



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the nights creep in on us, we look towards Advent and all the joy that the season will bring in school. It feels like we are in full flow now and our new children and families have all settled in, are working hard and are making friends.

Cradle to Career

I have been working closely with the other Blackbird Leys and Rosehill headteachers to build a partnership through a programme called Cradle to Career which will look at how we can work together to support families in the community with unity, rather than as individual schools.

It has also made us reflect inward on our role in the community; a massive thankyou to those who have agreed to be interviewed to support this project.

Reception and Nursery Places

We are currently touring families for children due to start Reception in September 2026., applications are open, so we strongly advise you to apply on time if you are a current nursery child – and if you know of anyone who is interested, please inform them of open mornings on November 19th and December 3rd. Last year our Reception class was oversubscribed, so it is vital applications are in on time.

This summer we extended our nursery to 32 places in each session, and in January we will be almost completely full, with only a handful of afternoon places available. If you know of anyone whose child has just turned 3, or is about to, and is looking for a nursery place, please ask them to get in touch as soon as possible.

»Sports News

Our football league is up and running, and as it stand we remain unbeaten! Our Y4 and Y6 teams have all visited a variety of schools and have come out on top each time so far, showing amazing teamwork and an ability to stick to a plan.



We have also entered two tournaments which saw us lose out very narrowly in knockouts to the eventual winners – I am extremely proud of how quickly the children have learnt to work together

»GAA

Hertfordshire GAA have been working within the school to develop an enjoyment of Gaelic Football amongst

our Y5 and Y6 children. In the Spring they will be invited to a festival to celebrate their new skills.

»Bowls and Boccia

A group of our students have been venturing off to The Oxford Academy to learn how to play boccia and bowls. Mr Thomas at TOA went to a conference last year and fell in love with bowls, so now we are all having a go at it! Who knows we could have the next David Bryant at our school



Trips >> Classes are up and about and created amazing memories already.

»Story Museum

Our Story Museum workshops and visits have continued, with St Bernadette class appearing in a promotional film for the museum

»Twinning

Our Twinning programme with Mansfield College is up and running again with class visits led by Mansfield and visits from their students to support maths in Y4. So far they have led a trip to the Pitt Rivers Museum, and a codebreaking workshop at Mansfield College, which was used as a codebreaking site during WW2



»Junior Citizens and Author Phil Earle

St Vincent de Paul class have been extremely busy: they have visited Magdalene College School for an author talk and workshop by Phil Earle, and also spent a day learning how to be responsible citizens.



»Cinema

Y1-6 have taken part in the Into Film festival again this year, with children given the opportunity for a trip out to the cinema





»Catholic Virtues

RE News

All Saints Fr Harry celebrated a wonderful All Saints Mass with the children in school and we have also seen a wide range of art works being created for our All Saints homework – they will be on display soon

Our virtues this term are: **Learned and Wise**



Fan the flame

Our lucky St Bernadette class took part in a retreat day led by Dan and Emily from One Life Music where they deepened their faith with children from other schools within our trust.

Myeloma money

Thank you to all those who supported our non-uniform day for Myeloma research – we raised over £300 for a wonderful charity.

Remembrance

This week saw remembrance day celebrations in school where children created wreaths and shared poems and prayers for remembrance.

Faith Leaders and Longlands

Our Faith Leaders have continued to grow our relationship with Longlands care home, putting their faith in action to build relationships with the residents. This time we created remembrance art together, shared stories, and ate lots of biscuits.



FOSJF

Our friends group have formalised their constitution as a PTA and elected Mrs Susan Ball as Chair for the year. The recent social night was a huge success, and this month they will be hosting a disco for our Y4/5/6 children before a Christmas themed Michael Buble extravaganza. All support is greatly welcomed as they help build community and raise funds for the school.



Staff News

Miss Anna Evans is with us for the rest of this term teaching in Year 1 on placement from Oxford Brookes

Attendance and Holidays

Overall, the school's attendance this term has been very high, however a lot of families are still taking term time holidays. As a school, we understand the reasons for this but stress the importance of attending school every day. If your child is away from school for 20 consecutive days, we must report them to OCC who will potentially remove them from our roll.

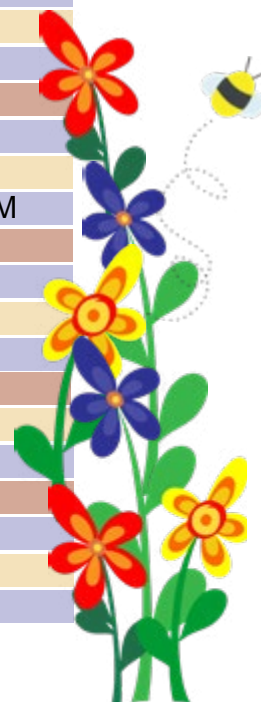
Science Club

For the rest of this term, our Tuesday after school club is being taken over by MACE construction, who are building one of the Science Parks in Blackbird Leys. Each week they will do a new fun science activity with the children.

If you book 'wraparound' you can join the clubs if they aren't full.

» Diary Dates

18.11.2025	Mace Construction Workshops UKS2
19.11.2025	U11 boys v East Oxford
20.11.2025	U11 boys Oxford City
20.11.2025	Y4 Library visit
21.11.2025	U9 girls v St John Henry Newman
26.11.2025	Y5/6 Cinema Trip
27.11.2025	Cyber Champions Workshops / Y3 Library visit
28.11.2025	Music Performance to Y3/4
01.12.2025	Advent Mass – Blessed Dominic Barberi 09:30
02.12.2025	Cross Country at Oxford Spire
04.12.2025	In School Storytelling Day / U11 girls v Windmill
05.12.2025	Y2 Library visit/ Littlemore Youth Council at TOA / Pantomime PM
06.12.2025	FOSJF Michael Buble
08.12.2025	Santa Run / Blessing of Bambinellis
09.12.2025	Year 2 Manfield Trip / Year 1 Library Visit
10.12.2025	Y6 STEM Day
11.12.2025	Christmas Dinner and Jumpers / Reception Library Visit
12.12.2025	Penitential Service
15.12.2025	Christmas Bazaar 2:00 – 4:30
16.12.2025	Carol Concert at Mansfield PM
17.12.2025	Nativity Performances AM and PM
18.12.2025	Nursery Library Visit
19.12.2025	FINISH AT 1:00



» Parish News

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Sacred Heart Church <https://sacredheartoxford.com/>

Blessed Dominic Barberi Church <https://www.bldominicbarberioxford.org.uk/>

Our Lady Help of Christians <https://olhoccowley.co.uk/>

God Bless,
Mr Higgins and the SJF Team

