



Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2025

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

What a fun-filled term we have had – from the wonderful whole-school **pantomime trip** to the incredibly organized Eagle Owls' **Christmas Bazaar**; the amazing Owlets and Barn Owls **Nativity** to the fantastic Snowy Owls and Eagle Owls **Christmas Concert**; our lovely **class Christmas parties** and, of course, our delicious school **Christmas lunch**.



A huge amount of planning, organisation and effort goes into making all of these events possible from all of the staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, our administrative team and catering staff – please join us in thanking them for making it all possible. The children have all made us tremendously proud with the effort, determination and enthusiasm they have put it into all of the events, and with the fantastic behaviour and attitudes they have shown throughout. No doubt they are all now ready for a restful Christmas break with a chance to spend time with family.

Here are a selection of photos for you all to enjoy of the term's events:





BIKEABILITY

Earlier this week, pupils from Eagle Owls class took part in three days of cycle safety training with the Bikeability team. This involved both theory and practical experience, learning to ride their bikes safely out on the roads. The children showed fantastic attitudes and made such brilliant progress throughout the course, with the leaders sharing fantastic feedback. Well done to everyone who took part!

KS2 SWIMMING LESSONS

Huge thanks to our neighbours at **Cothill School** who have kindly offered our Key Stage 2 pupils use of their swimming pool and sports hall on Friday mornings from January. Eagle Owls class will have their first session on Friday 9th January. Further details have been shared with parents via email.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We are pleased to have a number of extra-curricular clubs on offer next term:

Multi-Sports Club

- Tuesdays: 3.15 – 4.15pm (starting 13th)
- Run by Footy Kids
- A link to book and pay will be shared in the new year

Arts and Crafts Club

- Wednesdays: 3.15 – 4.30pm (starting 13th)
- Run by Little Masters
- Email Gerri to book and pay: gerri@littlemasters.co.uk

Yoga Club

- Thursdays: 3.15 – 4.15pm (starting 8th)
- Run by Yogaful Minds
- Email Jane to book and pay: yogafulminds@gmail.com

Gymnastics and Dance Club

- Fridays: 3.15 – 4.15pm (starting 9th)
- Run by Footy Kids
- A link to book and pay will be shared in the new year

WRAPAROUND CARE UPDATE

With Mrs Akers' continuing to recover from her knee injury, it is looking very likely that the current HOOTs provision will need to continue in the new year:

Breakfast Club: from 9am, Monday to Friday

After School Club: Mondays – until 5.15pm

Tuesdays – until 4.30pm

Wednesdays – until 4.30pm

Thursdays – until 5.15pm

Fridays – no HOOTs (gymnastics and dance club available instead)

We appreciate your understanding and continued support while we manage this in the short term. Our admin team are exploring potential alternative options for our wraparound care offering for the longer term. We continue to wish Mrs Akers well as she recovers and hope to have her back with us soon. Please do speak to Mrs Friday if you have any individual concerns or queries regarding wraparound care.

STAFFING UPDATES

Miss Lambie will be absent from school from the start of next term for a planned knee operation. We wish her a restful and full recovery and look forward to welcoming her back when she is ready. A team of experienced Early Years professionals, consisting of Mrs Neal, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Price and Mrs Friday, will be working together to cover Owlets class in Miss Lambie's absence.

We are pleased to be welcoming a new member of teaching staff to the school in January. Mrs Sarah Hutchinson, who is a qualified teacher with many years of experience in primary schools, will be teaching Snowy Owls every Friday, enabling Mrs Napper to prioritise her role in the school office.

To support with covering teacher planning time, training and absence across the school, Mrs Sandra Broadhurst will also be joining us every Monday on a temporary basis until the end of the academic year, working mainly in Key Stage 2.

CALENDAR DATES:

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|--|---|
| Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – school closed |
| Monday 5th January 2026 | INSET DAY – school closed to pupils |
| Wednesday 4 th February | House Maths Challenge (held in school) |
| Monday 16th – Friday 20th February | FEBRUARY HALF TERM – school closed |
| Thursday 5 th March | World Book Day (further details to follow) |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Footy Kids taster session (for all classes, in school) |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Vision Screening (for reception pupils) |
| Wednesday 11 th March | NCMP Weighing and Measuring session (for reception and year 6 pupils) |
| Tuesday 17 th March – 3.30-5.30pm | Parents Evening 1 |
| Thursday 19 th March – 4.00-6.30pm | Parents Evening 2 |
| Thursday 26 th March (am) | Whole Class Photographs |
| Friday 27 th March – 9.20am | Easter Service (in school hall – families welcome) |
| Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April | EASTER HOLIDAY – school closed |
| Monday 27 th April – Friday 1 st May | Eagle Owls residential trip to Kilvrough |
| 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 |



FUTURE TREE SERVICES LTD

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

The Bounce Park
Didcot

Oxfordshire's BIGGEST Indoor Inflatable Park

Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Didcot

www.thebouncepark.com/didcot

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS OPEN MORNING 2026

Free, fun taster session
for children
aged 4-18



Saturday 10th January

Cherwell School, North Site

Reception-Year 1: 9:15-10:05am

Year 2-Year 3: 10:10-11:40am

Year 4-Year 6: 9:15-11:10am

Year 7-Year 13: 10:30am-12:30pm

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE →
MORE INFO: TINYURL.COM/OYC2026



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.

Christmas Workshops

The North Wall
Arts Centre

NW Inventors

Ages 8-11

Creative Christmas Cracker!

Monday 22 December
10am - 4pm

A cracker of a workshop to start the Christmas holidays! Get crafty and creative as we explore a range of theatre skills and dive into seasonal storytelling in this hands on, festively-fun workshop and theatre trip. Includes a ticket to see Creation Theatre's *The Nutcracker*.

Tickets £45

YouthLab

Ages 12-17

Stage:Play

Tuesday 23 December
10am - 4pm

Join us this Christmas for Stage:Play – a fast-paced creative skills workshop: improvise, devise, write, direct, build characters, explore movement and PLAY! All wrapped up in a theatre trip.

Includes a ticket to see Creation Theatre's *The Nutcracker*.

Tickets £45

Full bursaries available

Email participation@thenorthwall.com to apply

Book now: thenorthwall.com



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WR SPORTS CHRISTMAS CAMPS

EARLY BIRD CODE: EB10
ENDS 05/12

4-12 yrs
DEC-JAN
22ND, 23RD, 2ND

LOCATIONS:
BRACKLEY LEISURE CENTRE
TOWCESTER CENTRE FOR LEISURE
WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL
WATLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
THE SWAN SCHOOL, OXFORD

WHY JOIN US?

- Perfect way to keep your kids active this holiday.
- Wide range of activities.
- Build confidence and skills.



Army Welfare Service Community Support



DALTON BARRACKS COMMUNITY TOTS

Every Wednesday
(Starting 26th Nov)
0930-1100hrs in the
AWS Building
(nr Community Centre)
2 - 5 year olds

Military families welcome
please register via the QR
code.

Contact your CDW:
jayne.russell133@mod.gov.uk with
any questions

Register via
the QR code

