



Dry Sandford Primary School
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Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A warm welcome back to school for a new year and a new term of learning and opportunities. We hope you all had a restful break and plenty of family time together.

The staff team all came together for our INSET training day on Monday. Alongside annual statutory training in Health and Safety policies and procedures and medical allergy training, we had a chance to reflect on the progress that the school has made over the past year and what we can do now to continue improving outcomes and opportunities for our children.

There is lots coming up to look forward to in the spring term, including various club and extra-curricular opportunities, as you will see further on in the newsletter.

A few reminders:

- Air-up water bottles are not permitted in school
- Mobile phones should not be used on the school site, including when wraparound clubs are on
- Make-up should not be worn school, including coloured lip gloss. During cold weather, if children have dry or chapped lips, a clear lip balm may be brought into school and kept in a child's school bag to be used between lessons if needed.

Many thanks for your continued support in promoting healthy eating through snacks and lunches. We have been really pleased with the improvement in this area since reinforcing the expectations in September.

OWLETS PLAYGROUND GATE

We have made the decision to keep the **gate to the Owlets playground next to the clothing bin** near the Lashford Lane pedestrian entrance **permanently closed**. This is to help preserve the condition of the gate and the playground surface from unnecessary wear and tear. We apologise for the inconvenience of having to **walk around the outside of the Owlets playground** when picking up and dropping off at school and HOOTs. The gates either side of the Owlets classroom may still be used to allow access through to the back playground. This change has been explained to the children in assembly and we appreciate your support in reminding children when under your supervision and passing on to other relatives or friends who might collect your children.

STAFF UPDATES

After 12 years as a member of support staff, and even more as a governor and parent, **Mrs Gillett will be leaving us to begin her retirement at the end of this half term** – her last day will be Friday 14th February. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill for her many years of dedication to Dry Sandford and the positive impact she has had on the lives of the children here as well as behind the scenes of our school. She will be greatly missed but we wish her a long and happy retirement, enjoying more time with her family and her beloved horses.

We are also looking forward to **welcoming back Miss Chandler, as her maternity leave comes to an end**, in March. To ensure a smooth transition for the children, we are pleased to share that **Mrs Norman will continue to teach full time in Snowy Owls** and that **Miss Chandler will join Mrs Crothers in teaching Eagle Owls class** for the rest of this academic year until the summer holidays. Any further staff changes for the next academic year in September will be shared nearer the time.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please accept our apologies for the delay in getting our school website back up and running. The company who host our domain name removed the domain from their system in error without realising during the school holidays. While the school email system is now receiving emails again, they have not yet reactivated the school website. We will keep you updated when the issue is resolved. In the meantime, Helen and Natalie in the school office will be happy to share any information you need.

INSET DAYS 2025-2026

Our INSET staff training days have now been confirmed for the next academic year:

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Monday 3rd November 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Monday 1st June 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026



A full calendar showing our 2025-2026 term dates and school holiday dates is attached to the email with this newsletter and will also be uploaded to our school website as soon as we are able to access it again.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

The after-school sports clubs run by Active Future, South Oxfordshire, are continuing this term, here at Dry Sandford Primary School!

The KS1 club (for reception, year 1 and year 2) is held on Wednesdays from 3.15pm until 4.30pm and the KS2 club (for years 3, 4, 5 & 6) is held on Thursdays from 3.15pm until 4.30pm.

To register or re-register for the new term, click on these links to book a space for your child and for details of how to pay:

KS1: <https://shorturl.at/xFlnd>

KS2: <https://shorturl.at/WLm9k>

If it would help you with the logistics of the club for 2 siblings in different Key Stages to be able to attend the same club session, please speak to the school office staff.

In addition to these after-school clubs, Active Future are also leading 2 lunchtime sports clubs which children are able to opt into on the day. There is no charge to parents for the lunchtime clubs.



PIANO LESSONS

Adele Smythe from Witney Music Tuition comes into school every Thursday to teach individual piano lessons. If you would like to find out more about the costs involved or find out if there are more spaces, please contact Adele directly on:

witneymusictuition@googlemail.com



KS2 FOOTBALL CLUB:

The after-school Football Team Club, previously limited to Year 5 and 6, has now been opened up for all of Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) and will restart on Tuesday 14th January. Children brought home a leaflet this week with details of how to book a place directly through Footy Kids, who run this club on our behalf. To register your child, you can follow the link below and search for our school:

www.enrolmy.com/footy-kids

Please note, this club is separate to the lunchtime Footy Kids club with inflatable pitch for all year groups, which will return in March.



TAX-FREE CHILDCARE FOR WRAPAROUND CARE

Did you know, you may be eligible to save money on your Breakfast and After-School Club payments...? If you are entitled to Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2. You can then use this money to pay for breakfast and after-school club here at Dry Sandford Primary School.

Further details on who is eligible and how to set up your account can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> Please speak to Mrs Lyons in the school office for support with setting this up or making payments.

CHILDCARE FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

In recognition of the challenges that some service families face when trying to access wraparound childcare, Defence launched the [Wraparound Childcare \(WAC\) Scheme](#) in September 2022.

Eligible Service personnel (Tri-Service) can register for up to 20 hours a week per child during term time only (39 weeks per year) of wraparound childcare funding for 4 to 11-year-old children (4 to 16 years if in receipt of certain disability benefits) attending before and after school childcare in the UK or eligible overseas locations.

For eligibility criteria and further details of how to apply, follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-service-children>

Please get in touch with the school office, or Mrs Platt, our school Service Children's Champion, if we can support you further with this.



DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to the following pupils who earned certificates in Celebration Assemblies in December:



Learning & Caring Certificates:

Naomi
Jake
Eibhlin
Lillie
Luka
Lisa
Mia
Jack
Zoonka
Elsa
Sofia
Daisy
Amelia

Headteacher Awards:

Flora
Izzy
Ellie
Alesha
William
Holly
Darcey

Headteacher Reward Invitations:

Indi
Sophia
Nina
Allison
Danielle
Tarka
Emma
William
Elsa

CALENDAR DATES:

Thursday 13 th February 2025	Weighing and Measuring Sessions for Reception and Year 6 Pupils (more details to follow)
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Vision Screening for Reception Pupils (more details to follow)
Monday 17th Feb 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAY (school closed)
Wednesday 26 th February 2025	Footy Kids Taster Session for all classes

Wednesday 5 th March 2025	Class Photos
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
Friday 21 st March 2025	World Downs Syndrome Day and Red Nose Day
Monday 24 th March 2025	Orchestra Day at Oxford Town Hall (selected KS2 children)
Friday 4 th March 2025 – 9.15am	Easter Service in school hall – families welcome
Monday 7th April 2025 to Monday 21st April 2025	EASTER HOLIDAY (school closed)
Monday 5th May 2025	BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)
Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAY (school closed)
Monday 2nd June 2025	INSET DAY (school closed)
Wednesday 23rd July 2025 onwards	SUMMER HOLIDAY (school closed)

New Classes!!!

Amanda Alden

Contemporary

STARTING JANUARY 2025

Wednesday 4:30 - 7-10yrs
5:15 - 11-13yrs
6:00 - 14+yrs

Come join us in our new studio space at Cothill School!

amanda@aadanceacademy.co.uk





@cygnetsartschool




Book Now!

TERM TIME CLASSES • HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS • PRIVATE TUITION

ART CLASSES • AGES 5-14

Now Booking for Spring Term 2025:

'Prehistory'

Thursdays 4:00pm • Northcourt Centre, Abingdon
Fridays 4:30pm • Northcourt Centre, Abingdon
Saturdays 10am • North East Abingdon Community Association

Half Term Classes in Abingdon ON SALE NOW!

07411686935 | ABINGDONWITNEY@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM
WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/ABINGDONWITNEY

Every Wednesday during term-time 4.00 - 5.30pm

Outdoor Explorers



£8.00 per child



TASTER SESSION
WEDS 12 FEBRUARY, 4PM



Experience the magic of nature & the joy of outdoor adventure, together with your children, after school each Wednesday:

- Fun outdoor self-led activities
- Hands-on nature exploration
- Unwind, connect with the environment & make friends

www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510