



**Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.**

# DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2025

## END OF TERM

It has been a lovely end of term this week with classes doing Easter-related activities throughout the week and finishing with our special Easter Service on Friday – we're so pleased so many of you were able to come along to watch. And what a treat that each child had the opportunity to decorate (and eat!) an Easter biscuit – many thanks to Mrs Cottingham and Mrs Akers for making this possible!

A huge thanks also to FODSS for kindly gifting an Easter egg to every child to take home to enjoy after the Easter Egg Hunt on Friday.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break and are able to make the most of the warmer weather. The new term restarts on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** and we look forward to welcoming you all back then.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to all of the children who took part in our end-of-term Easter competitions! We hope everyone enjoyed getting in involved.

The winners of the School Council's Easter Colouring Competition were **Zoonka, Hope, Emma, Liliana, Holly and Miles.**



The winners of FODSS' Easter Bonnet competition were **Kai L, Evie M, Darcey, Amelia & Richie.**

The whole school enjoyed watching the Easter Bonnet parade in Celebration Assembly on Friday afternoon. **Thank-you to FODSS** for organising this and coming in to choose the winners.



The School Council's raffle prizes were drawn at the end of our Easter Service and the lucky winners were **Jack, Harry, Evie M & Clara.** The raffle raised a fantastic **£165** so many thanks to everyone who contributed, and to Miss Goodgame who supported the School Council in putting the hamper together. School Council will plan how to use the funds at their next meeting.

## HOUSE MATHS CHALLENGE

All classes took part in our annual House Maths Challenge earlier this week, representing their houses in completing maths questions and challenges set by the House Captains. Here are the results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Red House with 110 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Blue House with 103 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Orange House with 102 points

Watch this space for more House Challenges coming up in the summer term!

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There is still space to sign your child up for the **Inflatable Football Club**, led by Footy Kids, on **Thursday lunchtimes**:

[https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids/activity/402-Dry\\_Sandford\\_Primary\\_School\\_Lunchtime\\_Football\\_Fun\\_Club](https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids/activity/402-Dry_Sandford_Primary_School_Lunchtime_Football_Fun_Club)

The **Multi-Sports Club**, also run by Footy Kids, **after school on Tuesdays** will be running for another term after Easter. To re-book or to register your child for a space next term, please follow this link:

[https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids/activity/429-Dry\\_Sandford\\_Primary\\_School\\_Term\\_4\\_Multi\\_Sport\\_After\\_School\\_Club?emyatb=4w7ygdi834](https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids/activity/429-Dry_Sandford_Primary_School_Term_4_Multi_Sport_After_School_Club?emyatb=4w7ygdi834)



If your child is interested in having **individual piano, guitar or violin lessons** at school with 'Piano Fun Club', follow this link to complete the online form:

<https://www.pianofunclub.co.uk/parent-page>

## 'OFFLINE & SAFE: RETHINKING CHILDREN'S DIGITAL FREEDOM' EVENT

Follow this link to book yourself a space at this free event, hosted by Aureus secondary school in Didcot and open to parents of primary and secondary aged children, about the impact of the Internet, smartphones and social media on young children:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/offline-safe-rethinking-childrens-digital-freedom-tickets-1290416563679?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday, 24th April  
6pm - 7pm.

"Offline & Safe; Rethinking Children's Digital Freedom" is an event aimed at parents, carers, and school leaders, addressing the effects of unrestricted internet and social media access on young children.

**Aureus School**  
Cultivating ambition; high standards for all.

## REMINDERS

- With the warmer weather returning, please ensure that children come into school with a **sun hat and water bottle** every day.
- **Sun cream should be applied before school.** We recommend applying a cream with factor 50 which protects against UVA and UVB. Long-lasting creams advertised as 'all day' or 'up to 8 hours' usually don't need reapplying but children are welcome to keep a named sun cream in their school bag and we will encourage them to reapply themselves on very hot days or where it may have rubbed off through water play. Younger children will be supervised with this.
- Please remember that **break-time snack should be fruit or vegetables.** Thank-you for avoiding alternatives such as fruit-winders.
- If your child would like to share **invitations** to a party with their friends at school, our class teachers are happy to hand them out for you to make sure they don't get lost and to help avoid any potential disruption in class.
- Please ensure you **book Breakfast & After-School Club spaces in advance** using the School Money app to ensure that we have sufficient staffing and resources to support the children. Last minute bookings can be made by calling or emailing the office.



## DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to the following pupils who earned awards in Celebration Assemblies in March:



### Learning & Caring Certificates:

Olivia	Anna G
Ewan	Alex
Ottilie	William
Niyana	Ellie
Darcey	Onick
Louisa	Damien
Ky	Daisy
Richie	Connor
Tuhina	Tarka
Evie M	Izzy
Hugh	Hope
Allison	Vivan
Rayson	Naomi
Noah	Muyeng

### Headteacher Awards:

Evie D  
Danielle  
Alesha  
Surbi  
Alb-Grace  
Sonny  
Ava  
Rosie  
Nina  
Alina  
Oakley  
Anna G  
Mia  
Alex  
Mila

### Red Owl Badges (70 Good Marks / Merits)

Mila	Anna G
Alina	Surbi
Ana S	Jack
Zoonka	Noah
Bobby	Isabel
Olivia	Darcey
Onick	Damien
Rayson	

### Headteacher Reward:

Sonny  
Nuala  
Niyana  
Mia  
Evie  
Alba-Grace  
Alex  
Bobby

## CALENDAR DATES:

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School reopens to pupils for a new term
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St George's Day – children welcome to wear group uniforms to school (eg. scouts, guides)
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April: 3.20pm-5.40pm	Parents Evening 1
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May: 4pm-6.40pm	Parents Evening 2
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day Picnic Celebration
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May</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	Year 6 Junior Citizens trip
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	House Sports Obstacle Challenge
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</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	Phonics Screening week for Year 1s
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Cotswold Wildlife Trip for Owlets & Barn Owls
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Transition Afternoon
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June – 5pm	New Reception Starters Parents Information Meeting
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July – 2pm and 6pm	KS2 Production Performances (all Eagle Owls and Snowy Owls children to return to school for 5.30pm ready for evening performance)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	School Reports sent home
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	House Quiz Challenge
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July – 9.15am	Sports Day on school field – families welcome
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July – after school	Year 6 Leavers Celebration Movie Night
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July – 9.15am	Leavers' Assembly in school hall – families welcome
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July onwards</b>	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	First day of new term – school reopen to pupils

# OXFORDSHIRE WALKING WITH YOU FORUM

## JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

"Walking with You" is a welcoming, parent-led group for anyone caring for children and young people (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Find a safe space to connect, ask questions, and share experiences at your comfort level. Learn from insightful discussions on topics that matter to you.

Sessions are led by Parent Peer Support Workers and held online via Microsoft Teams, with occasional coffee mornings. Drop in and out as needed.

Look forward to special guest events with professionals from CAMHS leading some of our sessions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>MAY</b>	<b>GET OUTSIDE &amp; SUMMER ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>02</b>	12PM - 1PM ONLINE
<b>JUN</b>	<b>COFFEE MORNING SOUTH OXON</b>
<b>06</b>	12PM - 1PM - LOCATION SHARED WHEN BOOKED
<b>JUL</b>	<b>SLEEP</b>
<b>04</b>	12PM - 1PM ONLINE
<b>AUG</b>	<b>WELLBEING WALK</b>
<b>13</b>	LOCATION AND TIME SHARED ON BOOKING

## TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR :



[WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WWY/](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involvement/oxon/wwy/)

# ONLINE COFFEE MORNINGS

## JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

Parent/Carer Peer Support Forum

Weekly Coffee Morning Drop-In  
Wednesday | 11am - 12:30pm  
Online

Limited to 10 spaces per session

To book follow the link or QR code

[HTTPS://WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WWY/](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involvement/oxon/wwy/)



Join our friendly, supportive space to connect with other parents and carers, share experiences, and get guidance from our Peer Support Workers. Whether you're navigating CAMHS or looking for ways to support your young person's mental health, we're here to help.

Choose a Wednesday that works for you and drop in!  
Reserve your spot today!

WWY  
Supportive Steps  
CAMHS  
Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Service



Hill End  
A place of possibilities

## Family Forest Days this Easter

10am - 2pm

Tuesday 8 April & Wednesday 9 April

- \* Pond dipping
- \* Seasonal natural arts & crafts, including willow weaving
- \* Follow trails and splash in the streams and explore
- \* Wildlife Walk with Oxford University bird researcher
- \* Wool spinning demonstration and have a go!
- \* Whittling workshop (min age & extra charge)

£9 child / £11 adult includes a BBQ lunch



@Hill\_end\_centre @HillEndOEC @Hill\_End

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



Hill End  
A place of possibilities

## Go Wild This May Half-Term!



\*NEW\* WILD DAYS for 7-12 year olds

Bushcraft, nature walks, campfire cooking, and den-building in the stunning surroundings of Hill End and Wytham Woods.

From pond-dipping to minibeast hunting, our expert tutors will lead exciting hands-on activities, making learning fun while kids connect with nature and new friends.

Booking Essential: <https://hill-end.org/news/wild-days>

HillEndOEC

Hill\_End

hill\_end\_centre

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ

01865 863510



**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

PAY BY  
CHILDCARE  
VOUCHERS

ULTIMATE  
ACTIVITY  
CAMPS

## GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!



**EARLY  
BOOKING  
OFFER**  
ENDS 04.03.25

Outstanding activity day camps for 4 to 12 year olds from  
8am to 6pm during the Easter and Summer holidays

**CHANDLINGS PREP SCHOOL, OXFORD**

**book now at [ultimateactivity.co.uk](http://ultimateactivity.co.uk)**

OFSTED REGISTERED • FLEXIBLE BOOKINGS • MON - FRI | 8AM - 6PM

# house of fun

## ADVENTURE Week

A WEEK OF ADVENTURE THEMED SPORTS,  
COOKERY AND ARTS & CRAFTS! INCLUDING:

- SPY SCHOOL
- FORENSICS LAB
- ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGES
- POTION MAKING

CHILD CARE  
VOUCHERS  
ACCEPTED

**HAF**  
PLACES AVAILABLE

### EASTER MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Monday 7th to Thursday 17th April, 2025  
open from 8.30am to 6pm each day!

RUSH COMMON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HENDRED WAY  
ABINGDON  
OX14 2AW

Scan the QR code to book now!  
or visit [house-of-fun.co.uk](http://house-of-fun.co.uk), or call 07762 944204

**Easter Holidays**

## PRINCESS SMARTYANTS

BY PABETTE COLE

**THEATRE**  
Ages 4+

**Princess  
Smartyants**  
Tue 15 - Wed 16 April  
11am & 2pm

Princess Smartyants does not want to get married. She wants to carry on making music with her menagerie of monstrous pets, but the King and Queen have other ideas....

Full of songs and madcap comedy, Princess Smartyants is a treat for all the family from The Wardrobe Ensemble (*The Star Seekers*).

Tickets £10 (£8 child)

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**Sensory  
Storytelling  
Drama Workshop**  
Ages 8-11

Mon 14 - Wed 16 April  
9am - 12pm

Reimagine stories using all the senses; how can we bring stories to life through sound, smell, touch and sight? A torch as a lighthouse, baking paper as crispy Autumn leaves or perhaps a drum as a heartbeat! Let your imaginations run wild in this fun and relaxed drama workshop.

Tickets £60

Full bursaries available  
Email Abbie on [waltona@thenorthwall.com](mailto:waltona@thenorthwall.com) to apply

**Book now: [thenorthwall.com](http://thenorthwall.com)**

# BEGINNER IRISH DANCE CLASS

26th March 2025

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sunningwell Village Hall

OX13 6RD

£6.50 per hour

Open to girls & boys aged 4+



Fully insured. DBS Checked. CLRG registered teachers



Contact Us:  
07971035797  
07484640106  
marionflanagancarthy@gmail.com

@cygnetsartschool



TERM TIME CLASSES • HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS • PRIVATE TUITION

CYGNETS ART SCHOOL  
Easter Holidays 2025 | 'Colourful Spring'  
AGES 5-13

- Wood Green School, Witney •
- Ladygrove Community Centre, Didcot •
- North East Abingdon Community Association, Abingdon •

Traditional drawing, painting, and sculpture, combined with unique projects; experienced teachers, & professional quality materials. Each workshop covers a new, exciting subject or technique.

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WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/ABINGDONWITNEY

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

Stagecoach Entertainment Ltd. is a registered company in England. All our entertainment is provided by professional performers. All our entertainment is provided by professional performers. All our entertainment is provided by professional performers.

## ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

25th  
ANNIVERSARY



SAT 14TH  
JUNE 2025

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



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!

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

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

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)