



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

# DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2025

## HOLI FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Next week, on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**, is the **Hindu Festival of Holi** (pronounced "holly") which is a celebration of colour and the beginning of spring. It is traditionally celebrated outdoors, with special powder paint being thrown in the air, covering all those celebrating in an array of bright colours.



To mark this special day, we have decided to hold our own mini-Holi festival at the end of the day in the playground. Teachers will be throwing the powder paint, which is specially formulated to be safe for these purposes, for the children to run through. While this powder is easily removed from clothing and hair, we would encourage you to **send your child into school with an old t-shirt/shirt** for them to put on over their uniform.

If you would prefer to opt-out, if they (or you) do not wish to participate, please email the school office to inform us. We do hope that everyone will want to take part in this fun, colourful, messy celebration of Spring!

## STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Julie Price to the school as a new Teaching Assistant. She comes with many years experience supporting children in primary schools and the children have enjoyed getting to know her this week. Mrs Price will be predominantly based in Owlets class but will also support at lunchtimes and when needed across the whole school.

It was lovely to welcome back Miss Chandler this week after her maternity leave came to an end. She will be working alongside Mrs Crothers in Eagle Owls for the remainder of this academic year.

At the end of this term, we will sadly be saying farewell to Mrs Platt who will be leaving for a new job opportunity. Over the many years that she has worked here, Mrs Platt has made a significant contribution to the school through her teaching, supporting groups and individuals, ELSA provision, personalised interventions and supporting families, and she will be greatly missed.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

What a fantastic day (and week!) of activities we have had celebrating World Book Day. It was lovely to see the effort everyone had put into planning and creating their character costumes and the hall was full of smiles as all of the children joined in in a whole-school parade to start the day. Each class was also able to enjoy online workshops and class-based activities planned to encourage children's love of reading.



A huge thank-you and well done to everyone who took part in our Reading in Unusual Places Competition for World Book Day. We loved seeing all of the photos and hope that it helped brought the children's love for reading alive! Judging the competition was a tough decision but prizes were awarded in assembly on Friday afternoon and we are pleased to share the winning entries below for the whole community to enjoy:



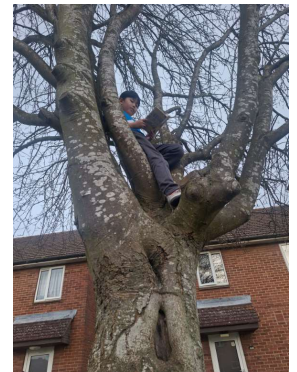
*Clara  
Owlets*



*Olivia  
Barn Owls*



*Darcey  
Snowy Owls*



*Onick  
Eagle Owls*

Remember to use your World Book Day tokens before 23<sup>rd</sup> March!



## AMAZON WISH LIST

It was lovely to receive some items gifted from the school's wish list this week – many thanks to the family who kindly donated.

We are particularly keen to replenish our playtime equipment ready for the summer.

Here is the link to our current wish list should you be in a position to purchase anything, or if you may have any second-hand alternatives at home that you no longer need:

<https://amzn.eu/aHsQAzq>

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Look out for details of an upcoming Easter Hamper Raffle, being organised by our school council representatives! Tickets will be sold during week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> March.



## FODSS EASTER BONNET

Friends of Dry Sandford School are inviting everyone to take part in this Easter Bonnet Competition. This is just for fun and there is no cost to take part.



## WEBSITE

We hope you've had a chance to take a look at our new school website:

<https://www.dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk/>

Many thanks to parent governors Lindsey Wakeley and Cliona Keane who supported us with designing and building it and to parent Charmaine Moody for coming in to take new professional photos to add to it.

We have a few tweaks and things to add to it but do keep checking back for useful information, dates, documents and forms.

## REMINDERS

- Please can all children have a pair of wellies kept in school everyday. These are useful for outdoor learning in geography and science as well as for wearing on the field when it is not completely dry. Owlets and Barn Owns also use them for Forest School.
- The lane that runs alongside the school, 'The Field', is a privately owned road so we ask that parents please refrain from parking here to access school or turning around.

## WORLD DOWNS SYNDROME DAY & RED NOSE DAY 2025

With these two important fundraising events coinciding on the same day, we have decided as a school to support both in one go! So, on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**, our pupil School Council representatives have chosen to organise a **Crazy Hair** (for Red Nose Day) AND **Odd Socks** (for World Downs Syndrome Day) day for the whole school. We are asking for a £2 suggested cash donation on the day with funds raised being shared equally between the Comic Relief and Downs Syndrome International charities. Normal school uniform should still be worn. Please ensure that, if temporary colour is chosen as part of the crazy hair style, this returns to natural colour ready for the next school day.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Footy Kids will be running the following extra-curricular sports clubs this term:

- Multi-Sports Club – Tuesdays after school
- Inflatable Football Club – Thursday lunchtimes

To book a space for your child and for details of how to pay, follow this link:

<https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids#/name/%25dry%20sandford%25>



## THANKS

- To the anonymous donor who very kindly paid for pancake topping ingredients so that the whole school could enjoy a treat on pancake day, and to our kitchen staff for kindly preparing them!
- To another anonymous donor who generously donated the funds to be able to purchase Easter Eggs to gift to the children at the end of term.
- To St Helen's Church in Dry Sandford who have kindly let us borrow their electric piano to use in assemblies and for piano lessons.

## ONLINE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

If you're interested in learning more about the science behind children's behaviour and learn strategies to support your child's behaviour at home, book a space on this valuable parenting workshop, led by a team of local behaviour specialists: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-for-parents-responding-to-behaviour-tickets-1144081792439?aff=oddtcreator>





## DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

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



### Learning & Caring Certificates:

Allison  
Ky  
Emma  
Esmee  
Zoonka  
Bobby  
Austin  
Muyeng  
Noahang  
Ollie  
Lillie  
Riley  
Olivia  
Ewan  
Alex  
Anna

### Headteacher Awards:

Lawrence  
Lily  
Frank  
Naomi  
Jake  
Hope  
Alina  
Mark

### Headteacher Reward:

Clara  
Teddy  
Holly  
Olivia  
Stanley  
Lily  
Riley  
Zoonka  
Hope

## CALENDAR DATES:

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Rehearsal for Music Flood Orchestra Day at Radley Primary School (selected children)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	World Downs Syndrome Day and Red Nose Day
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Orchestra Day at Oxford Town Hall (selected KS2 children)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Class Photos
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 9.15am	Easter Service in school hall – families welcome
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
wb. 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Parents Evenings – further details to follow
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	National Key Stage 2 Assessment Week (Year 6 SATs)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Year 6 Junior Citizens trip – further details to follow
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025</b>	<b>INSET DAY (school closed)</b>
From Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Year 4 Multiplication Check will be completed at school within this time window
wb. 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Phonics Screening week for year 1s
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Cotswold Wildlife Trip for Owlets and Barn Owls
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 onwards</b>	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>





OLA  
OUR LADY'S  
ABINGDON



# EASTER HOLIDAY SWIMMING LESSONS

MONDAY 7TH-FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

**Confidence building:** £60 per week (30 minute lesson)

**Beginners:** £60 per week (30 minute lesson)

**Stroke improvement:** £90 per week (45 minute lesson)

To book or for further information please email Abbie at  
swimminglessons@ola.org.uk

*Lessons will run in the mornings between 10:30-12:15*

Radley Road | Abingdon-on-Thames | OX14 3PS | 01235 524658 |  
www.ola.org.uk



CREATIVE  
COURAGE  
FOR LIFE!

## ENROLLING FOR THE NEW TERM STAGECOACH ABINGDON, DIDCOT AND WALLINGFORD

Singing, dancing and acting classes for 4 - 18 year-olds

Giving children and young people the  
Creative Courage to stand up on stage  
for over 35 years.

BOOK NOW

www.stagecoach.co.uk/abingdon

01235 390 810 / 07305 439 825

abingdon@stagecoach.co.uk



TRAFALGAR  
ENTERTAINMENT



**ABINGDON  
AIR & COUNTRY  
SHOW**

25th  
ANNIVERSARY

SAT 14TH  
JUNE 2025

ABINGDON AIRFIELD  
/DALTON BARRACKS  
10AM - 4.30PM  
OX13 6JQ



**CAR PARKS OPEN 7.30AM**

**PEDESTRIAN GATE OPEN 9.30AM**

**SHOWGROUND OPENS 10AM**

**PUBLIC ENTRY & EXIT BY VEHICLE IS ON  
BARROW ROAD - OX13 6JQ**

**TAKE A34 MARCHAM INTERCHANGE  
ONTO GOZZARDS FORD / BARROW  
ROAD.**

what3words: drifter.warms.developed

ADULT (16 YEARS +) £20 / £25 ON THE DAY  
SENIORS (65 YEARS +) £10 / £15 ON THE DAY  
CHILD (5-15 YEARS) £7 / £8 ON THE DAY  
UNDER 5'S FREE

NOTE: 'ON THE DAY' TICKETS CAN STILL BE  
PURCHASED EITHER ONLINE OR BY CASH ON  
THE GATE - NO CASH MACHINES ARE ONSITE!

More information and online tickets at [www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)



## THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Singing School was established in 2013 to provide children with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

This Easter, we will be learning some beautiful seasonal music by Handel, Gibbons and John Ireland as well as some light-hearted pieces by Cole Porter and Aaron Copland. And, as always on our courses, we will be giving sessions on vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see [www.oxbridgesingschool.com](http://www.oxbridgesingschool.com) or email [oxbridgess@gmail.com](mailto:oxbridgess@gmail.com)

7 & 8 APRIL 2025

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, JERICHO, OXFORD

[www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk](http://www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk)







**Submission deadline**  
4 April 2025

**For Years**  
5, 6, 7 & 8

**Enter today**  
for a chance to win £100 (runners-up win £50) and to see your artwork in an exhibition.

# BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Take part in this exciting **ART COMPETITION**, breaking down boundaries between **art, science and people**. Get to know amazing people doing science and be inspired to make your own art!

For more details please visit:  
[www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/beyond-boundaries](https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/beyond-boundaries)



# BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Submission  
deadline  
4 April  
2025

For Years  
5, 6, 7 & 8

**An exciting art competition inspired by science**  
**Now accepting artwork entries!**

The University of Oxford invites your school to participate in an art competition for Oxfordshire state school students, to create art inspired by the lives and research of scientists from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. Your students can choose from one of six featured Oxford scientists, before creating an artistic response to their research (this could be a painting, drawing, sculpture, animation, dance, poetry, or any other artistic media) and writing a short statement about the artwork. Profiles and research descriptions of the scientists are available online at <https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/beyond-boundaries/>, along with examples of profiles and artwork from our 2018, 2020 and 2023 competitions.

#### WHY TAKE PART?

- **Prize money.** Winning entries (one from each year group) will receive £100, and runners-up will receive £50. Entries can be submitted by individuals or groups.
- **Public exhibition.** All submissions will be shared online (subject to permissions) and selected submissions will be displayed in a prominent Oxford location this summer.
- **Inspire students with diverse role models.** Show your school students real-life examples of scientists from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- **Foster creativity.** Help show how creative science and maths can be, and how STEM subjects are great for creative and curious people.

#### WHEN DO WE TAKE PART?

- **The competition is now open!** All artwork entries must be received by 4 April 2025.

#### WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- **Encourage your school students in eligible year groups to participate.** Please share with parents and families too!
- **Build it into your class activities** – for example, projects in form time or class assemblies, art and science lessons, or take-home work.
- **Share the information** with art or science (or other relevant) clubs.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit <https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/beyond-boundaries/> for more details about the competition and how to submit your entries.

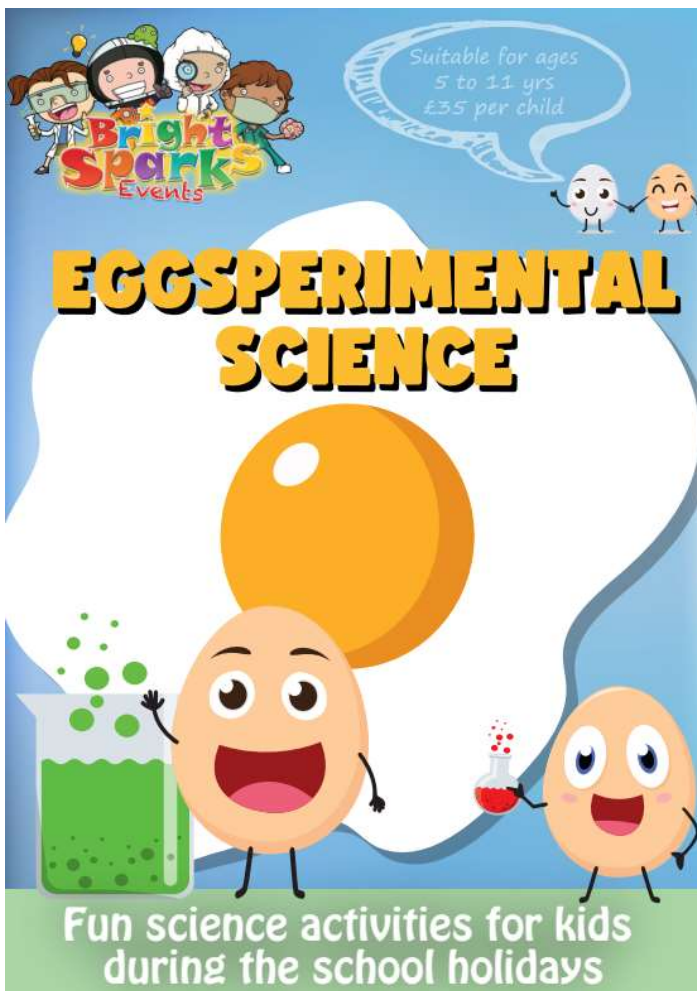


We can provide you with posters to promote the competition. Just get in touch!



Any questions?

Contact [diversity@mpls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:diversity@mpls.ox.ac.uk)



**Bright Sparks Events**

Suitable for ages 5 to 11 yrs  
£35 per child

# EGGSPERIMENTAL SCIENCE

Fun science activities for kids during the school holidays

## Easter Holiday Camps 2025

Monday 7th April	West Oxford Primary School, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford, OX2 0BY
Tuesday 8th April	Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Curbridge Rd, Witney, OX28 5JZ
Wednesday 9th April	Begbroke Village Hall, Begbroke Lane, Woodstock, OX5 1RN
Thursday 10th April	Stockham Primary School, Stockham Way, Wantage, OX12 9HL
Friday 11th April	Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Rd, Abingdon, OX14 5HB
Monday 14th April	Long Lane Primary School, Long Lane, Reading, RG31 6YG
Tuesday 15th April	Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN
Wednesday 16th April	St Joseph's Primary School, Headley Way, Headington, OX3 7SX
Thursday 17th April	Gagle Brook Primary School, Cranberry Avenue, Bicester, OX27 8BD

Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day. Sibling discount available.

## EGGSPERIMENTAL SCIENCE



Call a member of our team or visit our website for more details

To book, please go to the 'Science Holiday Camps' tab on our website, and click the 'Register Now' button. All bookings are processed through Active Network. Suitable for children aged 5 to 11 years. Spaces are subject to availability.

Call: 01865 522 775

[www.brightsparks.co.uk](http://www.brightsparks.co.uk)