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Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

DRY SANDFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2026

WELCOME BACK!

We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable half term break. It's lovely to see the children return refreshed and ready for learning.

The sun is finally starting to make an appearance, bringing a bright and cheerful start to the new half term. We have plenty planned and are looking forward to a wonderful time ahead with the children.

STAFFING UPDATE

As some of you may already know, we said goodbye to Mrs Napper last Friday. She has been a valued part of our team, and we are truly grateful for everything she has contributed during her time here. Her hard work, kindness, and dedication have made a real difference, and she will be missed by us all. We wish her all the very best for the future and every success in her next chapter.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

We hope you all enjoyed receiving your child's secondary school offer on Monday - such an exciting milestone! We're so thrilled for our Year 6 pupils and hope they are feeling proud, positive, and excited about the next step in their journey.

Please remember that we are here to support families during this transition. If you have any questions or need any guidance regarding your child's offer, feel free to contact the school office.

Well done to all our Year 6 children - we are very proud of them.

NEW OWLETS FENCING

We are pleased that the new fencing has now been installed in Owlets, as it provides an important and much-needed improvement to the overall security and safeguarding of the area. The upgraded boundary offers increased protection for the children and staff, and we appreciate the work that has gone into completing this element of the project.

Regrettably, we have identified an issue with one of the double gates, which has broken shortly after installation. This is of concern, as the gate forms a key part of the secure access to the site. We have therefore raised this matter promptly and are presently undertaking the necessary steps to ensure that the issue is addressed and fully rectified as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide any further information required to support a timely resolution.

WORLD BOOK DAY

It was fantastic to see the children arriving in such creative and colourful costumes - the effort everyone put in really shone through. From much loved book characters to imaginative interpretations, the costumes helped bring the joy of reading to life.

We began the day with a whole school parade, giving every child the chance to share their outfit and celebrate their favourite stories together. It was a lovely way to bring the school community together and set the tone for a fun and inspiring day.

World Book Day is a brilliant reminder of how important reading is - not only for developing key skills, but also for sparking imagination, building confidence, and opening up new worlds for our children to explore.

Thank you to everyone for helping make the day so special.



SNOWY OWLS SWIMMING SESSIONS

Snowy Owls have now started their six-week block of swimming lessons, and they've made a fantastic start! The children showed great enthusiasm and confidence during their first session, and it was wonderful to see them listening carefully, trying new skills, and supporting one another. These weekly sessions will help the children build water confidence, develop essential swimming skills, and learn important water safety knowledge. We're looking forward to seeing their progress over the coming weeks!

A quick reminder that swimming hats are required for each session. If your child needs one, the school office has hats available for sale for **£2**.

Thank you for ensuring the children come prepared each week — it really helps the sessions run smoothly.

HOLI FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who joined us after school on Friday for our Holi festival celebrations. It was a wonderful way to mark this vibrant and joyful festival together.

Holi, often known as the Festival of Colours, is a traditional Hindu celebration that marks the arrival of spring. It is a time for celebrating light, joy, and new beginnings, as well as an opportunity to come together as a community. People celebrate Holi by throwing coloured powders, sharing sweets, and enjoying music and dancing — all symbols of happiness, togetherness, and the triumph of good over evil. We hope the children had lots of fun taking part in the activities and experiencing the bright, joyful spirit of Holi. Thank you once again to everyone who joined us and helped make the celebration so special.

DON'T FORGET YOUR RED NOSE!

We're excited to support **Comic Relief** on **Friday 20 March!** Noses can be purchased from local shops or online.

It will be a dress-down day, and we kindly ask for a £2 donation to support this fantastic charity.

Please ensure that children come to school comfortably and appropriately dressed for the school day ahead.



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.

GENTLE REMINDERS

- We would like to remind all families of the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. Children should arrive at school on time each morning using the pedestrian entrance only. Please ensure that the small gate through the staff car park is only used between **9.00am and 3.00pm**, for safety reasons. Parents and carers are welcome on the school playground from **8.30am**. Please note that children remain under the responsibility of their parent or carer until the cloakroom doors open at 8.40am. Registers are taken promptly at **8.50am**, at which point the cloakroom doors are closed and locked.
- We kindly remind all families to drive and park safely when dropping off and collecting children. Please be considerate of our neighbours and other road users by avoiding obstructing driveways, pavements, or access points. We ask that all drivers park legally and responsibly to help maintain a safe environment for our school community. For safety reasons, the staff car park should not be used for parent parking or drop-off at any time. This area must remain clear for staff vehicles and emergency access.
- For pupils bringing a packed lunch, we kindly request that these are healthy and balanced. Please avoid including sweets, chocolate bars, or fizzy drinks. Providing nutritious food helps children maintain their energy levels and focus throughout the school day.
- 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**. 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 continued cooperation and support.



DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

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



Learning & Caring Certificates:

Surbi
Sophia
Anna
Ritchie
Ewan
Eden
Luka
Leon

Headteacher's Awards:

Ava
Ollie
Alba-Grace
Evan
Ky
Stanley
Oakley D
Olivia
Lawrence
Liam
Tarka

CALENDAR DATES:

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
Wednesday 18th March (DATE CHANGED)	Footy Kids Taster Session (for all classes, in school)
Thursday 19 th March – 4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening 2
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day (dress down day)
Monday 23 rd March	Year 5 to attend The Big Sing at Radley College
Tuesday 24 th March – 2.15pm	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
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day (children welcome to wear red or scout/guide etc uniforms)
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)



FOOTBALL FOCUS DC Abingdon

Join us for new exciting football training sessions for 4-12 year olds on Wednesdays in Abingdon. Whether you're just starting out or want to improve your skills, you're welcome!



SCAN TO REGISTER

Start with half-price fees for your first month – that's just £4.50 per session! Book now to secure your place, payment is due before your first session on 8th April

Every Wednesday in Abingdon
footballfocusdc.co.uk

MORE

7th-8th March

BIG

Open Weekend

Try our facilities for FREE

Speak to a member of our team, or head to our website, for more information.

[f](#) [i](#) [x](#) | oxfordcityleisure.com

let's do **MORE**

Facilities at each of our centres vary, see website for details.



TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY
EST. 2024

Working on skills, tactics, match play and fun!!

EASTER NETBALL CAMPS

OXFORD

1st April 2026
9-14yrs
09:00-15:00pm
£40pp
(sibling discount)

Oxford High School,
Belbroughton Road

OXFORD

8th April 2026
9-14yrs
09:00-15:00pm
£40pp
(sibling discount)

Oxford High School,
Belbroughton Road

EMAIL TO BOOK!

Or google forms on social media.

targetnetballacademy@gmail.com



YAMAHA
YAMAHA MUSIC SCHOOL



Music Open Day

Come and try our engaging music courses on Sunday 15 March - 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



Coalesce Dance Theatre presents

Mika and the Polar Bear

Saturday 14 March
11am & 2pm

An imaginative and unforgettable journey into the wonders of our natural world.



For ages
4-11

Tickets: £12 (children £8, under 2s free)
Bookings: 01865 319450 / thenorthwall.com

**ULTIMATE
ACTIVITY
CAMPS**

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding holiday day camps with over
40 activities every week



For ages
4 to 12

Mon - Fri
8am - 6pm

SEE ONLINE
FOR LATEST
**EARLY
BOOKING
OFFERS**

At Chandlings Prep School in Kennington

Ultimate savings when you book early!

Easter Yoga Workshop

Monday 30th March
10:00am - 3:00pm

4-11 year olds

Laurence Hall, Cholsey
£45 per child

To book your child a place, email
yogafulminds@gmail.com

