



Friday 7th November

Welcome back, we hope that you all had a lovely half term break. Congratulations to Mr Neal and his wife after the birth of his beautiful baby boy, Joshua.

FOWPS

Please read the contribution from FOWPS in their section at the end of this newsletter. We are very, very lucky to have them raise funds and seek grants in order to support your children at school. However, the committee numbers are now down to only 5! In order for the Discos, Fairs, Summer Bounces and other events to take place across the year, they really need some help. In return you will help to raise vital funds for school. If you have any time, even just a couple of hours, please talk or email them directly on fowps-pta@googlegroups.com. So many school fundraising groups have had to close, please don't let FOWPS be one of them!

Please come along to the Wreath Making Event on Monday 5th December from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. A very social, fun and practical event!

Year 1 Parents' Evenings

Please see the separate ParentMail sent to all year 1 parents.

Parental Contributions to support the school

Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Lunchtime Role

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Adele Cust to the Lunchtime Team.

We are seeking a second friendly and able person to work within the Lunchtime Supervision Team. This role could be part-time. Please let us know if you would like further details.

Children In Need

Children are invited to dress down on Friday 14th November but wear yellow in exchange for a minimum donation of £1.00. There will also be a cake sale during the day so children will need a minimum of 50p to buy a cake. We cannot do a cake sale without the donation of nut free cakes though, so all donations are appreciated. All money raised goes to Children in Need.

Parkrun

We are really excited to be taking the school to Prospect parkrun on Sunday 16th November. Details as per the attached leaflet. We will be doing a practise parkrun next week where the children will carry out all the roles involved in parkrun - timekeeping, marshalling, handing out tokens and tail walking. We look forward to seeing you and your child at Prospect on 16th, remember you can volunteer to help out by emailing prospectjuniors@parkrun.com and tell them you're with Woodcote Primary School.

Uniform

We have noticed that a number of children are wearing school fleeces in school instead of jumpers. Fleeces should be essentially for outside use and jumpers should be worn in school. Also trainers are not part of the school uniform and all children should wear school shoes. Thank you for your co-operation.

September 2026 applications for Reception class are now open!

Applications for Reception places for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31st August 2022 are now open. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2026**.

We strongly encourage families to apply online via the following link: [Reception applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Key reminders for parents:

- Read the Starting School Guide on the website
- Apply on time – late applications won't receive an offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2026)
- Update addresses – upload proof of address and inform current nursery/school (if there has been a change)
- Include sibling details where relevant
- List multiple preferences – up to four schools can be selected

Late applications are far less likely to secure a place at a preferred school, so it is important that you apply on time.

Before and After School clubs

We still have spaces on some of the Before and After School clubs. If interested please sign up via ParentMail.

Royal British Legion Poppy appeal

Poppies etc. will be sold in the playground at drop off and pickup next week. Your kind donations help the British Legion to provide invaluable support to the Armed Forces community.

Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property. Please do come in and have a look through it if you are missing anything. Please remember to label your child/rens items so we can easily identify who they belong to.

Class Updates

Oak	We hope you all had a good half term. The children have all come back happy and ready to learn. This week they have enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and bonfire safety. We learnt some songs, talked about the sounds that fireworks make and had a go at writing words for the sounds. We have been learning the letter d this week. See if the children can show you how they can write it. In maths we have been thinking about comparing 2 quantities using the words more than and fewer than. This is something you could try at home eg who has more carrots? This term our PE will be on a Thursday so please make sure that PE kits are in school. Have a lovely weekend.
Hornbeam	We have had such a busy week back in Hornbeam. This week we have celebrated bonfire night, we have used this as a focus to much of our learning. We firstly learnt about the origin of fireworks night, learning the story of Guy Fawkes and his intention to blow up the Houses of Parliament. In Art, we then created chalk images of fireworks exploding in the sky. In English, we are writing a firework poem, thinking about the shapes, colours and noises fireworks make. In RE, we have been learning about all sorts of celebrations celebrated across a variety of religions and cultures.
Beech	We enjoyed learning about firework night this week. After learning about the story, we created some firework art with Mrs Thorne. In English, we drew onomatopoeia words in interesting ways and coloured them in. We then used

	<p>our senses to describe fireworks and write a shape poem. During singing assembly, we also sang some firework songs. In maths, we have been comparing and ordering numbers. We are continuing to practise our 2x table. In science, we sorted healthy and unhealthy foods and had an interesting debate about which foods could be healthy and unhealthy. We have started our history topic in which we will be learning about the history of different types of transport, including flight, which will also be our DT focus this term. The curriculum map and homework menu have gone home in book bags. We have also put this up on the school website. Please check your child's orange spelling book to find this week's spellings to practice.</p>
Ash	<p>We have started to look at skeletons as part of our science topic this term; thinking about vertebrates and invertebrates and looking further to classify animals with endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons. During our English lessons, we have started our new class book 'The Egyptian Cinderella' and thinking about traditional tales. And in PSHE and one of our PE lessons this week, we discussed respectful listening and communication and looked at how we could use this to design playground games in small groups. Our PE lessons have moved to Tuesdays and Thursdays this term but please can we have PE kit in school all week. Many thanks.</p>
Rowan	<p>This week, Year 4 have been learning about child labour during Victorian times. We explored the various jobs that children used to do and discussed how life began to change when children's rights were introduced. In maths, we have been practising column addition with exchanges, and in English we focused on Remembrance Day. You can see our beautiful suncatcher poppies displayed in the classroom window. We also discovered that there are four different coloured poppies, each representing something special – ask us to tell you about them!</p>
Maple	<p>It's been another exciting week here in Maple Class! In English, we've been learning all about non-chronological reports – the children have impressed us with how well they can identify the different features within example text. Over in Science, we've been thinking about growing up and how our bodies change as we get older, with lots of thoughtful discussion and sensible ideas shared. In Computing, Maple Class became designers and engineers as they created their own boat models using 3D modelling software – there were some truly inventive designs on show! To round off the week, our ukulele sessions have been full of energy as we've been practising <i>The Woodcote Song</i> – it's really starting to sound fantastic. As always, the Year 5 team have been so proud of the children's focus, creativity and teamwork. Well done, Maple Class – what a brilliant week!</p>
Willow	<p>Welcome back everyone! It was great to see everyone and hear what fabulous Half Term adventures children had got up too.</p> <p>The weather has definitely taken a turn so we'd like to remind everyone to bring their PE kits in on Mondays, this is not only so we can go for our run, but change into them if our shoes are overly muddy from our walk to school. This week the pupils did well in their Puberty session, listening well and asking a whole range of questions. We have encouraged the children to also discuss what they learnt with you but not younger children. In English we have looked at the poem 'Exposure' by Wilfred Owen as we head towards Remembrance day. We were a little shocked to hear some of the conditions in the WW1 trenches. We have also practised our recital of 'In Flanders Fields' ready for when we head to the War Memorial on Tuesday. We have learnt about the names on the Memorial and about some of the people who are listed there. Again, we were shocked and saddened, to discover the ages of some of these people. In Maths, we continued to learn about the relationship between multiplication and division.</p>

Important dates

Saturday 15 th November	FOWPS Community Coffee Shop
Wednesday 19 th November	Year 5 trip to Earth Trust – details sent via ParentMail
Friday 5 th December	FOWPS wreath making workshop in school from 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Monday 8 th December	KS1 dress rehearsal
Wednesday 10 th December	Year 1&2 Christmas performance – pm, exact time to be confirmed
Thursday 11 th December	Cabin & Oak class performance @ 2:00pm
Friday 12 th December	FOWPS Christmas Fair & Grotto
Monday 15 th December	KS2 Carol concert – time to be confirmed
Wednesday 17 th December	Wear your Christmas jumper to school day
Thursday 18 th December	Year 1 & 4 Cake sale
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term – 1:00pm finish
Thursday 15 th January	Deadline for September 2026 reception class applications
Friday 23 rd January 2026	Young Voices – Years 5 & 6
Monday 2 nd March	National Offer Day for Secondary school places
Thursday 16 th April	National offer day for reception class September 2026
Monday 1 st – Friday 5 th June	Year 6 Residential to Liddington

FOWPS News

FOWPS AGM Update

We'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support FOWPS throughout the year. Whether you attend events, donate prizes, or help out on the day, your involvement makes a real difference to our school community.

Volunteering is not the icing on the cake of society; it is a key ingredient of the cake itself and school PTA's are no different.

Unfortunately, we had only one parent attend our AGM this week. While we are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated, but very small team of 5, who work tirelessly to raise vital funds for the school, this level of attendance highlights a growing challenge.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we've raised **£17,062** last year, helping to fund valuable resources and experiences for all of our children. Last year we provided £7,000 curriculum resource fund, subsidised school trip for every class, coach travel for the whole school trip, Jack and the Beanstalk visiting Panto, KS2 Lego Spike sets, KS1 Code Bots, Yr 6 Leavers Hoodies as well as helping to secure the Mend the Gap funding which is providing the Hide and updating the nature garden.

We also provide free tickets to all of our events for our Pupil Premium families and regularly hold second hand uniform sales.

However, our current spending now exceeds what we're able to raise, with such a small committee and our reserves will not last.

With many of our committee members being KS2 parents who will be moving on soon, we urgently need new volunteers, especially from KS1, to help keep FOWPS running and ensure that future pupils continue to benefit from the same opportunities.

If you can spare a little time or have ideas to share, please do get in touch: fowps@woodcote-primary.co.uk. Every small contribution makes a big difference!