



Dry Sandford Primary School  
Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, OXON, OX13 6EE  
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head.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk

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

# DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**September 2024**

## WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome back for the start of a new and exciting academic year here at Dry Sandford Primary School. We hope you have all had a happy, safe and restful break.

You may notice that our monthly School Newsletter has a fresh new look, which we hope will be easier to follow. Rest assured, future newsletters won't be quite as many pages as this... but we hope the information here is helpful to you all at the start of the new year.

Having spent a few days working alongside Mrs Busby at the end of last term, Mrs Lyons has now officially started as our new School Administrator and Finance Officer. We know that you will join us in welcoming her into her new role.

The staff team have been working hard over the summer holidays and INSET days to get the school ready to welcome the children back: preparing classrooms and resources, adapting classroom and cloakroom environments, deep cleaning, decluttering and developing our brand new library (more on this later)!

As we start a fresh new year and look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead, we continue to reinforce our school values through everything that we do: **Kindness, Determination, Creativity, Respect.**



## OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open from **8.45am to 3.15pm** every school day, where our administrative staff, **Mrs Helen Lyons (Monday-Wednesdays)** and **Mrs Natalie Napper (Thursday-Fridays)**, are happy to help you with any queries you may have or pass on messages to other members of staff.

Office staff can also be contacted during these hours via phone (01865 730432) or email: [office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk)

Emails and phone lines are not monitored during school holidays but Mrs. Friday's email account will be checked for emergency contact.

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding children is at the heart of everything we do here at Dry Sandford. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs. Friday, Mrs Crothers and Mrs Platt.

Mrs. Friday can be contacted by email outside of our normal office hours regarding safeguarding: [head.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk)

If an immediate response from Children's Social Care is necessary, call 0345 050 7666. If you have an urgent concern for a child call 999 or 101.

## SERVICE FAMILIES

If any parent is going away on deployment, please complete a deployment form to enable us to provide additional support to your child/ren during this period of time. Deployment forms are available from the school office or our school website in the 'Service Families' section. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Platt, Service Children's Champion, via the office.

## SUMMER FETE

After the huge success of last term's summer fete, which raised an incredible £1,600, we would like to reiterate our thanks to everyone involved:

- All of the FODSS members who helped with the planning and organisation, including Claire Hughes who pulled it all together;
- Those who helped with set-up, made cakes, designed posters and stuck tickets on tombola prizes;
- All parents, carers and family members who donated prizes for tombolas and stalls;
- The volunteer pupils, parents and staff who ran stalls on the day;
- Mike Austin of MPA Liquid Screed who generously sponsored the event;
- Everyone who attended and helped to spread the word.

Some of the money raised will be used towards resources, furniture and books for our new library – we can't wait to share the progress with you as it starts to take shape!

## WISH LIST

Our school Amazon wish list has been put together by the staff team with a range of resources, equipment, books and games to further enhance the opportunities and experiences available for our pupils. We are grateful for any contributions you are able to make.

If you notice an item on the list that you have at home and no longer need, perhaps you might consider donating it.

To view and purchase from the wishlist, follow this link: <https://amzn.eu/aHsQAzg>



At the moment, we would particularly appreciate as many donations of bags of play-sand as possible in order to help us to re-fill the sand pit in the Owlets playground.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS

The office staff have been working to set up our systems ready for the new year. Please bear with us while we find our feet and get everything sorted!

Class Dojo has been updated for the new classes and new families have been invited to join. Please get in touch with the office staff if you're unable to view your child's class story.

Pupils should have come home with an envelope containing a Data Collection Sheet and Permissions Booklet for each child. Please check, sign, amend and return these as soon as possible. Home School Agreements are currently being updated so will be sent out within the next few weeks.

School Money should now be up and running for school dinner payments, HOOTs payments and HOOTs booking up until October half term. Hints and tips can also be found on our school website.

**We are aware of some issues with new starters' log-in details on School Money and will be tackling this over the next week. Until we are able to resolve this, please contact the office by phone, email or in person to book your child into HOOTs. Cash payments can be made in the interim if you prefer, or we are happy to wait for School Money payments when this is possible. We apologise for any inconvenience.**

If you are experiencing difficulties with any of our systems, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

## FODSS:

If you have a child in the school, the good news is that you're already a member of 'Friends of Dry Sandford School' (FODSS).



If you can spare any time or have any skills or contacts to offer to contribute towards fundraising events for the school, please contact FODSS: <https://www.dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk/friends-of-dry-sandford/>

## PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING (Free School Meals):

Your child may be eligible for extra funding to support their learning and wellbeing at school.

This funding, which also provides Free School Meals, is available to families with an income below £16,190 who may be in receipt of benefits such as universal credit, income support, jobseeker's allowance, child tax credits.

Please pop into the school office or give us a call or an email – we just need a few details to apply on your behalf.

## CLUBS

We look forward to offering a range of different extra-curricular clubs and activities this year.



- Eagle Owls Class have already brought home a letter with details of an after-school Football Club, run by Footy Kids, starting next Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. This club is open to Year 5 and 6 only and will help to form our school Football Team. Booking should be made directly with Footy Kids.
- Footy Kids will also be running a weekly lunchtime football club open to all year groups. All classes will take part in a Footy Kids Taster Session next Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September and further details on dates, times, costs and how to book will be sent home following this.
- A free, weekly lunchtime multi-sports club will be offered to each class on a termly rotation.
- We will also be offering a selection of after-school enrichment clubs, led by our teachers. More information will be sent out to parents soon.

## PARENTS AS PARTNERS

We are very grateful for all of the support that our school community receive from our parents and carers.

Just in the last year, we have benefitted from parents helping out with handyman jobs, donating seating for our Forest School area, running a hula-hooping workshop, designing new reward certificates, and much more!

**If you have a particular interest, skill or resource that you would be able to share to help contribute to the school, then please speak to Mrs. Friday, your child's class teacher or get in touch with the office.**

Perhaps you could come in to share knowledge about your religion or culture as part of our Religious Education curriculum?

Perhaps you are able to spare an afternoon each week and would enjoy coming in to listen to children read?

Would you be interested in running or helping to run one of our extra-curricular clubs?

Maybe you work in a particular trade or have a relevant hobby and could offer your skills and expertise?

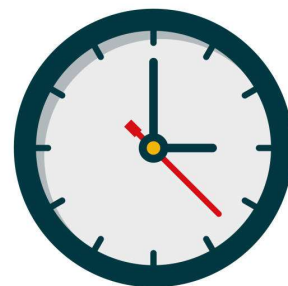
## UPDATES AND REMINDERS

As we have a number of new families joining our community this term, we would like to take this opportunity to share a few reminders.

### Timings

The **gates are opened from 8.30am each morning** to allow families onto the school site. A member of school staff will be on duty from this time.

**At 8.40am, the bell is rung** and children can make their way to their cloakrooms and then into class. **The register will be taken in each class at 8.50am** and any child who arrives at school after this time should come straight to the school office to be signed in. This will result in a late mark being noted in the school registers.



Children in Year 5 and 6, who have been given permission to walk to school by themselves, may wait on the playground unsupervised from 8.30am. All other children must be supervised by their parent/supervising adult until the bell rings at 8.40am. Thank-you for your support in reminding children not to use the play-equipment, play football or ride scooters and bikes at this time.

### Access to the school

**The pedestrian gates on Lashford Lane and via the footpath off Church Lane should be used to enter the school grounds.** To keep everyone safe, we ask you to please avoid using the staff car-park gate at pick-up and drop-off times.

All gates are locked at 9am and reopened at 3pm. If you need to visit school during the school day, please do so through the staff car-park gate, press the doorbell or phone the school office, and wait for a member of staff to open the gate to let you in.

### Attendance and absences

We have a statutory duty to closely monitor attendance and report absences to the local authority. **Please report all unplanned absences to the office by 9.30am on each day that the child is absent.** If you need to inform us of a planned absence, a 'Request for Leave of Absence Form' can be found on our website or collected from the school office. These can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, such as a medical appointment, and we may ask for proof for our records.

### Safe Travel and Parking



As much as is possible, we encourage our families to walk, scoot or cycle to school. If your circumstances mean that you must drive, we ask you to **please be respectful to our neighbours and other road-users** when driving and parking. The area surrounding the school is a 20mph zone and particular care should be taken on and around the bend of Lashford Lane.

Our **staff car park should not be used by parents** for parking, dropping-off or turning around, especially during busy periods at the start and end of the school day.

If you live on, or near to, Dalton Barracks and are interested in finding out more about whether your child might be able to travel to and from school using our chargeable minibus, then get in touch.

### Communication

The school office is the main point of communication for the school. Our office team will be happy to pass on email, phone or verbal messages to other members of staff and arrange meetings. Letters, messages and information will be shared with parents via text, email and, occasionally, printed letters. Informal messages for teachers can be passed on directly at the classroom door at the start and end of the day. Class Dojo is used by teachers to share photos, news and messages with parents but we don't use the direct messaging facility of the app. If you are unsure whether you are receiving all communication, please get in touch with the office who will be able to help.

## Uniform



As shared with you in July, the staff team have worked together to update our list of uniform expectations. We hope that the updated list (attached again to this email and also available on our school website) will provide clarity on what clothing is and isn't allowed, as well as when different items should be worn. **Separate indoor and outdoor shoes will no longer be required.** If you have any questions about our school's uniform policy, please do get in touch.

## Healthy snacks and lunches

- As part of the curriculum and our duty of care, we are proud to be a healthy eating school and endeavour to encourage a healthy, balanced diet across all aspects of school life.
- Children in **Reception and Key Stage 1** are provided with a break time snack, consisting of a portion of fruit or vegetables, each day.
- **Key Stage 2** children are welcome to bring in a portion of fruit or vegetables to have as their break time snack. Other (healthy) food items should be kept for lunchtime.
- **Packed lunches should include a balance of different food groups: starchy foods, like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta; protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans; a dairy item, like cheese or yoghurt; vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit.**
- Children should also bring a **full, named drinks bottle, containing only water**, which they are encouraged to drink from throughout the day. Other drinks are not needed.



We have noticed an increase recently in snacks and packed lunches items that don't follow these expectations; such as chocolate bars, sharing-size bags of crisps, and other items high with sugar/fat content. **The staff team will now be focusing on enforcing the expectations above to ensure that they are consistently and fairly followed.** If you are in need of some inspiration for packed lunches, suggestions and recipes can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/#tips> Please get in touch if we can support your family with this at all. Many thanks to all of those families who have continued to support our healthy snack and packed lunches approach.

## Birthday sweets

We know how important birthdays are to children and families and we love to get involved with each class having their own traditions, such as singing Happy Birthday to children or sharing a class card on their special day. It has also become common for children to bring in sweets and other treats to share with their classmates. With our class sizes being up to 32, this has meant that children are often being given sweets on a weekly or fortnightly basis. **We hope you understand that this has led us to make the decision to ask our families to please bring an end to this practice, in keeping with our healthy eating approach.** If you are still keen to mark your child's birthday in some way, then we welcome book donations for our class libraries or items can be chosen from our school Wish List to benefit the whole class.

## Mobile Phones



For safeguarding purposes, **the school site is a no mobile phone zone for all visitors, parents and families.** We thank you for your support in putting your phone away when you enter the school grounds at drop-off, pick-up and any other time you are on site. Children in year six who have permission to walk home can still bring their switched off phones to the office to be supervised for the day.

<b>CALENDAR DATES:</b>	
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)</b>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> September, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Eagle Owls Swimming Lessons at Our Lady's School
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 and 6 Football Club starting after school
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Footy Kids Taster Sessions (in school) for all
Wednesdays 18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> September and 2 <sup>nd</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> October – 8.30-11am	'Effective Communication for SEN' course for parents (see poster below or contact office for more details)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Music Flood Week – a range of musical opportunities, organised by the Abingdon Music Partnership
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October – 9.15am	Harvest Festival in School Hall - families welcome to attend
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual School Photos
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October (3.30-5.30pm)	Parents Evening 1
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am	Open Morning for prospective parents
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October (4-6.30pm)	Parents Evening 2
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> November, 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Snowy Owls Swimming Lessons at Our Lady's School
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Immunisations (nasal spray) held in school for all pupils (letter to follow)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>
<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>
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July onwards</b>	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY (school closed)</b>



## After school Family Forest Adventures

£8.00 per child, payable per term

Every Wednesday during term-time 4.00 - 5.30pm

STEP AWAY FROM SCREEN TIME! Our weekly AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS during term-time have so many benefits for primary-aged children including developing confidence, social skills, creativity, improving fitness and agility, learning about nature and much, much more...

Children must be accompanied by an adult

[www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events](http://www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events)

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



## OPEN MORNINGS 2024

Thursday, 26th September

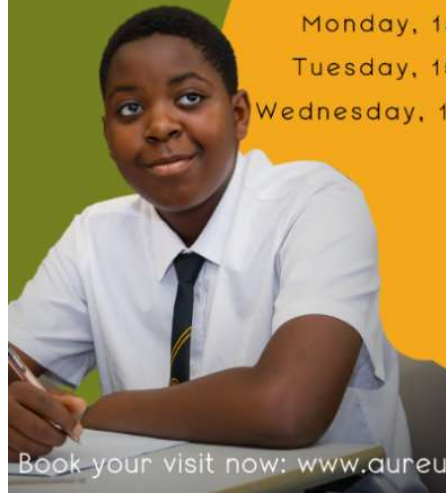
Friday, 4th October

Monday, 14th October

Tuesday, 15th October

Wednesday, 16th October

9-10 am



Book your visit now: [www.aureusschool.org/](http://www.aureusschool.org/)



### Aureus School

Cultivating ambitious, high standards for all.

### Effective Communication for SEN

(4 week course)

Family Learning (Abingdon and Witney College)

**Do you feel like you're talking, but nothing is going in?**

Children with SEN can struggle to communicate.

They may find it difficult to express themselves, find the words they need, listen and comprehend language.

This can make a busy family life even more tricky.

Come and learn some approaches to communicating with your child and share with other parents.

**Course Info**

**Where?** Dry Sandford Primary School, Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford, OX13 6EE

**When?** Wednesdays 9am - 11am (welcome from 8:30 for teas and coffees)

4 sessions 18th September - 9th October

**Cost?** None. It's free.

**To book a place, or ask a question, contact the Family Learning tutor:**

penelope.lea@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

07542 880 923

**Topics covered include:**

- how we communicate and what the barriers can be
- thinking about a total communication approach
- using hand signs to support speech
- using visual aids (e.g. pictures, visual timetables, now and next boards and objects)

### YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 MATHS FOR PARENTS

Homework a nightmare? Struggling to understand the methods used and unable to help your child? We are here to help.

With teacher Penelope Lea

This course explains the current teaching methods used to help you feel more confident supporting your child.

The course covers the following topics:

- Column Addition and Subtraction
- Multiples and Factors
- Long Multiplication
- Long Division

The course is held online using Teams.

**FREE ONLINE**

Sessions are Mondays 7pm - 8:30pm  
6 sessions 16th September - 21st October

For more information or to book a place,

Visit: [www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk](http://www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk)  
Search: TCZV031P  
Phone: 01235 216 278 and quote course code TCZV031P

We are teaming up with Abingdon and Witney College to host a FREE course for parents on Effective Communication for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). There will be 4 weekly 2-hour sessions held in our school hall, from Wednesday 18th September to Wednesday 9th October, 9-11am.

Abingdon and Witney College are running a FREE online course in September/October to support parents with Year 5 and 6 Maths. Follow this link for more information: <https://abingdon-witney.ac.uk/courses/year-5-and-year-6-maths-for-parents-1836110>