Friday 13th November 2026

I was so proud of the way the children showed their respects on Wednesday at the memorial. Our older children had worked hard to learn the names of past Woodcote residents who gave their lives, and hearing those names spoken aloud by our pupils connected us to our own village history in a really special way. They also learned and recited the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which they delivered beautifully.
On a cheerier note, I had the pleasure of watching Year 5 learn a new chord on their ukuleles this week. The concentration (and the smiles when it came together!) was wonderful to see, and I'm delighted our children have the opportunity to learn an instrument in school.
If you haven't already, do sign up for the FOWPs festive Jingle Jog. I'll be volunteering on a stall as my running days are over, but I believe we have plenty of keen runners on the staff!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Smyth



Year /4 Football tournament
On the 10th November 13 girls across Year 3 and Year 4 took part in a football tournament at Langtree School. They were very competitive with several goals being scored and some excellent defending. They got stuck into each game with great energy and enthusiasm. They showed great sportsmanship shaking hands with their opponents at the end of each game. Bryher and Raya were presented with the Olympic Value medals. Bryher set a great example to the rest of the team from the very start and Raya showed great determination in each game. All the girls can feel very proud of the part they played in the tournament.

Children In Need
Thank you to all of you that supported Children In Need today, we will let you know the amount raised in due course. A big thank you to School Council for arranging the dress down and cake sale.

Gifts for children in the John Radcliffe hospital over the Christmas period
We are delighted to be supporting RAF Benson once again with delivering presents to children who will be in the John Radcliffe Hospital over Christmas. The gifts will be carried on the aircraft and delivered to the Children's Ward by Santa.

We have just received notification that RAF Benson will be collecting any donated gifts from us on Tuesday 17th November so if you are able to pick up a gift to be donated, that will be very much appreciated. Please can gifts be dropped off to School Reception by **9.00am on Monday 16th November** latest, thank you.

If you are able to support the gifting, the Children's Ward have provided the following guidelines:

- New gifts (no second hand)
- Wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper
- Labelled to explain the contents:

    - Boy/Girl
    - Age suitability
    - Item description
- No Cuddly Toys (Risk of Infection).
- No edible or damaged items

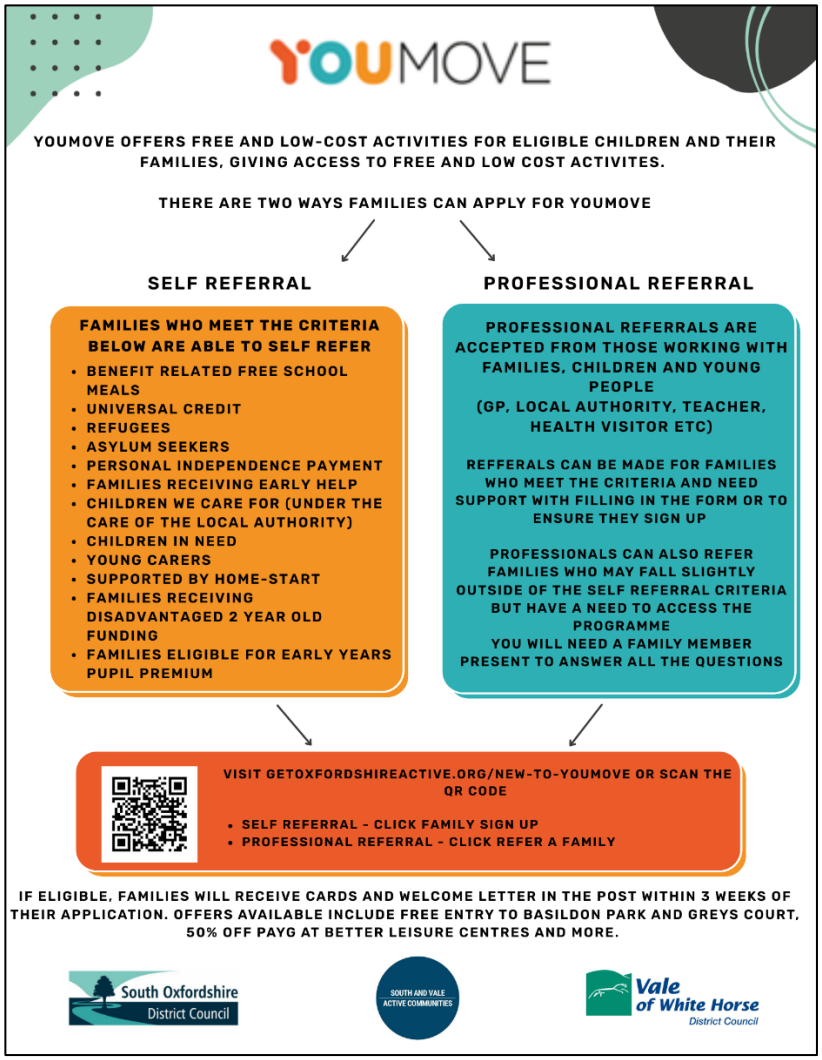
Thank you

Newsletter from the School Nursing team – Autumn Term (2)
Please click on the link below for more information
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/tPNgxFq3K33PNQe0?ref=email

From last weeks newsletter

Christmas Lunch orders
Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 16th December, so please place your order via ParentMail. It is always a fun event for the children who are served by the staff, it would be great if all children could take part. The Catering company cannot offer any other lunch options on this day. If you have already ordered lunches for the week commencing 14th December please refer to the communication sent out via ParentMail as lunches for that week will need to be reordered.

Free School Meal families - Holiday Activities & Food (HAF): Winter Holiday Provision 2026
Bookings open on Tuesday 10th November, for more information please read the ParentMail which was sent out on Tuesday 3rd November.



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

Acorns	We welcomed Oliver, who started with us this week. This week, we have been celebrating Diwali and remembering the fallen. The children have made Rangoli patterns using loose parts and were introduced to repeating patterns to incorporate a little maths. They have been very creative with their designs. On Tuesday, they made clay Diya lamps, and on Thursday, they decorated them. On Wednesday, we all walked to the war memorial with the school, where the children stood in silence for a whole two minutes (a huge achievement). We are so proud of them all. They placed the poppies they had made at the memorial. Next week, we are going to follow a space theme for a couple of weeks before our amazing Christmas festivities begin. There will be lots of songs and stories to enjoy. We have also planted a pumpkin to watch it decay and then re-germinate into new pumpkin plants in the summer. We read *Pumpkin Jack*, which is well worth a read. It inspired lots of questions from the children.
Oak	In phonics this week Oak have been learning the diagraph ck, see if they can tell you what a digraph is! Cherries have been learning the er, ir and ur digraphs. In maths Oak have been using the words more, fewer/less and the same to compare amounts. Cherries have been adding and subtracting using the part-whole model. The children were all brilliant walking over to the war memorial on Wednesday, and they enjoyed making their poppies. In English we learned about the story of Guy Fawkes and retold it in our own words. Thanks to everyone who has helped the children learn their lines for the nativity. The laminated copy is for you to keep at home. Please can reading records and reading books be brought into school each Monday. Reading records and books need to go in the small box and blue book bags in the big box. Please can all children bring a large orange to school to school on **Monday 30th November**. Ready to make Christingles. Have a lovely weekend!
Beech	Beech class enjoyed talking about their experiences of firework night. We then acted out the story of the gunpowder plot in groups. This helped us to retell and write the story using ambitious verbs, remembering to include capital letters for proper nouns. In maths, Cherry group have been solving addition problems and taking away using real objects. Year 2 have been adding and subtracting multiples of 10 and solving some tricky problems. In Science this week, we talked about the importance of eating healthy food. We discussed our favourite fruits and created a pictogram of the results. We then answered questions about our data. In D.T we created a plan of our moving vehicles. Everyone was very excited to see what resources we could use. Thank you to the families who have sent in boxes for this. A huge thank you to the families who have bought things for the class on our Amazon wish list. It is greatly appreciated!

Ash	Ash class have had a fantastic week of hands-on learning! Inspired by Friday's French lesson on how blue cornflowers (le bluet) are worn in France for Remembrance Day, we crafted a joint poppy and cornflower wreath to take to the war memorial. We have also been sharpening our hockey skills in PE, and on Tuesday we enjoyed a brilliant Rivers workshop with a visit from the River and Rowing Museum. The children impressed our visitors with their knowledge before diving into five geography investigations – exploring erosion, transportation, deposition, and the permeability of chalk floodplains, amongst other activities. We finished our morning with an interactive walk along the Thames, looking at wildlife items that the museum staff provided. Hopefully the children can share their knowledge if you can get out for a river walk soon.
Rowan	Year 4 has been hard at work this week, building on our learning from last week. In English we've continued to look at the story 'Fox', this week planning a follow up story and then starting to look at some areas of writing we could include in our stories, including fronted adverbials. Maths saw us wrapping up our work on area and moved onto multiplication. We started by looking at multiples of 3. We did gymnastics and football in PE, explored digital mapping through google maps in computing and discussed the question, 'Is it better to be right or nice?' in PSHE.
Maple	This week, Maple class have been busy developing their learning across the curriculum. In English, the children have been learning how to write a newspaper report, using the Viking raid of Lindisfarne as their focus. They have been exploring the key features of report writing and using these to create informative and engaging pieces. In History we have continued our work on the Vikings by learning about their creation story. The children have also begun creating their very own Yggdrasil tree, helping them to identify and understand the Nine worlds in Viking mythology. In Maths, the class have been enjoying learning about prime numbers through a fun rap, as well as investigating square numbers and cube numbers. Well done, Year 5, for a fantastic week.
Willow	This week in Willow class our attention has turned towards Remembrance Day. At the start of our week the children planned and wrote their own Remembrance poems. Taking inspiration from the poems previously learnt and applying the skills and crafts accurately. Continuing with the remembrance theme, the children created their own poppy wreath to lay down at the war memorial on Wednesday morning and beautifully recited the words of 'Flander's Fields', many people commented on their clarity and deliverance. Well done all. Aside from remembrance, the children have continued their work on fractions, this week our focus has been on adding and subtracting mixed fractions which has caused some problems with understanding; however, the children have worked diligently to overcome the problems. In our topic work we have been learning about the 'Battle of Marathon' and how there were a range of contributing factors that lead to the Athenians claiming victory.

Year 3 had a thoroughly hands on experience during the River workshop.







Important dates

Tuesday 15th September – Tuesday 1st December	Year 4 swimming lessons start, no lesson on Tuesday 20th October
Monday 16th November	Any gift donations for the John Radcliffe Hospital need to be in school today, thank you.

Friday 20th November	Beech families are invited to come in for Stay and Play at 2.50pm
Wednesday 25th November	Year 5 Saxon Day @ Ufton Court
Sunday 29th November	FOWPS – return of the Jingle Jog https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=124270
Thursday 3rd December	Acorns and Oak – Christingle service in Church
Friday 4th December	FOWPS Festive candle making workshop
Saturday 5th December	FOWPS last Coffee Shop of the year
Monday 7th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 8th December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 9th December	KS1 (Years 1 &2) Christmas play @ 2.00pm
Thursday 10th December	Acorns & Early Years (Reception) Christmas play @ 2.00pm
Friday 11th December	Whole School visit to St.Leonard's Church for Christmas Carols.
Monday 14th December	Christmas Carols in school – time tbc
Monday 14th December	IRock Concert – 2.30 – 3.00pm – parents invited
Wednesday 16th December	School Christmas lunch
Friday 15th January 2027	Closing date for Primary School application for September 2027
Wednesday 3rd February	Young Voices – year 5 and 6 – please see the ParentMail sent out today for more information
Monday 21st June – Friday 25th June	Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd June Year 5 Residential PGL Liddington Monday 21st – Friday 25th June – Year 6 Residential PGL Liddington

FOWPS news

The Jingle jog is off to a very festive start, but we still have over 20 volunteer spots open! We cannot run these events without the help and support of our school community so if you can help, even for an hour, please do sign up!
https://volunteersignup.org/AXDPP

Tickets for the Jingle Jog and santas grotto are available here:
https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=124270

And tickets for our festive candle making workshop are available here:
https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=125457

Other News


THE ORATORY
Our "Oratory in Session" morning is an informal drop-in where groups of parents, or individual parents, are able to visit our school any time during the 9.00am - 11.00am open slot. The visit provides the opportunity to see our school in action, busy classrooms, our inclusive community, and real Oratory life.
No booking required – we look forward to welcoming you!
"In a crowded Berkshire/ Oxfordshire school market, The Oratory is a distinct alternative and is well worth a visit."
The Good Schools Guide 2026
ORATORY IN SESSION MORNING
FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER
9.00am – 11.00am
• Guided tours, with an Oratory student, of live lessons, as well as of the wider school and facilities.
• Opportunities to meet with the Head Master, SLT and Admissions Department.
COME & VISIT US!
SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
Be you.
Become more.
INDEPENDENT BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS & BOYS AGED 11-18