



**Friday 10th October**

### **World Mental Health Day**

Today we celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow. Each of the classes completed a range of activities that helped them understand ourselves, our brains and how we can help to look after ourselves. Ellie Mae from year 6 bravely stood up and spoke to everyone about her thoughts on this subject.



### **Harvest**

Thank you to those who sent in harvest donations. The boxes were delivered, by Willow Class, around the village yesterday. We have already received several thank you notes from the people we visited. We also enjoyed a whole school harvest service at St Leonard's church earlier this week led by Reverend Benskin.



### **Warning - Spy Dog children's book.**

We have been contacted by Oxfordshire Libraries Operations to inform us that there is a problem with the latest series of Spy Dog books. The website link that is in these books has been hacked and re-directs to a pornographic site. Apparently the publisher of the current books are recalling them. Please check your child's book if they read this series.

### **School Photographs**

We hope that you are pleased with the school photographs that were sent home earlier this week. All orders must be placed online or returned to the school office by no later than Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Year 6**

A reminder that the closing date for applying for your child's secondary school place is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please click on the link below:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications>

### **Year 5 Bikeability on Wednesday & Thursday next week**

A reminder to read the ParentMail which was sent out yesterday.

### **Thames Valley Police Christmas Card**

Thank you to the children who entered the Christmas card competition and we wish them the best of luck.

### **Class Updates**

<b>Oak</b>	The children all enjoyed walking to the church for our harvest celebrations on Tuesday and were all super sensible and listened brilliantly. We were very proud of them. This week they have been busy learning the letter i and practising writing all the letters we have learnt (s, a, t, p and i). The children are very pleased that they can now sound out and blend together the sounds they know in order to read some simple words by themselves eg sat, pat, tap, pit. They are ready to take home either a reading book or a simple word reading activity. Please can all book bags be brought into school on Monday each week, we will collect them in and return them on Tuesday with their reading activity for the week. In maths we have been doing lots of counting and recognising how many items are in groups of up to 5 objects without having to count them (subitising). They have also really enjoyed making magic sand, painting and doing lots of construction and role play. We hope you have a good weekend.
<b>Hornbeam</b>	This week PCSO Haynes came to visit the children. The children had prepared questions in advance which they asked. Following on from the visit the children have been writing thank you letters and writing about what they had learnt from her visit. In Maths we have been working on part whole models and fact families. In Science we have been learning about skin and continuing our work on the senses, this week we talked about touch. Have a lovely weekend.
<b>Beech</b>	Beech class enjoyed the whole school Harvest festival service at the church. We all sang beautifully and shared the prayer tree we made with Mrs Thorne. In English, we have started exploring autumn performance poetry. We analysed 'The Fieldmouse' poem and had a go at performing a verse with actions. We have also been out in the school grounds on a senses walk, thinking about what the field mouse might see, hear, smell, feel and taste. In maths, we found missing numbers and have continued to practise our 10x table. We have also been counting edges and vertices on 3D shapes. In science, we loved testing which exercise affected our heart rate the most using stopwatches. During computing, we used the internet to research the life cycle of different animals and drew diagrams with our partner. In phonics, we have been learning

	homophones. Please can everyone have a go at these spellings in their orange spelling book (pages 19 and 20).
<b>Ash</b>	<p>This week in Ash Class, we baked bread for our harvest festival in the church. We have been looking at addition in Maths and using our knowledge of number bonds to ten to look at adding tens and hundreds. In Geography, we have used 4-digit grid references to locate items on maps of the Thames.</p> <p>Please can we repeat our request from last week for junk modelling materials to make some river models in the last two weeks of term. We would really appreciate donations of clean cardboard such as cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes, egg boxes and small, clean yoghurt pots etc. Thank you in advance.</p>
<b>Rowan</b>	<p>This week saw Rowan walk down to the church with the rest of the school to celebrate harvest. We shared in the singing of songs and hymns, and listened to the other classes present information and fun facts related to harvest round the world and across the years.</p> <p>Our contribution was the closing prayers which we wrote together. These should be in the front entrance should you wish to read them.</p> <p>We have continued with our science topic of sound, investigating how pitch can be changed by altering the size or length of the sound source. Talk to your child about this and ask them to demonstrate one of the investigations they carried out. As always we ask that you read frequently, and practice those times tables!</p>
<b>Maple</b>	<p>Another fantastic week in Year 5! English has seen us plan and start writing our own Norse myths. One story sends Thor to escape fire giants, another has Loki stealing Odin's staff while a third has a battle between the gods and an army of monsters! We're planning to type up and share our stories as soon as they're done so keep an eye out for those! In Maths we've moved on to calculation, this week reminding ourselves of the rules for column addition. We'll be looking at this plus all the other calculation methods over the next few weeks. In Topic we explored the relics found at Sutton Hoo, trying to become archaeologists ourselves while Science had us think about buoyancy and how we can design a boat that could carry the most weight. We wrapped up the week by continuing to plan and prepare for our own Christmas decorations we will print on the 3D printer before finishing off with rewriting a classic nursery rhyme on our ukuleles. Ask your children all about it!</p>
<b>Willow</b>	<p>This week we loved walking our Oak buddies to church and sharing our Harvest research with the rest of the school. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to all the other classes and joining in 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' with Oak. In Maths, we have looked at square and cube numbers, using multi-link to help us. It was great fun and helped us make the link with geometry and the real world. In English, we have continued to write our autobiographies and aim to complete these next week. Thank you for all the lovely pet pictures for the Domain homework in Science - these will now be displayed in the classroom.</p>
<b>Lunchtime News</b>	<p>Thanks to the mild weather the children were able to run on the field, play on the trim trail and practice gymnastics on the climbing frame. They were curious about the surprising number of ladybirds and white aphids (their primary food source) which thrive in warm, humid conditions. Some of the younger children were concerned that ladybirds might be poisonous and were reassured to learn that they're not. We all gave a warm welcome to Mrs Cust who has joined our LTS team.</p>

### Important dates

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Oxford Half Marathon – Schools challenge – 7,30am meet!
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Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	FOWPS Disco
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening – 15:30 – 18:00
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Flu immunisations
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Open Morning 9:30am & 11:00am for Reception children September 2026
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 2/3 Cake Sale – remember your nut free cake donations.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents Evening – 15:30 – 19:00
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – School closed
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Autumn Half term
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Closing date for Year 7 secondary school places closes
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning 9:30am & 11:00am for Reception children September 2026
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	FOWPS AGM @ 7:30pm in the school hall
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	FOWPS Community Coffee Shop
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	FOWPS wreath making workshop in school
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1&2 Christmas performance – pm, exact time to be confirmed
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Cabin & Oak class performance @ 2:00pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	FOWPS Christmas Fair
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 & 4 Cake sale
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term – 1:00pm finish
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	Young voices – Yrs 5 & 6
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	National Offer Day for Secondary school places

## **FOWPS News**

### **Disco Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Disco tickets can now be purchased via the link below.

**<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=103851>**

We also need volunteer helpers to enable this event to take place, please sign up below. Thank you for your support.

Volunteer Sign up for Disco: [School Disco 17th October 25](#)

## **Other News**

**Museum & Art Swindon - see the attached flyer for details of half-term activities**

### **Cross country event on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

The Oratory School is delighted to be part of the Prep and Primary School Cross Country circuit organised by Kevin Nutt at MECE for another year.

We are really excited to welcome runners to The Oratory School on the **afternoon of Saturday 29 November**. As a slight change to other locations, we will be starting from 1.00pm with the Year 1 race and continue throughout the afternoon up to Year 8 which will take place at approximately 2.45pm. Please see the flyer for more information and race start times.

No pre-registration is required, families are welcome just come along on the day.

We would be most grateful if you could add this flyer to your newsletters and parent communications and circulate to families that you think would be interested.

Refreshments will be available from the [Butterfly Community Cafe](#). All funds go directly to this charity which aims to teach life skills to young people with severe/specific learning disabilities.

We look forward to welcoming everyone for a really fun afternoon!



THE ORATORY

# CROSS COUNTRY



**SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER**

We're delighted to be hosting a cross country race on Saturday 29 November for children in Years 1–8 from any school.

#### Approximate Race Timings:

- Year 1 – 1.00pm
- Year 2 – 1.15pm
- Year 3 – 1.30pm
- Year 4 – 1.45pm
- Year 5 – 2.00pm
- Year 6 – 2.15pm
- Year 7 – 2.30pm
- Year 8 – 2.45pm

Please arrive **at least** 15 minutes before your race starts.



Please note that by competing in the race, you give consent for your child to be photographed and shared on social media and in any associated press coverage.

**The Oratory Senior School  
Woodcote  
Oxfordshire  
RG8 0PJ**

- Car parking and start line will be signposted.
- Refreshments available throughout the afternoon.
- No need to pre-register, we look forward to welcoming you on the day!

**FOR ANY QUERIES, PLEASE EMAIL [S.TOMLINSON@ORATORY.CO.UK](mailto:S.TOMLINSON@ORATORY.CO.UK)**