



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has disappeared and Easter is closing in upon us – We wish all our families a peaceful and happy break. Enjoy a well-earned rest and a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, bringing hope, love and new life to us all.

CSI Inspection

You may be aware that the school had its RE inspection this term. This was a huge success, with the school receiving an Outstanding grade for its Catholic Life and Mission, which is testament to all the hard work we do supporting our local community and providing our children with opportunities to flourish with our enrichment partnerships. Thank you to all those who spoke to the inspectors or completed one of our numerous surveys. It is greatly appreciated and formed part of the inspection grading. There will be no resting on our laurels though as we potentially have Ofsted next year.

»Sports News

»**Cricket Festivals** – Year 1,2 and 4 have all taken part in cricket festivals this term, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of this fantastic sport

»**Radleys Ball Festival** – Our Y4 class took part in the first Radleys Ball Festival, bringing together children from all of the schools in Blackbird Leys to share their learning and compete as a community.

»**Football Knock Outs** - All four of our football teams made the City-wide knockouts, but sadly our two boys teams suffered defeats: our Y4s at the hands of St Michael's in a very competitive match, and our Y6s in a surprise defeat, not helped by our terrible field, to St Joseph's. However, our girls' teams were both victorious, with our Y6 girls reaching their semi-final with a 3-1 win over Our Ladys and our Y4 girls reaching their final after a 3-1 win over St Nicholas. I feel like there was too much football this half term!

»**U11 Girls Regional Finals** -The aforementioned Y6 girls team (which is Y4/5/6) competed at the Regional Finals for the National League Trophy. We visited Solihull Moors in Birmingham to compete against the best schools in the Midlands and performed amazingly.

»**GAA Days at Horspath** -A real highlight this term has been the GAA festival at Horspath where our Y5/6 children got to celebrate all of their new Gaelic Football skills with Keith and the team. It was a brilliant day and has been something we have thoroughly enjoyed.



MACE Construction

The team at MACE construction, who ran science clubs on site and invited our children to visit them, have kindly donated a new set of tables and chairs for our dining hall to replace our current ones. They are also going to paint the walls around our prayer area during their 'volunteer week' this is extremely kind of them and we are immensely grateful.



EYFS Ducklings

We have visitors in our Nursery music room. Over the past week we have seen ducks emerge from their shells. They will stay with us for a few weeks as we watch them grow.





»Catholic Virtues

**Our virtues this term are:
intentional and prophetic**

Lent Mass and Penitential Service

In preparation for Easter through this Lenten period we have held a whole school mass at Bd Dominic Barberi Church and also welcomed priests into school for a Penitential Service in preparation.

CAFOD workshops and assembly

This term has seen CAFOD workshops and an assembly promoting the Big Lent Walks for CAFOD. Each class has now taken part in a walk, conducting a pilgrimage to a site of significant Catholic interest in Oxford.



World Book Day



Our Bookie Breakfast was again a huge success as we saw our hall flooded with costumes. Classes had a wonderful day designing flower pots and sharing stories all about nature and growth. Our trips out were a fantastic addition to a wonderful day.



Climate Workshops

Year 5 have been receiving weekly workshops from Climate Ed. These exciting sessions have given them a great understanding of where our planet sits and what we can do to help protect it in our own lives.



Mrs Butler has decided not to return after her maternity leave to make the most of the time with her young children, we thank her for all the hard work she put in, and the support and care she gave to those she taught, and around the school.

Mrs McCarthy is still in hospital, but she is recovering rapidly and we hope to have her back dancing again just after Easter, Ms Hussein is going to remain in Y2 for the rest of the year with her.

»Nursery Grant

This week the school received confirmation that our bid for funding to build an extension onto our nursery classroom to allow us to admit from two years was accepted. This will provide us with room for 10 two-year-old places, we hope to have this available by Christmas 2026. It does mean that there will be building work and a bit of turbulence before then, but it will all be worth it and is a symbol of the success of the school.

»Curiosity Cube

The Curiosity Cube at Greyfriars School was back again this year, with our UKS2 children visiting the site and getting to take part in a wide range of science and technology based activities.



»Youlbury!

Our Youlbury trip is straight after the holidays – please ensure you have paid or it will be incredibly awkward for everyone when they are expecting to go away and are not allowed.

»Swimming Pool

As you drive past over the holidays, you may see our swimming pool arrive on site. It will be with us for a 6 week period and, once again, we hope to have every child in the pool at least once a week. This year we have offered some sessions to Our Lady's who will be walking over and joining us on site to swim too.

» Diary Dates

13.04.2026	Three Day Youlbury Trip – Y4 Cleal's Wheels and Swimming Pool return
15.04.2026	St Bernadette Class Mass – 09:30 Bd Dominic Barberi
16.04.2026	Y4 and Y6 Girls County Football Finals
17.04.2026	Science Fair
21.04.2026	Y5/6 Basketball Festival
23.04.2026	Oxford Philharmonic Day
24.04.2026	Y2 Boys Football Festival
29.04.2026	Littlemore Youth Council – Ellison Institute
30.04.2026	KS1 Athletics Y1 Story Museum Trip
01.05.2026	Y2 Girls Football Festival



» Parish News

March Prayer Intention: For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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

