



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

DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2025

HOUSE CAPTAINS AND SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025-2026

We are delighted to announce that this year's House Captains and Vice Captains will be:

Blue House: Onick & Damien (vice)

Red House: Anna & Esmée (vice)

Orange House: Bryony & Tarka (vice)

A huge well done to all of the children who put themselves forwards for the roles this year – they all took the opportunity very seriously and did a great job of planning and presenting their ideas and pledges to the rest of the children in their house, resulting in an extremely close vote in all three elections.

Miss Goodgame has also been collecting applications for new School Council representatives and the children selected for this year are:

Barn Owls: Holly & Lawrence

Snowy Owls: Amelia & Ollie

Eagle Owls: Jack & Alba-Grace (as well as House Captains & Vice Captains)

It was a very tough selection process so thank-you to everyone who applied for the time and effort they put into their applications.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Bookings are now available through Arbor for our upcoming Parents Evenings on 14th and 16th October. Please contact the office if we can support you with navigating the system.

These initial Parents Evenings are an opportunity for teachers to share with you how your child has settled in to their new class and answer any questions you may have about the year ahead.

All appointments will take place in the school hall – please enter through the school office entrance.

If you have a concern that requires a longer discussion, please arrange a mutually convenient time with your child's class teacher.

NEW LUNCH MENU

Attached to the email with this newsletter is a copy of the new lunch menu, which will be in effect from Tuesday 4th November.

Bookings will be available through Arbor before the end of this term. You are able to book a full term in advance if you wish to. Please ensure bookings are made before 7am on the day of the meal.

We also ask that, from 4th November, you select 'packed lunch' for your child if they will have a home packed lunch, so that we can be sure that no lunch orders are missed in error.

MUSIC FLOOD WEEK

Last week, all classes took part in and benefitted from a fantastic range of experiences during the annual Music Flood Week. From assemblies and music demonstrations, to busking on the playground, and great in-class experiences, it was great to be involved. Many thanks to the Abingdon Music Partnership for organising the week and providing these opportunities for our pupils and all of the other local schools involved.

FODSS

Thanks to those of you who came along to the first meeting of the year last week for our fabulous school PTA – Friends of Dry Sandford. Initial suggestions and plans for fundraising events and initiatives were discussed and planning is now underway!

Some dates for your diary:

- *Tuesday 21st October: Movie Night (for school pupils)*
- *Monday 1st December: Wreath Making Evening (for parents and other family/community members)*
- *Saturday 13th December: 10am-1pm – Santa's Grotto event (for school pupils and their siblings)*

Further details will follow!

Also discussed at the meeting were **fundraising aims and targets** for the year. With the school's **class iPad set** now reaching the end of life and unfortunately no longer supporting the software needed to teach from, we are keen to raise funds for a set of 15 brand new iPads to be used by all classes across the school. With the classroom **Interactive Whiteboards** also now quite old and outdated, and some no longer working at all, we're keen to raise funds to replace these with up to date models to enhance the children's learning.

If you think you might be able to help with this, please do get in touch! Perhaps you work for a company who might be able to donate or offer some equipment at a reduced rate. Maybe you have the time to research and apply for grant funding to pay for IT equipment in schools, or have some further suggestions for fundraising ideas.

How can I get involved?

As a parent at the school, you are all automatically members of FODSS and the core team are always grateful for your help. Being part of FODSS is a great way to get to know other families in the community, support your child's education and experiences, and enjoy the personal benefits that volunteering can bring.

- Would you like to become a core member of the FODSS committee and help coordinate and plan events?
- Perhaps you're interested in joining the FODSS volunteers WhatsApp chat group to stay in the loop of ideas and offer suggestions.
- Maybe you are able to offer some time to help out at planned events.
- Do you work for a company or have your own business which might be able to make a financial donation towards FODSS or provide equipment, match funding or 'volunteer days' to their staff?
- Can you spare some time researching and applying for grant funding or looking into supermarket token schemes that might support our fundraising aims?

Get in touch by emailing Jan on premierjan@gmail.com, speaking to a current FODSS member or messaging the Friends of Dry Sandford Facebook page. We are grateful for whatever you are able to contribute – many hands make light work and every little helps.



OXFORD HALF MARATHON FUNDRAISER

One of our parents will soon be taking on the Oxford Half Marathon and has very generously chosen FODSS as the recipient of her fundraising!

To donate to the cause and spur her on with the last days of training, click here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/rose-dennie-6?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&fbclid=IwDGRleAM0sMhleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHrIA_GSjnCZ5zTosj9C-xhPdOZuZnzVWnONTEOk0lv4AI8iA8V340F7oYzPH_aem_2U5_vI2ih0bisT2kRq6Xng

Good luck Rose, we'll all be cheering you on!

RESOURCES DONATION

Thanks to those families who have already had a chance to donate to help enhance the existing provision and opportunities at school. We all really appreciate your support and generosity.

As explained in the Class Curriculum Letters, this enables each class to purchase additional resources such as ingredients for cooking, perishable resources for science and geography lessons, arts and crafts resources, and much more.

A recommended donation of £10 per child can be paid via Arbor or in cash to the office. Or, if you would prefer, you can do this in termly installments.

THANK-YOU

We would like to say a huge thank-you to **Logan and his grandad**, who has very kindly building and gifting this wonderful new mud kitchen for our Forest School area! As you can see, it is already been well used and is going to be a great addition to the sessions.



Another thank-you to local company **MV Kelly Groundworks** for generously donating a full class set of hi-vis jackets for children to wear on school trips.

If you have a skill or useful contact who might be able to support the school, please do get in touch!



DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

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



Learning & Caring Certificates:

Mikey
Evan
Sonny
Niyana
Izzy
Isabel
Ollie
Mia
Austin
Evie
Mark
Evelina
Jasmine

Headteacher's Awards:

Amelia
Logan
Tuhina
Holly
Alba
Stanley
Ewan
Luka
Kai O
Richie
Charlotte

CALENDAR DATES:

Friday 10 th October – 9.15am	Harvest Festival Assembly in School Hall – families welcome
Monday 13 th October	Individual Pupil Photographs taken in school
Tuesday 14 th October – 3.30-5.30pm	Parents Evening 1
Thursday 16 th October – 4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening 2
Tuesday 21 st October – 5.00-6.30pm	FODSS Movie Night – further details to follow
Monday 27th – Friday 31st October	OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 3rd November	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need
Monday 1 st December	FODSS Wreath Making Evening – further details to follow
Thursday 4 th December	Whole School Pantomime Trip – Oxford Playhouse
Monday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 9 th December – 2pm	Carol Concert (Snowy Owls & Eagle Owls)
Thursday 11 th December – 2pm & 5.30pm	Nativity Performances (Owlets & Barn Owls)
Saturday 13 th December – 10am-1pm	FODSS Santa's Grotto event – further details to follow
Monday 15 th to Wednesday 17 th December	Bikeability cycling training & road safety (Eagle Owls)
Thursday 18 th December	School Christmas Lunch (whole school)
Thursday 18 th December - PM	Snowy Owls & Eagle Owls Christmas Parties
Wb. 15 th December - tbc	Owlets & Barn Owls Christmas Parties
Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

School holidays just got more exciting!

Fresh air, freedom and adventure!



Give your child an unforgettable school holiday filled with fresh air, freedom and adventure!

Set within 42 acres of stunning woodland in rural Oxfordshire at Youlbury, Boars Hill, children aged 8-16 will take part in a daily programme of non-stop outdoor action. With expert instructors leading the way, creating a safe and supportive environment where children run, climb, explore, and build confidence while unplugging from screens and having a blast with friends in the great outdoors!

What's on offer:

- High-energy adventures such as archery, ziplining, and climbing.
- Fun team building games and problem-solving challenges.
- Survival skills such as shelter building, backwards cooking and fire lighting.
- Connect with the natural world with mindful activities, outdoors arts and crafts, wildlife spotting, and nature walks.

When is it:

- May half-term, summer holidays and October half-term (see website for dates).
- 9am-5pm daily.
- Early drop off (from 8am) and late pick-up service (until 6pm) available.
- Participants can attend individual days, or the entire week.

Pricing:

£35 per day, per child. Save 10% on a 5-day block and each additional child.

Ready for a school holiday full of excitement?

Active Adventures is the ultimate outdoor adventure club for children aged 8-16. Packed with thrilling challenges, nature connection activities, and epic team games, each day offers a new adventure to inspire a love for the great outdoors!

www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events

Book now and join the adventure

www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events

✉ activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk

📍 Scout Adventures Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5HD



YAMAHA
YAMAHA MUSIC SCHOOL



Music Open Day

Come and try our engaging music courses on Sunday 12 October - book now!

Children start their music journey with us between the ages of 2 - 7 and can continue through to 18



Matrix Arts Centre
Sutton Courtenay OX14 4UA
www.matrixartscentre.org.uk



Musical Theatre School

FINDING THE STAR IN EVERY CHILD



3-18 YRS

Annie Jr.
OUR NEXT SHOW!

BOOK A FREE TRIAL

TOTS
3-4 YRS

MINIS
4-6 YRS

LITTLES
7-11 YRS

TOPS
11+ YRS

BUCKLAND

FARINGDON

HANNEY



We are a friendly, independent school, taught by experienced professionals in a small nurturing, after-school groups. We focus on developing confidence and creativity along with performance technique with multiple opportunities to perform and shine on stage each year!

LITTLESTARSMUSICALTHEATRE.CO.UK



Go Wild This October Half-Term!

Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 October

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

£9.50 (child)

£11.50 (adult)

ticket includes lunch



Autumn Adventures - Family Days

Wednesday 29 & Thursday 30 October

10am - 2pm



Come and enjoy the great outdoors at our wonderful site this half term!

- * natural arts / willow weaving * Halloween jokes trail *
- * campfire & s'mores * conkers * woodcraft *
- * explore & play *

hill_end_centre

HillEndOEC

Hill_End

Hill End Centre, OX2 9NJ

01865 863510

Registered charity: 1173987

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



RATTLE & ROLL
PERFORMANCE

October 2025

October Holiday Clubs

Open to all children aged 3 to 11 years, with funded places available for children in Reception to Year 6

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.



Scan the QR code to book

LOCATION:
St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford

COST:
£38 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

DATES:
Monday 27 to Friday 31 October

TIMES:
8.00am to 5.00pm

In Year 6?
Join our Young Leader Programme running over Half Term focused on leadership, initiative and creativity



rattleandrollperformance.com

07722 014301

DIDCOT
RAILWAY CENTRE

Steam Into Christmas



Enjoy unlimited train rides and help Santa find his missing reindeer!

Find each of Santa's lost reindeer, culminating in a visit to Santa's workshop to meet Santa.

➤ **BOOK NOW - 01235 817200** ◀

www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk

