



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

May 2026

## WELCOME BACK

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and see how positively they have returned. The children have settled back into their routines quickly and smoothly, showing confidence, enthusiasm, and a clear readiness to learn.

Over recent weeks, we have been reflecting on our school values of **Kindness, Determination, Creativity and Respect** and how these values link so closely with our vision: "**Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.**" These values are lived out not only in classrooms and lessons, but also in the way our children interact with one another, staff, and the wider world. We are proud that members of the public and residents in our local community regularly see our pupils as positive role models, demonstrating respect, compassion and responsibility both in and outside of school. Through this, our children continue to strengthen the caring community we are building together, while developing the skills and attitudes they will carry with them throughout their lives.

## THANK YOU AND REMINDERS

- We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to help move topsoil, level the ground, and sprinkle grass seed to bring our sensory garden to life. Your commitment and support have made a real difference in creating a wonderful wellbeing space for our children at Dry Sandford Primary School.
- We would also like to thank families for continuing to park safely and with consideration for others. As the weather improves, it would be lovely to see more families walking or cycling to school where possible.
- We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Lucy Purvey** as a new member of our school office team. Mrs Purvey has already settled in well, and we are very pleased to have her supporting our school community.

Please note that office hours will now run until **2:45pm** each day. Any non-urgent messages received after this time should be sent via email and will be responded to as soon as possible. A member of staff will, of course, still be available to respond to urgent phone calls after 2:45pm.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

## PARENT GOVERNORS

We still 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.

## TREASURER ROLE

We are delighted that **Mrs Helen Lyons** has kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. We are very grateful to Helen for offering her time and support, and we look forward to working closely with her in this role.

As we look ahead, we will soon be reaching out for support with our upcoming **Summer Fete**, with more details to follow. If you are able to help in any way, we would be delighted to hear from you. This could include providing sponsorship, donating raffle prizes, or offering experiences for our raffle. Please do get in touch if you are able to support us.

## ST GEORGE'S DAY

This week, we enjoyed learning about **St George's Day** as part of our wider work on traditions and celebrations across the UK. The children marked the day by wearing red clothing or uniforms from groups such as **Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and other uniformed organisations**, reflecting community involvement and shared values.

In assembly, the children learned about who St George was, why St George's Day is celebrated, and how it links to key values such as bravery, kindness, and helping others. These discussions supported our ongoing focus on respect, understanding and appreciation of different traditions.

This learning forms part of our broader curriculum work, where children have been exploring the saints' days of the UK and how traditions contribute to identity and cultural heritage. We will continue to build on this understanding later in the term when we celebrate our **Diversity Day**, recognising and valuing the many cultures, backgrounds and experiences that make up our school community.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in helping the children take part in these learning experiences.



## MOBILE PHONES

We have noticed that some parents and carers have been using mobile phones when entering the school grounds and whilst waiting for their children on the playground. We would like to remind everyone that the use of mobile phones is **strictly prohibited on the school site** due to safeguarding procedures.

We kindly ask that all phones are turned off and placed in bags/pockets whilst on school premises.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

## SNOWY OWLS CAKE SALE



A big thank you to all the parents and carers who kindly donated cakes and volunteered their time to support the Snowy Owl cake sale last week. Your generosity and help made the event a great success, raising valuable funds towards **new art and design equipment** for our children.

## HEALTHY SNACKS AND LUNCHES

Thank you to all the parents and carers who already send in healthy snacks and lunches for their children each day - we really appreciate your support. We have recently noticed an increase in sugary snacks and chocolate items, including Easter eggs, being brought into school in lunch boxes. As a reminder, it is school policy, in line with Oxfordshire County Council guidance, that children bring healthy food to school. Chocolate bars and sweets are not permitted, although a small amount of chocolate, such as that found within a biscuit, is acceptable.

Oxfordshire County Council promotes healthy school lunches and snacks through strict compliance with national food standards, **focusing on balanced, nutritious diets** to support children's learning, behaviour, and overall well-being. Recommendations include **daily fruit and vegetables, high-fibre foods**, low sugar and salt options, and appropriate sources of dairy and protein. Snacks such as crisps, sweets, and sugary items are therefore discouraged.

It is well known that providing healthy food helps children maintain energy levels, improve concentration, and stay focused throughout the school day, supporting both learning and positive behaviour.

One parent recently shared:

*"After making a few small changes to lunches and snacks, we noticed a real improvement in our child's focus and behaviour—it's made such a difference."*

To help support families, we have attached a **Guide to Food** leaflet with practical ideas and guidance for healthy snacks and lunches.

Thank you for continuing to support us in promoting healthy choices and helping every child thrive at school.



## RESIDENTIAL VISIT – EAGLE OWLS

Next week, Mrs Friday, Mrs Norman and Mrs Crothers will be away in Wales with Eagle Owls on their residential visit. We hope they have a fantastic time and enjoy lots of exciting learning experiences together.

While Mrs Friday is away, Miss Goodgame will be overseeing things at school and ensuring everything runs smoothly.

We wish everyone a wonderful trip and look forward to hearing all about it on their return!



## DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

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



### Learning & Caring Certificates:

Charlotte  
Ellie  
Alesha  
Abbey  
Teddy S  
Damien  
Tuhina  
Ava  
Rowan

### Headteacher's Award:

Sonny  
Evie M  
Jasmine  
Frank  
Naomi  
Esmée  
Lisa

## CALENDAR DATES:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>                            | <b>BANK HOLIDAY – school closed</b>                                 |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May | Year 6 SATs Assessment Week   |
| <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>MAY HALF TERM – school closed</b>                                |
| <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>                           | <b>INSET DAY – school closed to pupils</b>                          |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June  | Year 4 Multiplication Check   |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June  | Year 1 Phonics Screening  |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June                                | Owlets and Barn Owls trip to the Story Museum, Oxford               |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June                                | Music Flood Orchestra Day at Radley College (selected KS2 children) |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June                               | Snowy Owls trip to Science Oxford                                   |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July                               | Multi-Sport Morning   |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July                                | Leavers Assembly  |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July                                | LAST DAY OF TERM – finish at usual time (3.05/3.10pm)               |

**OXFORD HOOPS BASKETBALL**

**SLAM JAM** 6 WEEK COURSE

BASKETBALL ENGLAND

**Play basketball at:**  
 OXFORD HOOPS  
 CHENEY SCHOOL  
 CHENEY LANE  
 HEADINGTON  
 OXFORD  
 OX3 7QH

SATURDAYS  
 9 to 11 AM  
 6 WEEKS COURSE  
 STARTS 25-APRIL

SLAM JAM IS BASKETBALL ENGLAND'S OFFICIAL JUNIOR PROGRAMME DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 5 AND 11.

The programme is jam packed with fun basketball games, festivals and rewards and gives children a great way to learn the basic skills of the game!

Find out more at:  
[basketballengland.co.uk](http://basketballengland.co.uk)

SPORT ENGLAND

BASKETBALL ENGLAND

Next Thing

May Half Term 2026

**The WOW Camp**

LASER TAG

VIRTUAL REALITY

MINECRAFT

ANIMAL WORKSHOPS

SCIENCE

ROBOTS

CHANDLINGS PREP, OX1 5ND

26th - 29th May 2026

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

SCAN TO BOOK!

**MAY 2026 CAMPS**

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

**Example camp activities**

Ages 5-11, Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

|               |                  |                     |                    |                 |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| ROBOT LAB     | LEGO ENGINEERING | ELECTRIC INVENTIONS | 3D CREATIONS       | ANIMATION       |
| COOL CIRCUITS | CRAZY CODING     | MOVIE MAKING        | MINECRAFT REDSTONE | VIRTUAL REALITY |

**WOW EXPERIENCES**

|            |         |              |         |           |
|------------|---------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| INVENTIONS | ANIMALS | STREET DANCE | SCIENCE | LASER TAG |
|------------|---------|--------------|---------|-----------|

Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

At Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity, fuel creativity, and empower young minds for the future!

Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

+ £45 per day or 10% off when you book all 4 days for just £162 +

[WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION](http://WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION) T: 01442 873150

**Dynamos Cricket**

Places available for mixed gender Dynamos session on Tuesday nights starting 12 May for children aged 8-11:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/sunningwell/Course/9886e4ca-f9ed-49cd-a377-5248c0fda495>