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DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

01/03/24

VACANCIES:

Friends of Dry Sandford School (FODSS) are always looking for new parents to join their fabulous, supportive team. If you have a few spare hours and would like to help organise fundraising events for the school, please contact Jan Bartlett (premierjan@gmail.com).

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING (Free School Meals): Your child may be eligible for extra funding to support their learning and wellbeing at school. Please pop into the school office, give us a call or an email, or take a look at the Pupil Premium section of our website to find out more – we just need a few details to find out if you are entitled.

QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

Many thanks to everyone who has taken the time to complete a parent feedback questionnaire - your time and opinions are hugely appreciated. As a staff, we have already taken time to celebrate and further embed the positives and have begun to act upon your suggestions to improve.

We are excited to share with you our new school vision, which has been created using a combination of suggestions from pupils, parents and staff: ***Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.*** We hope that this reflects our high expectations of learning as well as the caring ethos we aim to foster across the school. Keep an eye out for the new vision and values display board that we are in the process of creating in the school entrance corridor.

STAFF UPDATE

As you read this, Miss Chandler will have now started her maternity leave with her last day being Friday 1st March. We wish her all the best as she becomes a parent and look forward to hearing how she is getting on. Before she left, she was able to ensure a thorough and smooth transition with Mrs Norman, with opportunities for them to teach alongside and share the teaching time as well as spending time together sharing information and discussing needs and priorities. Mrs Norman has settled in brilliantly and has already got to know the pupils in Snowy Owls and across the school well. Mrs Ross has moved on to pastures new with a new job – we would like to thank her for her work over the years and we wish her well for the future.

CLASS DOJO



ClassDojo

Following on from parent feedback, we have decided to start using an online communication app called **Class Dojo** across the whole school. This is used in many schools and has proved a great way to communicate quick messages on a twitter-style class story feed and also through a direct messaging service. We have had lots of positive comments about Barn Owls' use of Seesaw but we have collaboratively decided to switch to Class Dojo as it has a few extra features! During working hours, teachers can send out reminders for things happening in school and we can also build up each child's profile with pictures of any work or activities they do in school. It's simple to use and securely accessed. Please note that, although we will be able to send direct messages to you, it will **not** be possible for you to reply or directly message staff members through the app. Instead, please continue to speak to your child's class teacher at drop-off or pick-up and to send emails to the school office to share with staff or arrange appointments. To connect to Class Dojo, using your child's individual QR code (shared with you by your child's class teacher), just scan this into any phone or device to get started. Please let us know if you need any help getting started!

UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND

Work has now started on the playground. We thank you for your patience and understanding of any disruption that this may cause. For the time being, children are spending playtimes on the field. At drop-off and pick-up, please use the front paths alongside the field to access classrooms. Breakfast Club will continue to be held in the hall – please arrive through the main entrance. HOOTs After-School Club will be held in the recently renamed Teams Room (previously known as the Nature Room/Elf Owls Class) and children can be collected from the outside door – follow the path round past Eagle Owls Classroom and you will see it straight in front of you as you go round the corner. We will do our best to keep you informed of any further changes as they occur.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

Parents of our Year 6 pupils should have been contacted today, Friday 1st March, with details of their child's allocated secondary school places. We would appreciate you keeping us updated of allocated places, as well as any changes, potential appeals and dates of transition and visit sessions so that we can support the process.

The secondary schools will soon start to get in touch with us directly to arrange in-school transition visits with the children as well as opportunities to meet with the year 6 class teachers to discuss individual children's strengths and needs.

Please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Stirling, Mrs Crothers, Mrs Friday or the school office if there's anything we can do to support you further during this transition phase.

DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

Introducing a new feature of our monthly school newsletter... our Dry Sandford Hall of Fame! A chance to celebrate the weekly school awards with our wider school community.

Congratulations to the following pupils who have earned certificates in Celebration Assemblies so far this term (wb. 19th and 26th February):



Learning & Caring Certificates:

Leon
Nuala
Frank
Onick
Ana
Danielle
Tarka
Alina

Headteacher Awards:

Surbi
Harry
Faith
Connor
Tuhina
Ciani

Headteacher Reward

Invitations:
Teddy
Daisy
Sophie
Indie
Faith
Alba-Grace



The Headteacher Reward Invitation is a brand new opportunity introduced by Mrs Friday. Once or twice per term, a small number of children who demonstrate our core values whilst also showing an excellent attitude towards learning will be invited to enjoy a milkshake/hot chocolate with Mrs Friday as a chance to celebrate their successes.

We also have two pupils, Kobie and Cooper, who are preparing to take part in The Great Tommy Sleepout to help raise funds for homeless veterans. Good luck!

What's happening:

Wednesday 6th March – Class Photos

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day (see previous letter for further details)

Friday 8th March – FODSS Cake Sale 3pm

Monday 11th March – Football team match – away against St. Blaise 3.30pm

Thursday 14th March – Tennis taster sessions

Tuesday 19th March – Weighing and Measuring visit (Reception and Year 6)

Friday 22nd March – FODSS Magician visit – after school (more details on how to buy tickets to follow)

Thursday 28th March – Last day of term: school ends at 1.30pm

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April: EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday 15th April: First day of Summer Term

Monday 6th May – BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May – HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

Monday 3rd June – INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

TUES 2ND - FRI 12TH APRIL 2024

ELITE ACTIVITIES

- Bubble Football
- Crazy Golf | Nerf Wars
- Soft Archery | Laser Tag
- Glow-In-Dark Dodgeball
- Easter themed arts & crafts and so much more...

for the full list of activities please visit the camp locations page on our website. Age restrictions apply

LARKMEAD SCHOOL
In Abingdon, OX14
call us **01235 415 846**
www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk

Find Us On

HOW TO BOOK...!

Special offer!

Boys & Girls | Ages 5 to 13
Timing : 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

SAVE 10%..
..with our **Early Bird Offer** this Easter with code "JOY10"

Extended hours 08:30 - 17:00 are also available for an extra £5 per day.

Half day sessions available for children age four years old. All sessions can be booked online via our website or by calling the office

We accept childcare vouchers

BOOKING OPTIONS
via www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk
email us: info@eliteyouthsports.co.uk

call us **01235 415 846**
www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk

Find Us On

EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!

ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!

FRESH AIR FUN

OUTDOOR REGISTERED

INSPIRING CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

FLEXIBLE BOOKINGS

Outstanding holiday camps for 4 to 12 year olds from 8 am to 6 pm throughout the school Easter & summer holidays at **CHANDLINGS PREP SCHOOL IN OXFORD**

ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK

PAY BY CHILD CARE VOUCHERS

COTHILL CALLING ALL YOUNG EXPLORERS!

Cothill invites Year 1 - Year 5 aged children to join us on a thrilling adventure at our exclusive event:

WILD SCIENCE ANIMALS EXPERIENCE

@ 10:30 on Saturday 2nd March!

Holistic Education: At Cothill, we believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals. Our curriculum balances academic excellence with character development and a love for learning.

Vibrant Campus: Explore our expansive grounds, new sports hall, golf course and more!

Inspiring Teachers: Our dedicated teachers are committed to fostering a curiosity-driven mindset and helping each student reach their full potential.

RSVP NOW to Secure Your Spot in this WILD ANIMALS Adventure! <https://www.cothillpst.org>

Join us for a morning filled with discovery, excitement, and endless possibilities! Spread the word and tag friends who'd love to explore the **WILD SCIENCE ANIMALS** with Cothill School!

#CothillAdventures #ScienceAnimals #Year2 - Y5 Explorers

OXFORD SCIENCE + IDEAS FESTIVAL

Poetry of SCIENCE 2024

Competition now open

The best poems are published and performed during the Festival in October

Are you 16 or younger?

Write a terrific scientific poem to win great prizes

Enter for free today

Closing date 3 May 2024

if-oxford.com/poetry

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024

FLYING DISPLAYS & STATIC AIRCRAFT
GROUND ATTRACTIONS · FREE CAR PARKING
DOGS ON A LEAD ARE WELCOME

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE:

ADULTS (16+)	£21 IN ADVANCE
SENIORS (65+)	£11 IN ADVANCE
CHILDREN (5-15)	£7 IN ADVANCE
UNDER 5s	FREE

CAR PARKS ARE OPEN 7.30AM • SHOWGROUND OPENS AT 10AM
SHOW CLOSES 5.30PM • AIRFIELD CLOSES 7PM

ABINGDON AIRFIELD, DALTON BARRACKS, OXFORDSHIRE

From the A34, take the Hinksey Hill junction & head towards Boars Hill. Follow the AA signs to Honeybottom Lane. Please remember to purchase a ticket online.

WWW.ABINGDONAIRANDCOUNTRY.CO.UK