



Dry Sandford Primary School
Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, OXON, OX13 6EE
Telephone: 01865 730432
office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk
head.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk

Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2026

SERIOUS SAEFTY REMINDER

Further to our recent communication, we must issue a further serious reminder about the ongoing driving and parking issues outside the school gates at drop-off and pick-up times, which are creating dangerous conditions for our children and families.

Parents and carers must not park or wait on the painted zig-zag lines under any circumstances, including for drop-offs or collection.

Please avoid parking on the bend on Lashford Lane or where the footpath meets the road near the church, and do not block neighbouring residents' driveways.

The staff car park is for staff and external visitors only and should not be used by parents for parking, waiting or as a turning point.

Finally, a remember to drive at a safe speed and be mindful of children and families crossing the road, particularly when there are parked cars restricting your view.

These actions significantly reduce visibility and put children at risk as they arrive at and leave school. To help address this, there will be more regular spot checks during peak times and we will continue to contact and challenge directly those drivers disregarding the above safety requests. Thank-you to those families who do take the time and effort to walk part or all of your journey to school. Keeping our children safe must be everyone's priority, and we ask for your full cooperation to ensure the area around the school remains safe for all. If you could spare some time to help us with monitoring this, please speak to Mrs Friday.

OFFICE PHONE LINE

If you have phoned the school office recently, you may have noticed that we have recently moved over to a new phone system, which is now Internet-based and not using a traditional phone line.

Our main school phone number remains the same – **01865 730432** – and calls can be answered between **8.45am-3.15pm** every school day. For urgent safeguarding concerns outside this time, please contact Mrs Friday: head.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk

When you call the office, you will be given the option to either report an absence (via voice message) or be put through to speak to a member of the office team. If nobody is available to answer the phone, you will then be able to leave a voice message and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

NUMBER DAY

The children (and staff!) all had a fabulous day celebrating Number Day this week! The children's creative clothing was fantastic and each class enjoyed a range of number related activities throughout the day – look out for photos on Class Dojo soon. Our House Captains did a great job organising the annual House Maths Challenge and we are pleased to announce that **Orange House** was the winning team! Well done to everyone for taking part.

STAFFING

We welcomed Mrs Sarah Hutchinson to our school at the start of January. Mrs Hutchinson is teaching Snowy Owls Class on Fridays and we are delighted to have her as part of our school team.

Mrs Napper will be leaving the school at the end of February to take up a new job. We thank her for her valued contribution to the school and wish her every success in her new role.

KS2 SWIMMING LESSONS

Eagle Owls Class have been enjoying their weekly swimming lessons this term and we are very grateful to our neighbours at Cothill for making this possible by sharing their swimming and sports facilities and use of their minibuses.

Snowy Owls Class will begin their lessons after half term, starting on Friday 6th March. See previous emails for further information.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

There are still spaces available in the following extra-curricular clubs for anyone who is interested:

Multi-Sports Club (run by Footy Kids): Tuesdays: 3.15 – 4.15pm

- Follow this link to book and pay: [Enrolmy | Footy Kids - Booking Calendar for Dry Sandford Primary School - Term 3 Multi Sport After School Club](#)

Arts and Crafts Club (Run by Little Masters): Wednesdays: 3.15 – 4.30pm

- Email Gerri to book and pay: gerri@littlemasters.co.uk

Yoga Club (run by Yogaful Minds): Thursdays: 3.15 – 4.15pm

- Email Jane to book and pay: yogafulminds@gmail.com

Gymnastics and Dance Club (run by Footy Kids): Fridays: 3.15 – 4.15pm

- Follow this link to book and pay: [Enrolmy | Footy Kids - Booking Calendar for Dry Sandford Primary School - Term 3- Gym/Dance After School Club](#)

Coming up in the summer term, the popular Footy Kids inflatable lunchtime football club will return! Following a whole-school taster session on 11th March, look out for details of how to sign your child up.

MEDICAL CONTACT UPDATE

As part of our regular reviewing of school procedures, and following guidance in recent staff first aid training, we have updated our policy for contacting parents regarding medical events. We hope that this will help to reduce the volume of messages you receive from us to help you prioritise those that you do.

We will no longer contact you for minor injuries, such as small cuts, bumps or pains, which require minimal or no first aid, unless staff feel the circumstances need an explanation.

For moderate illnesses or injuries, such as a head bump or more significant cut or graze, you will continue to receive an In-App-Message through Arbor.

For serious or major injuries, we will, of course, always contact you straight away by phone.

LUNCHES

Huge thanks to all families who are now pre-ordering school meals and packed lunches in advance via the Arbor app. This is very much appreciated as it not only helps the catering staff with efficient pre-ordering and organisation in the mornings, it also saves our teaching and office staff valuable time and helps to ensure that no expected meals are missed. If you need any support with this, please pop into or contact the school office.

GOVERNOR VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for **Parent Governors** and would welcome applications from parents or carers who would like to play an active role in the life of the school. Parent Governors work alongside senior leaders to support the school's strategic direction and ensure that the school continues to provide the best possible education for all pupils. We are looking for someone who is interested in education, able to work as part of a team, and willing to share their skills, experience, and time. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact the school office or speak to **Mrs Friday**.

CALENDAR DATES:

Thursday 12 th February	Cake Sale (hosted by Barn Owls Class) – after school
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	FEBRUARY HALF TERM – school closed
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (further details to follow)
Friday 6 th March	Snowy Owls first swimming lesson at Cothill
Friday 6 th March	Holi festival celebrations in school
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 & Measuring session (for reception & y6)
Tuesday 17 th March – 3.30-5.30pm	Parents Evening 1
Thursday 19 th March – 4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening 2
Monday 23 rd March	Year 5 to attend The Big Sing at Radley College
Tuesday 24th March – 2.15pm – DATE CHANGED	Easter Service (in school hall – families welcome)
Thursday 26 th March (am)	Whole Class Photographs
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	EASTER HOLIDAY – school closed
Thursday 16 th April	First Footy Kids lunchtime inflatable football club begins
Monday 27 th April – Friday 1 st May	Eagle Owls residential trip to Kilvrough
Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 11 th May – Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs Assessment Week
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	MAY HALF TERM – school closed
Monday 1st June	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Monday 1 st June – Friday 12 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Monday 8 th June – Friday 12 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Tuesday 9 th June	Owlets and Barn Owls trip to the Story Museum, Oxford
Tuesday 30 th June	Snowy Owls trip to Science Oxford
Friday 17 th July	LAST DAY OF TERM – finish at usual time (3.05/3.10pm)

Next Thing Education logo

NEXT THING EDUCATION PRESENTS

LIMITED SPACES
BOOK BY
6TH FEB

TECH CAMP

FEBRUARY CAMPS 2026

Chandlings Prep, OX1 5ND

£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS
9 AM - 4PM, AGES 5-11

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE
www.nextthing.education

Childcare Vouchers ✓ WE ALSO ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

SCAN ME

FEB HALF TERM 2026

Coding & Robots + Circuitry & Inventions + LEGO Engineering + Minecraft Madness + Tech Fun

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES

What Parents Say

"Absolutely Fantastic!
First time attending &
my son loved it!"

★★★★★

HOW TO BOOK

STEP 1
SCAN THE QR CODE

STEP 2
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP

STEP 3
BOOK ONLINE SPACES LIMITED

BOOK

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION
E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

School holidays just got more exciting!

Fresh air, freedom and adventure!

Ready for a school holiday full of excitement?

Active Adventures at Youlbury 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

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, backwoods cooking and fire lighting.
- Connect with the natural world with mindful activities, outdoors arts and crafts, wildlife spotting, and nature walks.

When is it:

- Running throughout school holidays - February, Easter, May, Summer and October (see website for dates).
- 9am-5pm daily.
- Early drop off (from 8am) and late pick-up (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.

Book now and join the adventure!

www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events

✉ activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk

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

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg. Charity number 306101 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London, England E4 7QW



DIDCOT CRICKET CLUB JOIN OUR JUNIORS

BECOME PART OF A THRIVING,
FRIENDLY CRICKET COMMUNITY
Boys & Girls Welcome - All Abilities

Winter Nets start 1st February
Indoor coaching to build skills and confidence.

Full Summer Programme
Weekly training matches, festivals and loads of cricket.

Qualified, DBS-Checked Coaches
Supportive, experienced and passionate about junior development

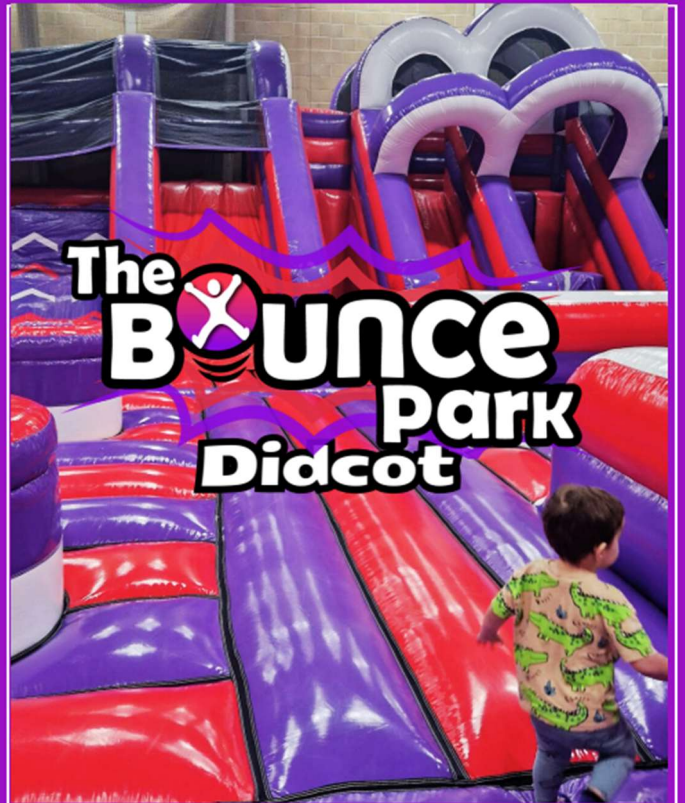
Fantastic Facilities at Boundary Park
Safe, modern, well-maintained grounds

Fun, Friendship & Skill Development
A brilliant way to stay active, learn teamwork and make new friends.

AGE GROUPS
Under 9s through to
Under 19s

GET IN TOUCH

juniors@didcotcricketclub.com
www.didcotcricketclub.com



The Bounce Park Didcot

**Oxfordshire's BIGGEST
Indoor Inflatable Park**

Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Didcot

www.thebouncepark.com/didcot

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe



BOOK
TICKETS

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

@OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch

@oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

OX5 RUN



EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
£29
£16
SIGN UP BY MON

Join our five mile run at Blenheim Palace
supporting the Oxford Children's Hospital
and children's services across our hospitals

Sunday 22nd March 2026



Sign up at: WWW.OX5RUN.COM

BLENHEIM PALACE

Oxford Children's Hospital Charity
 Oxford Hospitals Charity
 Horton General Hospital Charity



*Limited Early Bird prices on a first-come first-served basis. Entry fee of £29 and £33 per adult thereafter. Entry fee for children aged 10-16 is £16 and £20 thereafter. Oxford Children's Hospital Charity is part of Oxford Hospitals Charity (registered charity no.1175809)

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We aim to walk with you on your Parent/Carer journey. A warm, parent session for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.



TO REGISTER FOLLOW
THE LINK OR QR:



MHM.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLEMENT/OXON/WHY/



Hill End Family Forest Days

10am - 2pm

Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 February (half term)

- * Make a bird nesting box or bird feeder (extra cost)
- * Create a giant nest in our den building area, or make crafts in The Barn
- * Follow trails, climb - enjoy our space, woodlands & wetlands. SO MUCH TO DO!
- * Meet Oxford University bird researchers - ringing and monitoring the blue tits and great tits and you can learn more about the Wytham Woods Tit Project

£9.50 child / £11.50 adult

includes a hot vegetable pasta pot or soup



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

FEBRUARY HALF TERM AT WHITE HORSE LEISURE & TENNIS CENTRE

£1

Kids swim for £1 everyday Monday- Friday during our 9-10am swim sessions.

Aqua Splash

Our inflatable sessions suitable for both adults & children aged 5 years+ will be running

Mon 16th & Wed 18th
12:00-13:00 & 13:10-14:10

Children under 8 years **must** be supervised by a competent adult swimmer. Buoyancy jackets will be supplied and **must** be worn.



Foundation Swimming Intensives

Running Monday-Thursday 9-9:30am for non swimmers & 9:30-10am for those looking to improve on their skills. Get your kids booked in and get them summer ready!

Swim for All

Extra swim for all sessions will run Tues, Thurs & Fri between 9:00-12:00 & 13:00-19:00.



Toddler Splash

Alongside our regular sessions- Tues 13:00-14:00

Weds 11:00-12:00

Thurs 13:00-14:00

we will be running extra sessions on Tues 17th & Thurs 19th 14:00-15:00.



Adult & Junior Gym

Junior members will be able to attend a gym session with a supervising adult member Mon-Fri 18:00-20:00.

Juniors **must** always be supervised by the adult.



Junior Gym

Juniors aged 11-15 years can use our gym daily Mon 16th-Fri 20th 9:00-18:00. All those attending our gym for the first time will need to arrange an induction before their first session. Those who have already had an induction will be able to book. Our usual weekend junior gym sessions will continue to run Sat & Sun 9:00-17:00.

Junior Tennis

We currently have space in our junior tennis sessions for children aged 5-7 years. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 16:00-17:00

We can offer free trials to those interested in joining our programme during half term in any of the above sessions.

To book please email Sue-sue.auger@gl.org

Scan QR code for membership options



Adult Tennis

Our adult sessions will continue to run as usual-

Adult Beginners

Thursday 19th 6.30-8pm &

Adult Advanced

Thursday 16th 8-9.30pm



Follow us to stay updated-



whitehorseleisure



The White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre

To book please visit our website or download our BETTER UK app

HALF TERM FAMILY FUN IN OXFORD!



Polka and Theatr lolo

Tidy | Taclus

Based on the illustrated children's book by Emily Gravett

Pete the badger likes everything to be neat and tidy: the flowers, the leaves, even the other animals. But, when autumn comes, he gets a little bit carried away with cleaning up the forest and accidentally destroys his own home!

With beautiful puppets, original music and a touch of silliness, this playful story will delight young audiences, as it explores how everyone needs a little bit of wild chaos in their lives.

THE NORTH WALL, OXFORD

17 + 18 February, 11am + 2pm

AGES 3-7

BOOK NOW!

atom Festival of Science & Technology

14th - 25th March 2026

Inspiring workshops for kids

Tours: History of Science Museum + UKAEA + Harwell

Tue 17th March

"Predators"

Professor

Tim Coulson

Sun 15th March
"Our Place in the Universe"

The Peagram Lecture

Professor

Brian Cox

CBE

FREE
Science Market interactive event for all the family
Sat 14th March

atomfestival.org.uk



BOOK TICKETS ONLINE

THE
WOOTTON
PLAYERS
PRESENT

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

At the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre

FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 6TH AT 7.30PM

AND

SATURDAY 7TH AT 2PM AND 6.30PM

TICKETS

IN ADVANCE

ADULT £10

CHILD £8

FAMILY £30

2 adults & 3 children

ON THE DOOR

ADULT £12

CHILD £10



For tickets:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wootton-players/e-xpvbqg>

or contact: janet.scott@wootton-players.org.uk



RATTLE & ROLL
PERFORMANCE

February 2026

St Nicholas' Holiday Club

Open to all children aged 3 to 11 years

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



LOCATION:

St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford

COST:

£38 per day

All childcare vouchers accepted

DATES & TIMES:

8:00am - 5:00pm

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February



HOW TO BOOK:

Scan the QR code to book and use code HHSNIC to take you straight to the club or visit our website



rattleandrollperformance.com
enquiries@rattleandrollperformance.com
07722 014301



Follow us on social media