

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of a wonderful first term at school, it has been great to see all of our new children settle in so well and enjoy the wide range of experiences we have had on offer this term

Attendance

Our attendance has improved a lot this year, but we still have a significant number of children off for minor ailments. If your child is not infectious, they should be in school, or they should be seeing the doctor that morning. Being tired, or run down, is not reason to be off school. If your child is well enough to join their siblings on the school run, they are well enough to be in school.

The OCC attendance team have highlighted these issues within our school, as well as the numerous term time holidays which were taken last year, and contact us for updates weekly on progress of children who are Persistently Absent.

»Sports News

»Our football teams have begun their seasons, with our Y5/6 girls and boys taking part in the Oxford City tournament, and hosting their first league games of the season.





»We have also seen children take part in Tag Rugby and Boccia festivals, along with the Radleys Ball celebration with all our local schools.

Radley Animals

The highlight of the term for many was our Radley animals visit. The team brought onto site a wide range of exotic creatures, including several incredibly large snakes, scorpions, lizards and even a hedgehog!





New Chickens

We now have 4 new chickens, meaning each class has their own again. Nursery, Year 2 and Year 4 have named their chickens Snowy, Pebble and Smokey, the staff have chosen Chickira as theirs.

Fire Safety Visits

The fire brigade have also visited us this term. They have led workshops in Upper KS2 to help children understand fire safety, and have also brought their engine and equipment in for our EYFS and KS1 children to experience life as a fire fighter.



Premises Update

- Over the summer, we had the playground relaid, there is still a lot of finishing for them to do, so they will return over half term.
- Our 'bank-slide' has gone in, as with the banks in general, this is not for wet weather use.
- We have also purchased a new climbing frame for EYFS.

2 Year Old Provision

Contracts have been signed for the refurbishment to have two year old provision ready for January. This is going to cause some disruption to our current nursery class, but hopefully it will be minimised and will mean that we can expand our community from January.

If you know of parents looking for places, please ask them to pick up a form from the office, we do not wish to expand too quickly, so the limited places will fill soon.

Oxfordshire Junior Chefs of The Year

BBC Oxford and the local newspapers have been covering the success of our Year 6 team of chefs, they even appeared on BBC Radio Oxford last week.



The three children were crowned champions, after creating a three-course meal, all sourced from our allotments, chickens and the Oxford Food Hub. Their menu consisted of, soufflé, fresh pasta and a courgette brownie and they saw off 100 schools to lift the trophy!

Catholic Life

Our virtues this term are: Compassionate and Loving



The school has celebrated many Masses and feast days since the start of term, with children visiting both Parishes and welcoming Fr Ziggy and Fr Harry into school.

We have also been part of a PFMAC wide retreat led by Dan and Emily from One Life Music, where our Y5 children worshipped with other local Catholic schools.



Partnerships

Our partnership work has begun again, with Magdalen College School providing music tuition to children in Y5 and 6; Radley College supporting PE, culminating in an amazing festival for our Y3 class, as well as helping develop our talk in EYFS through their SHREC programme, and hosting our Y4 class every week at their countryside centre; and finally, Oxford High School have welcomed back our Y5 pupils for science in their labs every week.

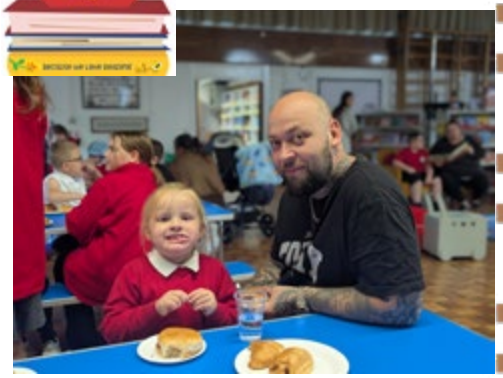
Our work with The Story Museum, Oxford Playhouse through their Playmakers programme, and Mansfield College continues this year with all classes receiving a wide variety of enrichment opportunities which they will record in their new Enrichment Passports.

Phonics and Early Reading Workshop

Thank you so much to all of the parents who attended our workshops this term. Phonics and early reading are key to your child's success. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Bookie Breakfast too. If you need any more help or resources, please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Flynn.







Reception Oral Health

We have shared information, toothbrushes and toothpaste with our youngest children. We are working with the school nurse to help promote positive oral health, as this is a huge issue in our area.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to the FOSJF, Mrs Gibbon, Mrs Flynn and the Mini Vinnies for organising and running a successful event, raising money for a very good cause.

Staff News

This term we have welcomed **Mrs Jo Francis, Mrs Sadiya Hussain, Ms Avleen Kaur, Mrs Emma Stinga, Ms Ciarra McCarthy** and **Ms Desara Pemaj** to our staff team in a variety of roles, all are adding a wealth of talent and expertise to our team.

Participatory Grant Making

Our Y6 panel, led by staff from The Oxford Hub, will be sitting straight after half term to decide on which projects they will fund. You still have time to put forward any ideas.

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Parent Survey

Thank you to those who have completed the parent survey. If you have not, please do so as soon as possible.

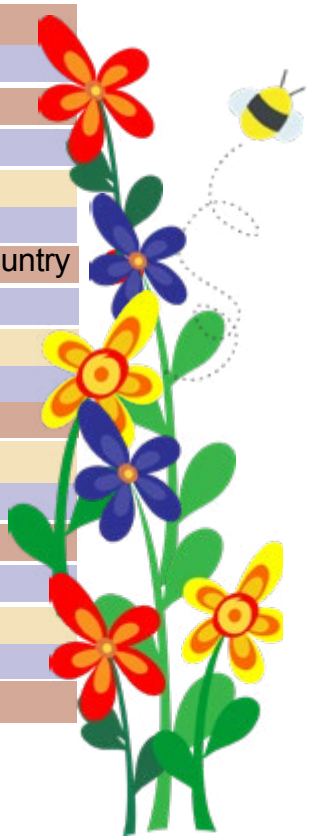
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WhatsApp Channel

We know that people do not always access emails instantly, so we have created a WhatsApp channel, this will be used for notifications and reminders of upcoming events. Join here.

» Diary Dates

02.11.2026 INSET DAY – School Closed for Children
03.11.2026 Year 6 Boys Football v Pegasus
04.11.2026 Year 6 Story Museum Oracy Day
05.11.2026 Cotswold Arts Drama Workshops
06.11.2026 Small Schools Football – Y6 Boys
09.11.2026 School Photo Day / FOSJF AGM / Y6 Boys Football v Tyndale
10.11.2026 Year 6 Mansfield College Trip / Cotswold Arts Workshop / Cross Country
11.11.2026 Armistice Day / Y6 Girls v Pegasus
12.11.2026 Oxfordshire Book Awards
17.11.2026 Year 6 Girls v Orchard Meadow
18.11.2026 Parents Maths Workshop
23.11.2026 Year 6 Girls v Tyndale
24.11.2026 Year 6 Junior Citizens Trip
25.11.2026 Year 6 Oxford Playhouse
27.11.2026 Year 2 Story Museum Day
14.12.2026 Christmas Bazaar
15.12.2026 Carol Concert Y3/5 Mansfield College
16.12.2026 Nativity Performances



» Parish News

October Prayer Intention: For mental health ministry.

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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