



Thursday 22nd October 2026

A Heartfelt Thank You and Looking Ahead

As my time as Interim Headteacher comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful children, parents and families for your kindness, encouragement and support over the past seven months.

It has been a real privilege to lead our fabulous school during this time, and I am incredibly proud of our children, staff and the whole school community. Your continued support and positivity have meant so much to me, and I am truly grateful.

As we begin this exciting new chapter, I will be supporting our new Headteacher as she settles into her role. I am also delighted to be working in Year 3 on Mondays and supporting Year 2 with their Maths and Phonics learning through the rest of the week. I am really looking forward to spending more time working directly with the children and helping them to flourish.

There are exciting times ahead for our school, and I know that, by continuing to work together, we can build on everything that makes our school such a special place. I look forward to being part of the next stage of our journey as we continue to grow, develop and provide the very best opportunities for all our children.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support. Here's to an exciting future for our fabulous school!

Mrs Wornham

Parent/Teacher consultations

Thank you to the parents who attended meetings with the teachers this week. It is great to see so many families in school. Thank you also to parents for your feedback on the trial of afternoon consultations, this proved very popular.

Primary School Admissions for September 2027

Primary school applications (Reception entry) open on **3 November 2026** and close on **15 January 2027**, according to the [Oxfordshire County Council Reception Applications](#)

Breakfast/Chill club

Reverend Benskin kindly came to Breakfast Club this morning to judge the "Halloween Design a Pumpkin" colouring competition. KS1 was won by Henry and KS2 was won by Nellie. Well done to all of the children who took part, what a fantastic display you produced!



News from School Council

We are pleased to inform you that on Friday 13th November there will be a cake sale (50p per cake) and a dress down wearing something yellow for £1.00. All of the money goes to the BBC charity Children In Need. We would really appreciate your donations of nut free cakes. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser.

Swimming lessons

A reminder that Year 4 swimming starts again on Tuesday 3rd November, please ensure that your child has their full swimming kit in school.

From Last week's newsletter

✦✦ Amazon Wish Lists Relaunch

Our individual class and whole-school Amazon Wish Lists have now been refreshed for the new term!

Each list includes optional items that help teaching staff top up resources, enrich topic learning, and support day-to-day classroom activities.

Teachers have updated their lists this week, and you'll see them linked below. There is absolutely no expectation to purchase anything, the lists simply offer a way for families who wish to support the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

[WPS Acorns](#)

[WPS Oak](#)

[WPS Beech](#)

[WPS Ash](#)

[WPS Rowan](#)

[WPS Maple](#)

[WPS Willow](#)

[Whole School](#)

Year 6

A reminder to parents with children in year 6, secondary school applications close on Saturday 31st October.

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

Acorns	Have a wonderful half-term break with your families. We hope you can find some time to slow down and enjoy some well-deserved downtime together. It has been a very busy and productive term for the children, filled with new experiences, learning and friendships. Next term will bring many exciting opportunities for learning, alongside all the sparkle, glitter and creativity of the festive season. While it is always a magical and memorable time, it can also be
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	incredibly stimulating for young children, so do expect a few tired faces as we move through the term! This week has been full of witches' rhymes, magical potions and pumpkin-themed songs. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading <i>Room on the Broom</i> and using the story as inspiration for our learning. The children created colourful cauldron pictures with bubbling potions, designed their own magical wands to help their spells come to life, and worked together to make some delicious vegetable soup. All of this "witchy" fun provided plenty of opportunities to develop early mathematical skills too. The children enjoyed counting, recognising and reciting numbers as they searched for and collected different quantities of objects to add to their cauldrons. Through imaginative play, storytelling and creative activities, the children have been developing their language, mathematical understanding and fine motor skills while having lots of fun along the way.
Oak	What a wet and grey week it has been but still the children in Oak Class have enjoyed jumping in puddles and playing outside, pretending to visit the opticians and making pumpkin coffee- yummy! Inside we have learnt about real life superheroes like police, nurses, doctors, paramedics, fire fighters- all people who help us. The children know the Makaton signs- can they teach you these and their 999 song?! Mo Farah inspired them with his running and we had a great discussion on how to get as strong and successful as him. In phonics, Oakies have learnt the 'o' sound and have been learning to use our spelling fingers to spell CVC words like log and mop. Most of the children will also have brought home their first Monster Phonics reading book - please listen to them daily so they build fluency and confidence. We are super proud of their progress. In Maths, they have been using the vocabulary more than, fewer than and same / equal to- the children have been great at identifying this and could show you their comparing skills at home. Cherries have been looking at the endings 'ed' and 'ing' and revisiting split digraphs like u-e which are proving to be a bit tricky! In Maths, they have been exploring number bonds to 10 and we have begun working on being systematic in our recording. It has been a wonderful term getting to know all the children and their families and a pleasure to continue working with the Year 1 Cherries and their families. Hope you all have a restful break.
Beech	Beech class learnt about how exercise can help to keep us healthy. We thought about how our bodies feel before and after exercise. We did some exercises together along with some dancing to help us reflect on what exercises we liked best. In Maths, year 2 have continued to add and subtract number bonds within 20. Cherries have been looking at the endings 'ed' and 'ing' and revisiting split digraphs like u-e which are proving to be a bit tricky! In Maths, they have been exploring number bonds to 10 and we have begun working on being systematic in our recording. It has been a very wet week but everyone has played so nicely and got creative during guided play to create maps of Woodcote with construction toys, sketches of fruit using different resources and played some phonics games. Have a wonderful and restful half term everyone.
Ash	For our final week of term, we have used Michael Rosen's poem 'Chocolate Cake' to complete our performance poetry work in our English lessons. We particularly enjoyed all the onomatopoeic words in the poem and read it in turns, with lots of enthusiasm. In Maths, we have been subtracting ones through ten (eg 134 - 6) and tens through a hundred (eg 234 - 50). Practising counting up and down in tens, counting over a hundred and back, would be great revision if you get chance over half term. A payment item has been sent out via ParentMail today for our Geography topic 'Rivers' to be held in class after half term. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this. Wishing you all a lovely week next week.
Rowan	We've had a great final week with your children here in Rowan class. Our English has seen us doing some story writing this week. We've been looking to use all the skills we've talked about this year and it's lovely to see some great ideas coming to life in your children's books. Meanwhile maths has seen us continuing to work on subtraction, this week tackling exchanges, an altogether trickier proposition! We'll be carrying on after the half term break to really embed the skills. Our afternoons this week were dominated by Science, this time looking at invertebrates. We spent some time following a classification tree to sort invertebrates into the

	correct category, but then decided to have a go at making our own classification keys! We'll be trying to use them in the new term with whatever creepy crawlies we can find in the school grounds! Have a great half term break!
Maple	Well done to all the children in Maple class – you should all be extremely proud of all the hard work you have put in this term! This week, we worked collaboratively in Gymnastics to create routines showcasing all the poses we have learnt over the past few weeks. We really enjoyed watching some impressive canons, challenging partner poses and synchronised movements! The highlight of the week, however, was our Science experiment! We investigated the effect of air resistance using paper helicopters, making predictions, carrying out a fair test using a control, and learning how to record our data accurately. Have a lovely half term break.
Willow	We have had a great week in Willow this week! The children have greatly enjoyed writing their own 'Greek myth', some of the language and vocabulary on display has been truly remarkable. What has also been nice is seeing the children apply our recent learning about direct speech, sentence starters and expanded noun phrases being used freely. In maths lessons, we have been learning and discussing different 'mental methods' of calculation, whether we can count on/back, partition numbers or retain a constant difference. Excitement filled the air across most afternoons, on Tuesday the children researched daily life as an Ancient Greek, using laptops and texts to research foods, clothes, entertainment and homes. The children were shocked by the amount of enslavement (1 in 4 Ancient Greeks were slaves) and many were astounded that most women were also treated with no respect. On Wednesday, we carried out an exciting science investigation, using our observation and measurement skills to see if yeast is alive, after adding a small amount of yeast, sugar and water into a bottle and covering the top with a balloon, the children watched in awe as the balloon inflated as a result of the carbon dioxide created when yeast respire. One child was overheard saying, 'This is the most fun I have ever had!'

The children in Willow class had lots of fun during their science lesson this week finding out if yeast is “alive”.



Important dates

Tuesday 15 th September – Tuesday 1 st December	Year 4 swimming lessons start, no lesson on Tuesday 20 th October
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 6 th November	FOWPS dress down day in exchange for a donation of chocolate/sweets for the Jingle Jog tombola (no nuts please!)
Friday 13 th November	Oak and Beech families are invited to come in and listen to firework songs that the children have learnt – 2.50pm
Friday 13 th November	Children In Need Cake Sale & wear yellow to school

Sunday 29 th November	FOWPS – return of the Jingle Jog https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=124270
Thursday 3 rd December	Acorns and Oak – Christingle service in Church
Friday 4 th December	FOWPS Festive candle making workshop – tickets go on sale after half term
Saturday 5 th December	FOWPS last Coffee Shop of the year
Wednesday 9 th December	KS1 (Years1 &2) Christmas play @ 2.00pm
Thursday 10 th December	Acorns & Early Years (Reception) Christmas play @ 2.00pm
Friday 11 th December	Whole School visit to St.Leonard’s for Christmas Carols in church
Monday 14 th December	Christmas Carols in school – time tbc
Monday 14 th December	IRock Concert – 2.30 – 3.00pm – parents invited
Wednesday 16 th December	School Christmas lunch
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

FOWPS - Dates for your diaries



Sunday 29th November - Jingle Jog (9.45-12)

Our Christmas fun run/walk is open to everyone, and we will also be selling refreshments, hot drinks, bacon butties and cakes as well as some Christmas related games, stalls and Santa's Grotto

Friday 4th December - Join us for a 2 hour Festive Candle-Making Workshop hosted by Mondays Moon (tickets go on sale after half term)

Saturday 5th December - our last Coffee Shop of the year. We made close to £300 at last week's event, thank you so much to everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts.

One last thing...

Support FOWPS every time you shop online and help us get a £50 bonus from Easyfundraising! We need 10 new app users to raise £50 for free! It only takes a few taps, and every new supporter helps.

Get the app here. Thank you!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/friends-of-woodcote-primary-school-association/3za0c3/pa/0ylmJ0IJ/EPA51/textcopy/>

Other News



Scouts
1st Goring Heath

Woodcote Scarecrow Trail 2026

24th Oct – 1st Nov

All proceeds support
1st Goring Heath Scouts

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The Red Lion, Woodcote Garden Centre or
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The Good Schools Guide 2026

SENIOR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER

YEARS 5 & 6

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