



Friday 9th January 2026

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and we wish everyone a Happy New Year! The office team would like to thank you for the lovely gifts and cards. The children have arrived back to school full of enthusiasm to start the Spring term with the added excitement of a very small amount of snow this week!

### **Books for School**

If, after Father Christmas visited recently, there are bookshelves to be sorted in your house and you are considering rehoming some of the children's books, would you consider donating any in good condition to the school please.

If you find any books that have a number written on the inside of the front cover, they are Book Club books and, if these are ready to move out of your home, could we please have them back to make up sets of group reading books? Thank you!

### **Guitar Orchestra – starting February**

We have an exciting new offer for children who may want to learn guitar in school. A new guitar orchestra will be starting in February 2026 brought to you by Ivor McGurk, a Woodcote parent and music teacher. These fun group sessions will teach students the rudiments of playing the guitar in a group environment while they learn fun songs together. It is suitable for complete beginners. All students need is their own instrument. All learning materials will be provided. We may be able to facilitate borrowing a guitar for a trial lesson, if you don't already have one, however they are easy to pick up on FB Marketplace and are not expensive. This opportunity is open to children in years 2 to 6. Lessons are £15 per 30 minute session. Please see the attached flyer.

### **Careers Day**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January we are looking forward to seeing the children dressed in an outfit which represents a career that they might like to have when they are an adult. Thank you to all of the parents that have also kindly volunteered to come into school and talk to the children about their occupation.

### **Children's Commissioner – A Guide For Parents On Managing Children's Digital Lives**

Please click on the link for more information

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

### **Fish and Chips – change of day**

Fish and chips will be served on Thursday next week as it is Census day. It would be great if we can get as many children as possible to have a school lunch that day even if it is the packed lunch option. Oddly, the number of lunches that are taken that day affects funding provided for the school.

### **Cauliflower cards**

From you purchasing Christmas cards, wrapping paper etc we raised a whopping £321.75 for the school. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser.

### **From the School Nursing team**

They will continue to provide community-based Flu clinics for eligible children who missed their vaccination, for as long as the vaccine remains available. You may book an appointment through their website <https://oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms/parents/book/>

### **From Last weeks newsletter**

#### **Parental Contributions to support the school**

Thank you very much to those families who have kindly donated to the school it is very much appreciated. You can still donate via ParentMail.

### **Class Updates**

<b>Acorns</b>	<p>Happy New Year. I am delighted how well everyone has settled back into the Little Acorns class. Welcome to Isabel and Oliver. We have been busy learning about animals from cold climates, weather, and making this very easy with lots of frozen outdoor resources readily available. Thursday, we made homemade veggie soup, which the children enjoyed chopping, peeling, sorting, stirring and then eating for a snack. Let us know how many actually liked it; they all said they did, but I am not sure they were so sure, as they were excited and wanted to take some home for Mummies and Daddies.</p>
<b>Oak</b>	<p>Welcome back to Oak class. We hope you all had a good break. The children have settled back brilliantly, and we are so pleased with their reading and writing this week too. We have been learning the letter r and writing lots of 3 letter words and in maths we have been looking at making towers for each number, putting them in order and looking at what is one more than a given number. Our class story is called How To Catch A Star by Oliver Jeffers, it is all about building resilience. You may be able to find an online version to read or watch together. In PSHE we have been learning about all the things we put on our bodies like clothing, soap and sunscreen. The children loved drawing around themselves on large pieces of paper. We have also introduced the Zones of Regulation which is a way for the children to identify and name how they might be feeling. Red Zone- angry and scared, Yellow Zone- brave, excited or worried, Green Zone- calm or happy, and Blue Zone- sad, tired or lonely. Please make sure that PE kits are in school and that you can return all library books next Friday. We try to give the children a new library book each Friday but have a lot of books that don't seem to have been returned. We hope you have a good weekend.</p>

<b>Hornbeam</b>	<p>Upon returning to school this week, the children were greeted with the news that a visitor had appeared in our outside area and left quite a mess (much to Mr Neal's dismay!). After some initial predictions, could it be a dog? a bear? or even a monster? The children discovered that it was in fact a small friendly alien called Beegu. After initially writing some descriptions of what Beegu looks like we are now worried that he appears to have left. The children are currently writing missing posters with foods that the alien might like, spider shakes, caterpillar cookies and much more as well as including top tips of what to do if you were to see Beegu in the wild. Elsewhere in the curriculum we have begun looking at the story of creation, looking at natural wonders and discussing how they make us feel inside. In maths we have begun to count up to 20, with a focus on the numbers being 10 and a bit more. Finally, in science we are beginning to make predictions, what will happen if we pour warm water onto a plate of skittles?</p>
<b>Beech</b>	<p>Happy New Year! The Beech Class team would like to say thank you for the thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts, and we hope you had a lovely break. This week, Beech Class have been introduced to a new non-fiction English topic all about animals and habitats. We plan to write a non-chronological report about how to look after our stick insects. We learnt about some of the grammar features we need to include and read some different non-fiction texts to get a good idea about the style of writing. This links nicely with our science topic for this term. This week we enjoyed debating which things are living, dead and never been alive. In PSHE, we reflected on our school value of kindness and showing good manners. In phonics, we learnt how to use apostrophes for contraction. Please can everyone have a go at practising these spellings in their orange spelling books. You should have received this term's curriculum map and homework menu along with your child's Times Table Rockstar login.</p>
<b>Ash</b>	<p>Happy New Year! And thank you from the Year 3 team for all the kind cards and gifts before Christmas.</p> <p>To start the term and the new year, we have been reading our new class book for English 'The Story of Tutankhamun', making notes from the story about the young pharaoh's childhood and starting to look at writing non-fictional information texts. In Science, we have started our new topic of Forces and Magnets and thinking about push and pull forces in our everyday actions. And in French, we have learnt about Epiphany in France and the traditions surrounding the 'galette des rois' (a special cake to celebrate the 3 kings), making our own crowns with key facts about the celebration.</p>
<b>Rowan</b>	<p>Welcome back to a new year, and a new term. I hope you all had a great break and Christmas. It already seems a long time ago.</p> <p>This term, our focus will be on the upcoming Winter Olympics taking place in Italy. We will be doing work both in English and geography, researching about countries that take part, and sports involved, and then writing non-chronological reports.</p> <p>PE will be on Mondays and Fridays this term, with table tennis and dance. Throughout the term there will be some special days or weeks, where more specific events will be the focus, so keep your eyes peeled for more information on these.</p> <p>Homework will now include an element of more independent research to support the topic and geography. It will help your child if this is done, so that they have some information to base their writing on.</p>

	As usual, please support with both reading and times tables practice, filling in the yellow reading diary when you listen to your child read. There are sample question suggestions that you can use to help.
<b>Maple</b>	We've had a great first week back here in Maple Class, kicking off lots of new topics in our lessons. English has seen us start a new text called 'The Longest Night of Charlie Noon' by Christopher Edge. It's a spooky mystery story that we're using to learn about atmosphere and how to use tension and suspense in our own writing. In Maths we've jumped head first into fractions, this week exploring equivalent fractions. We also got the chance to practice some of our mental maths skills playing games using dice. In our Topic lessons we kicked off our big D&T project of the year by looking at the flags of Oxfordshire and Berkshire to help us design our flags for Woodcote. We'll be using fabric and sewing to create our designs over the course of the term! Finally we wrapped up our week by squeezing in a little singing practice and then writing letters to our 15-year old selves. Apparently we're desperate to find out if we've got mobile phones or girlfriends yet!
<b>Willow</b>	Welcome back and Happy New Year. The Willow class team would just like to say a huge thank you for all of the lovely Christmas gifts, they were gratefully received and it was very kind of you. This week we began all of our new topics which includes 'Restless Earth' for Geography. We will be talking about our project work for this next week so keep an eye on Teams and school bags for information on this. We also welcomed Mr Minter to the class. We met him last term but he will be joining the Willow class team as Mrs Wornham supports the transition of the school from Mrs Hunt to Mrs Symth. PE this term is Mondays and Thursdays but please leave kit in school all week as we always hope to be able to go for a run during the week too. In Maths, we completed our work on dividing fractions and move onto Ratios - please use the Revision guides to help support learning. Science is all about light and some of the pupils asked if they can bring in torches from home. We're more than happy with this but please make sure torches are clearly labelled.
<b>Lunchtime News</b>	We were really pleased to welcome the children back to school after an enjoyable break. The field was covered in snow and firm underfoot, so the children had lots of space to run around and play chase and football. Everyone was full of energy after the holidays and many were excited to be building snow sculptures, some of which survived a couple of days. Thanks go to our year1 volunteer litter pickers who enjoy keeping the school tidy and do an excellent job. We wish you all a very happy 2026 from the lunchtime team.

### Important dates

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Careers Week
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Deadline for September 2026 reception class applications
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Come to school dressed in an outfit which represents a career that you may like to have when you are an adult.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	Young Voices – Years 5 & 6
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	FOWPS Community Coffee Shop & Second hand uniform sale

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring half term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	National Offer Day for Secondary school places
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day in School – dress up as your favourite book character
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	FOWPS Community Coffee Shop & Second hand uniform sale
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday – School closed
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	National offer day for reception class September 2026
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday – school closed
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Half Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Residential to Liddington
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	INSET day – School closed
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET day – School closed
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	School summer holidays begin – school closed
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET day
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET day

### Other News/events

#### **Calling all parkrunners, runners, walkers and skippers!**

Exciting news - Imagine having a parkrun on your doorstep!

The Oratory Prep are looking to start a junior parkrun in their grounds but are looking for people who may be able to support them with this. If you can help out, please email [marc.thomas@parkrun.com](mailto:marc.thomas@parkrun.com)

# junior parkrun

**Free, weekly, 2k for 4-14 year olds**  
walk, skip, run, volunteer, spectate - it's up to you!

We are looking for a group of volunteers to help bring junior parkrun to



THE ORATORY  
PREP SCHOOL

Goring Heath, Reading

## Interested in being involved?

We'd love to hear from you at

 <https://forms.gle/VgpXHZrv8e4uezBTA> or email [marc.thomas@parkrun.com](mailto:marc.thomas@parkrun.com)

## Shiplake College Schools' Cross-Country Competition on Saturday 7 February 2026

Boys and girls in Years 1 to 6 are invited to the Shiplake College Schools' Cross-Country Competition on Saturday 7 February 2026. No pre-registration required (please arrive 15 minutes before race time). The first race (Year 1 boys) is at 9.00am, with the final race (Year 6 girls) at 10.15am. A full break down of race times and distances is at [www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry](http://www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry). Hot drinks and refreshments available to purchase from 8.30am. See you there!

## OXFORD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB FREE FOOTBALL TICKETS

### To redeem

- Head to the following link - <https://oxfordcityfc.ticketco.shop/>
- Select the game(s) they want to attend in January
- Enter the code 'JANUARY' into the Promo Code Box
- Follow the simple process and done!

**KICK OFF 2026 WITH OXFORD CITY FC**

# FREE TICKETS

FOR **ALL** OF OUR JANUARY HOME MATCHES

			
SAT 10 JAN   3PM	SUN 11 JAN   2PM	SAT 24 JAN   3PM	SAT 31 JAN   3PM

**USE THE CODE: JANUARY**

THE MGROUP STADIUM | COURT PLACE FARM | MARSTON | OX3 0NQ

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

*You are the expert of your child*

You Are Not Alone - Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Next one: 3rd February

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



## Here's what parents have said:

*'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the past year - Jo (parent)*

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I **really do feel less alone** and more validated. My hope is back' - Louise (parent)*

*'Thank you so much for your support. I nearly chicken out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone'*

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the **next drop-in on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**, please send an email to [sallywagter@gmail.com](mailto:sallywagter@gmail.com) and we will send you the **Zoom** link.

