



Friday 9th October 2026

Oxford Schools Challenge

We hope that all the children who are taking part in the Oxford Challenge on Sunday have a fun time and the weather is kind.

Friday 23rd October

A reminder that this is an Inset day so school is closed to all children. Please cancel any lunches already ordered for this day. Thank you.

Young voices 2027 – year 5 & 6

A communication has been sent out today via Parentmail which gives you information on how to purchase audience seats, order t-shirts etc. A payment item for the children's coach will be sent out shortly.

Cauliflower Cards Christmas Artwork

Please place your orders for the children's Christmas Card artwork with Cauliflower cards directly. Orders should be placed by Monday 12th October and artwork returned by 3.15pm to the class teacher no later than 3.15pm Monday 12th October.

Bikeability – year 5 children

A reminder that Bikeability starts on Monday 12th, please ensure that all children bring their bikes to school in good working order. All children must have their bike helmets with them unless you have requested to loan one and suitable outer clothing dependant on the weather including a waterproof coat. Cycling will continue even in the rain. If you are loaning a bike you will need to bring £15.00 cash to the office in an envelope with your child's name written on it. Thank you.

Braiswick Photographs reminder

Photo proof cards were sent home last week, all ***orders must be placed online*** with Braiswicks by ***Monday 12th October***. We can no longer take cash orders.

Breakfast club

The children at Breakfast club have been busy colouring in pumpkins for the autumn colouring competition which is being judged by Reverend Benskin.

Residential – Yr 5 (M,T,W) Yr 6 (whole week) 17th May 2027

Details and payment details to follow



Acorns	On Tuesday, we headed off on an adventure to St Leonard's Church with our friends and neighbours from Woodcote Preschool. Rev David Benskin read <i>The Little Red Hen</i> to the children, who listened beautifully. We then sang Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, The Wheels on the Tractor, and <i>Driving Along on a Coloured Tractor</i> before bringing our Harvest donations up to the altar while singing <i>Someone's Brought a Tin of Beans</i>. The church was filled with lots of little voices, and it sounded absolutely delightful. I wish you could have joined us in Acorns on Thursday morning! After reading <i>The Little Red Hen</i> all week, we decided to make some delicious bread of our own. The children measured, mixed, stirred, kneaded, stretched and shaped the dough into wonderful creations. Once it had been baked, the classroom was filled with a wonderful smell; we enjoyed tasting it at snack time and even took some home to share. There is something very special about eating bread you have made yourself! It has been a fantastic story for this age group. Throughout the week, we have talked about helping others, and the children were very keen not to be like the lazy dog, sleepy cat or cunning rat. It has been wonderful to see so many children eager to lend a helping hand. In maths, we are giving the children lots of opportunities to notice numbers because they are everywhere! Numbers can be found in our displays, construction area, songs and when we tap out rhythms on different instruments. This is a wonderful way to introduce early number recognition. At home, you can help by pointing out numbers in the environment, such as on doors, car registration plates and in supermarkets. Try focusing on one number and see how many times your child can spot it while you are out and about. A little challenge for home: Can your child spot something beginning with the letter S each day and tell us about it? We can't wait to hear what they find! Next week, our story will be <i>The Leaf Thief</i>. We will be learning the letter sound S, exploring the numbers 1, 2 and 3, and focusing on the colour yellow. Let's see if everyone can wear something yellow during the week!
Oak	Oak have all been working hard this week. In phonics the children have been learning the sounds m, n and d. They are getting a little muddled with m and n so lots of practise at home to recognise the letters would be great. Ask the children to show you the actions. Cherry children have been learning the split digraphs e-e, i-e, and o-e. In Maths, Oak class have been learning how to make 2, 3 and 4 and Cherries have been learning how to use a part whole model to show that a number can be composed by adding 2 numbers together, eg that 5 is made of 2 and 3. All the children enjoyed a brilliant Henley Literary Festival session based on the book 'I want everything' by Sophie Henn. The little ghost wanted everything and then discovered that all he really wanted was family, friends and hugs. The children enjoyed making pictures of ghosts with happy and sad faces. It was lovely to see so

	many parents at stay and learn- thanks to everyone who came. The next stay and learn will be a story time on Friday 13th November at 2.50. Next term we will be constructing vehicles so any toilet/ kitchen/ wrapping paper rolls that you could bring in would be really helpful. We hope you have a lovely weekend.
Beech	Beech class were lucky enough to watch a live session from the Henley Literary Festival with author and illustrator Sophie Henn. She read us one of her stories 'I Hate Everything' and showed us how to draw some ghosts from one of her stories. We have sent home another ghostly template in case the children want to have another go at home. In English this week we read 'Rumble in the Jungle'. We explored the story using drama and role-play and started to describe jungle animals using adjectives. In maths, Year 2 have been learning their x2, x10 and x5 times tables. We looked at patterns and played some games with our friends. Year 1 have been completing some place value assessment tasks and have begun to work on addition and subtraction. In phonics, Year 1 have been reading and writing words with the split digraphs e-e, i-e and o-e. Year 2 have been learning words with the -al graphemes and have been learning to read and spell homophones. In Science, we continued to learn about animal life cycles, focusing this week to learn about the human and frog life cycles. Thank you to all the families who could make our Stay and Learn session on Tuesday. It was so lovely to chat to families and the children loved sharing their learning with you.
Ash	In Maths, we began a new unit of work this week focusing on addition and subtraction. During our English lessons, we have been planning and writing river poetry based on the descriptive setting work completed earlier this term. This links directly to our Geography topic and our class book, Rhythm of the Rain. The children have written a verse for each course of the river on its journey from the source to the sea. To introduce this poetry unit of work, we joined a live-streamed event from the Henley Literary Festival on Tuesday, participating in a learning session with children's poet A.F. Harrold.
Rowan	Another fantastic week in Year 4. English has seen us wrapping up our food themed limericks. We'd love to share them all with you soon as they are truly fantastic! I was especially impressed with the child that rhymed 'nugget' with 'bucket' and somehow made it work! In Maths, we moved on to look at addition, first using counters on place value grids before moving on to the column method with some exchanges. Meanwhile, the rest of our week has been spent in a variety of ways. In Topic, we began to explore a region of Italy in order to eventually compare it against Oxfordshire, French saw us continuing to work on our alphabet and phonics, while in PE we spent some time in the pool, working on breaststroke then working on our fitness later in the week. We've also been hard at work on our times tables, with our latest assessment showing some great progress from your children! Altogether a wonderful week!
Maple	This week in Maple Class, our learning has centred on descriptive writing. Pupils have been developing their use of figurative and sensory language to craft vivid, atmospheric, and spooky settings. They particularly enjoyed performing their writing to one another. We also met PC Dix this week who had come to speak to both Year 5 & 6 about his job and the community work he does. The highlight of the week however, was undoubtedly the start of their ukulele journey, with the children already strumming their first chord!
Willow	This week has been a real joy in year 6. On Wednesday we delivered the harvest boxes which had become very much a labour of love. The children were excellent ambassadors for our school, polite, kind, and empathetic to all that we met. We have

already had multiple letters back in thanks from those that we met. on Tuesday afternoon, the excitement continued when we were joined by PC Dix. He joined us to talk about preparing for the outside world, discussing behaviour inside and outside of school as well as the ever increasing dangers of social media and online gaming. In Maths, we have been focussing on long division, whilst this method has been new to many of the children, I have been impressed with their determination to master it!



A visit from PC Dix

The children in Acorns visited St Leonard's church this week for Harvest Festival.



The children in Year 6 enjoyed delivering harvest boxes to people in Woodcote and we have received lots of lovely thank you letters in return.



Important dates

Tuesday 15 th September – Tuesday 1 st December	Year 4 swimming lessons start, no lesson on Tuesday 20 th October
Sunday 11 th October	Oxford Schools Challenge
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th October	Bikeability for year 5 children
Saturday 17 th October	FOWPS Coffee shop 9.30 – 12.30
Monday 19 th October	Parent/teacher consultations 13:30 – 16.30 - please book on ParentMail
Tuesday 20 th October – Thursday 22 October	Open Afternoons for Reception 2027 intake (1.30pm) If you wish to attend, please email the office.
Thursday 22 nd October	Parent/teacher consultations 16:00 – 19:00- please book on ParentMail
Friday 23 rd October	INSET day – school closed to all children
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	Half term
Saturday 31 st October	Closing date for secondary school applications
Tuesday 3 rd November	Primary School online and paper applications open via Oxfordshire County Council
Friday 13 th November	Oak and Beech families are invited to come in and listen to firework songs that they the children have learnt – 2.45pm
Sunday 29 th November	FOWPS – return of the Jingle Jog – more details to follow
Friday 4 th December	FOWPS Festive candle making workshop – more details to follow
Saturday 5 th December	FOWPS coffee shop
Friday 15 th January 2027	Closing date for Primary School application for September 2027
Wednesday 3 rd February	Young Voices – year 5 and 6 – please see the ParentMail sent out today for more information

We are delighted to share our flyer for our Open Afternoons that are coming up shortly for Reception 2027 admissions.



Woodcote Primary School

OPEN AFTERNOONS



**20th, 21st and 22nd
October**

1.30pm - 3pm

Booking is essential.



office.2510@woodcote.oxon.sch.uk



01491 680454

FoWPs news

Hello from your friendly PTA team!

Our major fundraising goal this year is to raise £27,000 to replace the climbing frame on the playground. We've already applied for a number of grants and have some money in the pot, but we're still around £12,000 short of our target.

That's where you come in!

We have a whole host of ways for you to get involved, support our school and help us reach our fundraising goal over the next few months. Here's what's coming up!

Community Coffee shop – Saturday 17th October

First up, we have another Community Coffee shop on 17th October! We'd love to see you there for a cuppa and a catch-up, and we're always grateful for donations of cakes and sweet treats.

Don't worry, you don't need to be Nigella Lawson to get involved, everything always gets sold! Whether you can bake something, pop in for a coffee or simply spread the word, every little bit helps.

Jingle Jog – Sunday 29th November

Next up, the Jingle Jog is back! Join us for a festive community fun run (or walk!) with distances to suit everyone, from a 200m toddler dash to an adult 3.5k around the village green. It's fun for all the family!

There'll also be hot drinks and hot food, games, stalls and even a special visit from Santa himself!

Find out more copy the link into your browser: [Facebook.com/FOWPSJingleJog](https://www.facebook.com/FOWPSJingleJog)

Festive Candle-Making Workshop – Friday 4th December

Finally, join us for a 2 hour Festive Candle-Making Workshop hosted by Mondays Moon. Slow down, get creative and make something magical with your own hands!

You'll get to choose your own fragrance and hand-pour a beautiful candle under professional guidance. You'll also decorate a pre-poured candle with festive crystals and botanicals to take home with you on the day. All materials and refreshments are included in the price.

Please note: your hand-poured candle will need to set over the weekend and will be delivered a few days after the session.

It's the perfect opportunity to create a thoughtful gift for someone special – or treat yourself to something lovely! [Tickets will be available soon](#)



Other News

Cornerstone arts centre invites school children to design the 'Panto of the Future'

School children across South Oxfordshire are invited by Cornerstone arts centre to design a poster for the 'Panto of the future'. This is to coincide with the Didcot building's installation of the latest clean green energy sources.

Work started in August to add air source heat pumps and solar panels to South Oxfordshire District Council's landmark building in the town centre. As the building gets ready for the future, we're asking what people think the shows appearing there could look like.

The council is inviting children aged 12 and under, living in South Oxfordshire, to take part in the competition by designing a poster for a panto of the future.

Everyone taking part will get their entries displayed on the Cornerstone website and one lucky winner – judged to have the most creative ideas – will win a family ticket to see Jack and the Beanstalk – the 2026 Cornerstone panto* and a One4All gift voucher worth £100 donated by Ashe Group who are carrying out the decarbonisation works. (The competition will be open until 1 November 2026).

Simply submit a design **via email** to communications@southandvale.gov.uk with the subject line Panto of the Future.

Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We are really pleased with the decarbonisation work at Cornerstone. The new equipment will reduce our energy costs and help tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Using renewables also protects us against sudden rises in energy costs. But that's all off stage, we're excited to see what changes the youngsters can imagine happening to the shows and the performers."

*A family ticket for four people – to be taken between 27 – 30 December.

Full terms and conditions are on our competition page on [our website](#).