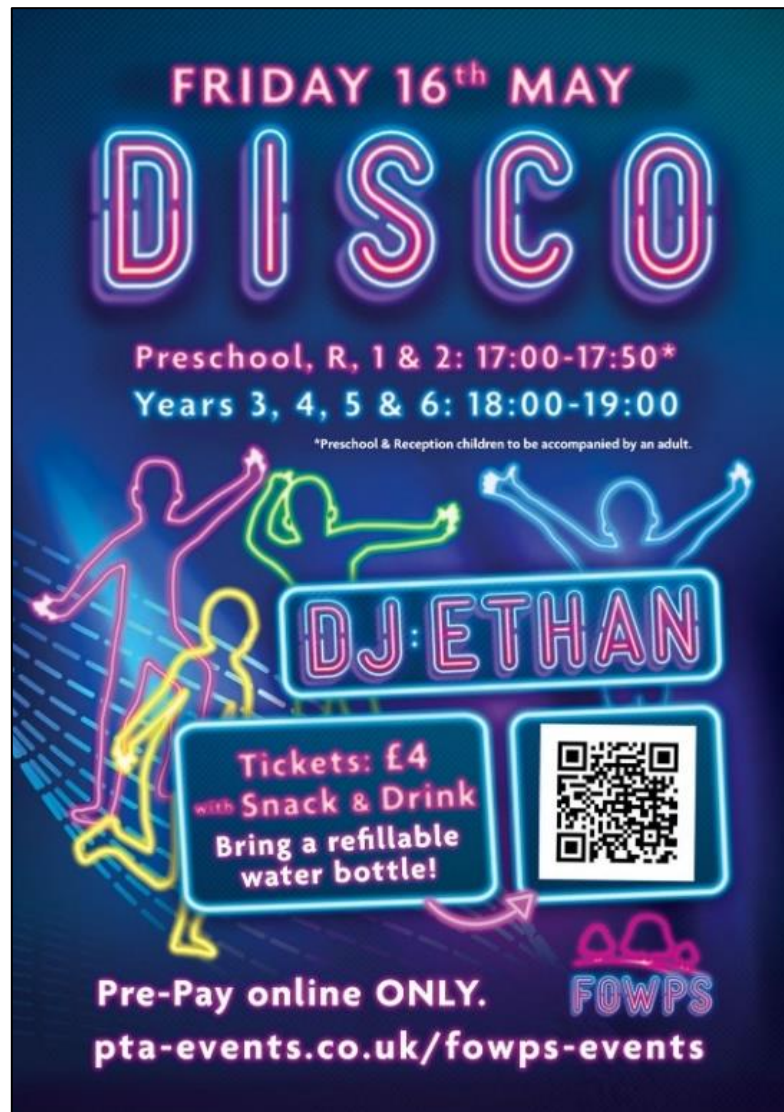
	Union Jack and how it represents the United Kingdom and finally how families 80 years ago celebrated victory in Europe.
Beech	Beech class drew their own dragons this week and described them using a range of ambitious vocabulary. In maths, we have continued our work on fractions and solved some tricky word problems. We have finished our unit about telling the time and have now started a new unit learning about representing data in different ways. In science, we described the life cycle of a bean and then planted broad beans in different conditions. We made predictions about which seeds will germinate and then grow healthily. In P.E we are getting really good at a range of skills in tennis including throwing, catching and returning the ball. In PSHE, we used drama to explore how to solve problems at playtime. We finished off the week with some wonderful VE day celebrations. The children learnt about the history of the second world war as well as singing some war time songs.
Ash	Despite the shorter week, we have been very busy in Ash Class. We have continued to monitor and record the development of our broad bean seeds, as part of our Science work on plants. We have also carried out an investigation to look at how the water is pulled into the plant through the stem and thought about the job of the leaves for photosynthesis. In History, we have looked at primary sources of evidence to consider what they definitely tell us about life in the Stone Age and what we can deduce from them. And in French, we have started to learn about Ma Famille and introducing some family members.
Rowan	This week in Rowan we baked scones. We then enjoyed eating them with jam and cream – they were delicious. We have also continued learning about the Romans, thinking about what Britain was like before the Roman invasion. We imagined we were Roman spies and thought about what we would see. We thought there would be hill forts, no roads, roundhouses and lots of tribes. Have a lovely weekend all!
Maple	We have had a great week here in Maple Class squeezing a lot into four days! In English we've been continuing with our time-slip stories. We were hearing snippets today and some of the amazing language that your children write with is incredible! Maths has seen us move onto percentages and how they link to decimals and fractions. We've now got a pretty good idea, but we'll keep working on them next week. The biggest event this week of course was our VE day celebrations. This was especially interesting to us of course as we've been studying WW2. It was great seeing some of the ways people celebrated the end of that terrible war. We also fully enjoyed our cupcakes and singing some traditional songs from that time! We wrapped up our week with some rounders in the sun and a visit from the Y1 children who came to share some of their stories they've been writing! Altogether, another great week!
Willow	This week has been about celebrating VE Day with a bit of baking and singing and also about making sure all of the children feel confident about next week's SATs. We have discussed all the areas of the curriculum they feel worried about and reminded ourselves of how much we've learnt this year. Over the weekend do the things that make you happy (obviously check this with your parents!) Go out on your bikes, go for a walk, see friends or just relax. Revise if you want to but remember you've worked hard so have a break too. Get plenty of rest (this is not an excuse to get out of chores), eat well and try to go to bed early throughout the weekend. We'll see you bright and early on Monday morning (8.20am – at the front entrance of the school) ready for breakfast.

Important dates

Monday 12 th May – Friday 16 th May	SATs week for Year 6 children
Friday 16 th May	FOWPS disco with DJ Ethan
Mon 19 th May – Fri 23 rd May	Year 6 Residential
Tuesday 20 th May	Oak class stay & play 8:35 – 9:00am
Friday 23 rd May	FOWPS Non-uniform day in exchange for Bottle tombola donations
Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May	May Half Term, School closed
Thursday 5 th June	Class photos
Friday 6 th June	Year 2 & 4 After School Cake sale – all nut free donations appreciated.
Friday 13 th June	FOWPS Non-uniform day in exchange for sweet treats, no chocolate or nuts.
Tuesday 24 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 26 th June	Back Up Sports Day
Saturday 28 th June	FOWPS Community Coffee Shop @ The Old School House
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 6 play
Thursday 10 th July	Year 6 play
Friday 11 th July	Years 3, 5 & 6 Cake Sale
Thursday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' assembly 9:30am
Friday 18 th July	End of term, 1pm finish
Monday 21 st July	INSET day
Tuesday 22 nd July	INSET day
Wednesday 3 rd September	Children return/start the Autumn Term

FOWPS Update

Our next FOWPS Disco with DJ Ethan is fast approaching on Friday 16 May. If you can spare even just 1 hour to help make this event happen, please volunteer here: [School Disco 16 MAY](#)



Other News

Madden Swim School are excited to announce details of their Summer 5-Day Swimming Crash Course, designed to give swimmers a boost in skills and confidence over the holidays. The course will run from July 28th to August 1st at the following locations and times:

- Downe House School Pool, Cold Ash near Thatcham - 9:00am, 9:30am, and 10:00am
- The Oratory School Pool, Woodcote near Reading - 2:00pm, 2:30pm, and 3:00pm

The cost for the full 5-day course is £65 per swimmer. The intensive courses consistently deliver impressive progress, and they're excited to support your children in reaching their swimming goals.

For further details, please email julie@maddenswimschool.co.uk