



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

DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2025

STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to introduce **Mrs Anna Simpson** who will be joining Mrs Lyons and Mrs Napper as an office team staff member. Anna will be working in the school office Monday-Friday from 8.30am-12noon and she is likely to be your first point of contact in the school office.

The children may have passed on the news that **Mandy Akers**, our lunchtime catering assistant, cleaner and after-school club leader, unfortunately fractured her knee over the half term break. We wish her a safe and full recovery and hope to welcome her back to work in the new year. A huge thank-you to all of the staff who have stepped in help out wherever they can this week.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

In Mandy's absence, various options are being explored in the hope that we can continue to support our working families by providing wraparound care.

While we appreciate the willingness of the staff team to step in and help, overstressing our already hardworking workforce isn't a viable long-term option.

If any parents or contacts are interested in a temporary role as an after-school club supervisor, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to the school office, or directly to Mrs Friday, to discuss the relevant skills, experiences and training required.

SCHOOL MEAL ORDERING

Many thanks to all those of you who continue to pre-order your child's school meals. This is really helping our kitchen team with improving ordering and food preparation efficiency.

Please could **Home Packed Lunches also be pre-ordered through the Arbor app** from now on. This not only saves the teachers valuable time in the mornings, but also helps us to ensure no lunch orders are missed. Thank-you for your ongoing support.

CHILDREN IN NEED

The School Council met in the last week of term to make plans for a fundraising day for Children in Need on **Friday 14th November**. They have decided to recreate Pudsey's iconic bandana with a whole school photo! For this they ask that each class wear a different colour top/t-shirt for the day and each child bring a suggested £2.00 cash donation. The class colours are:

Eagle Owls wear an **orange** top

Snowy Owls wear a **red** top

Barn Owls wear a **blue** top

Owlets wear a **green** top



Children do not need to wear school uniform with their colour top, please ensure clothing and footwear is safe for school.

FODSS

The Movie Night was a great success, raising over £100 towards our fundraising goals.

Well done and thank-you to Rose Dennie for successfully completing the Oxford Half Marathon in October and raising a fantastic £435 for FODSS!



The next FODSS fundraising event, coming up soon, is the **Wreath Making Evening**, which is being hosted in the school hall on the evening of **Monday 1st December**. Keep an eye out on the FODSS Facebook page for more details. The fundraising team are always keen for offers of help with the organisation and running events on the day.

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.

GYMNASTICS AND DANCE CLUB

Follow this link to enrol your child onto our after-school gymnastics and dance club, run by Footy Kids:

[https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids/activity/473-Dry Sandford Primary School Term 2 Gym Dance After School Club](https://enrolmy.com/footy-kids/activity/473-Dry_Sandford_Primary_School_Term_2_Gym_Dance_After_School_Club)

RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

The applications for new starters in reception class for September 2026 have now opened.

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, follow this link to complete your application before 15th January 2026:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>

CALENDAR DATES:

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 - AM	Eagle Owls Enterprise Project – Christmas Bazaar
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	Wootton Warblers Christmas Concert
Monday 15 th to Wednesday 17 th December	Bikeability cycling training & road safety (Eagle Owls)
Tuesday 16 th December - PM	Owlets & Barn Owls Christmas Parties
Thursday 18 th December	School Christmas Lunch (whole school)
Thursday 18 th December - PM	Snowy Owls & Eagle Owls Christmas Parties
Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	FEBRUARY HALF TERM – school closed
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	EASTER HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	MAY HALF TERM – school closed
Monday 1st June	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Monday 20th July	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 21st July – Friday 28th August	SUMMER HOLIDAYS – school closed



We are proud to be supporting **Dry Sandford Primary School** with ground maintenance and tree work.

We would like to offer a **10% discount** to all family and friends of pupils on all our tree and garden maintenance services.

We also provide a discount on our fully seasoned mixed hardwood **logs**.

Call **07907 028 803** to arrange a **free quote** and discuss firewood delivery prices.

Visit our [website](#) and view our **5* Google reviews** to learn more about what we do.

Many thanks, the Future Tree Services Ltd Team



Forest Tots
 2 - 6 years
 10.00am - 11.30am
 Mondays (term time)



Let your little explorers experience the magic of the outdoors! Packed with adventure, creativity, and discovery Forest Tots will help your child grown in confidence & independence and encourage a life long love for nature.

And for the grown ups... you can build friendships, explore nature with your little one(s) and enjoy some woodland well-being for yourselves.

Please visit our website for full details:
<https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events>

£8.00
 per child

@Hill_end_centre @HillEndOEC @Hill_End
 Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510

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

FREE ENTRY!

Christmas Fayre 25
 Benson Village Hall
 Wallingford OX10 6LZ
 10AM - 4PM
 Sunday 30th November

Santa's Grotto
Craft Stalls
Raffle
Café
Children's Games & Activities
Tombola
AND MUCH MORE

Santa's Grotto Pre-Bookings available now on our Website!

Event held by Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. Reg Charity Number 1194050

NHS
 Oxford Health
 NHS Foundation Trust

**CHILDREN'S
 FLU VACCINATIONS
 ARE STILL AVAILABLE**

Visit our website to:

- Register a new consent form
- Book a community clinic appointment
- Find your school code
- Find out more information



<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms/parents/>

For further information about the Flu vaccine follow the link below

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

You're Invited!

★ Y5 ★ Masterclasses

Every Wednesday from:
7th January - 29th April 2026
3:30 - 4:30pm



Aureus School

Rated 'GOOD' in ALL areas by Ofsted



You're Invited!

★ Y5 ★ Masterclasses

Science	7th January 2026		
Modern Foreign Languages	14th January 2026	Drama	4th March 2026
Art	21st January 2026	History	11th March 2026
Dance	28th January 2026	Geography	18th March 2026
English	4th February 2026	Music	25th March 2026
Maths	11th February 2026	Computing	15th April 2026
Catering & Hospitality	25th February 2026	PE	29 th April 2026

This is a great chance for your child to explore our school and its educational approach by booking classes to experience life at Aureus while learning from our subject leaders. Please share this with families with Year 5 children.