



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

September 2026

WELCOME BACK

A very warm welcome back to all our families, and a special welcome to those who are joining our school community for the first time. We hope you have all enjoyed a happy and restful summer break and are feeling ready for an exciting year ahead.

We are delighted to see our pupils returning with enthusiasm and positivity, and we look forward to working together to help every child thrive both academically and personally.

As we begin the new school year, we would like to remind everyone of our core school values: **Kindness, Respect, Determination and Creativity** and how these values link so closely with our vision: "**Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.**".

These values are at the heart of everything we do and help us create a happy, inclusive and successful school community where every child feels valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Attached to this newsletter is our Home-School Partnership Agreement. We kindly ask all parents and carers to read through the agreement carefully, as it outlines how we can work together to support every child's learning, wellbeing and success throughout the year.



BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

- If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please inform the school office before **9.30am** on each day of absence. You can do this in person, by email **office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk**, or by telephone using our dedicated absence line.
- At the start of the school day, the playground is not supervised by school staff. You are welcome on the school playground from **8.30am** - children remain the responsibility of their parents and should school play equipment should not be used at this time. When the cloakroom doors open at **8.40am**, a member of staff will greet each class and children will have time to hang up their belongings, get set up in their classroom and begin their early-morning-work task before the register is taken at **8.50am**. Cloakroom doors will be closed and locked at this time – children who arrive after this time will need to come directly to the school office and their attendance will be recorded as 'late'.
- The school gates are locked between **9am and 3pm**. In between these hours, visitors to school should come to the small gate through the staff car park and ring the doorbell or phone the school office to inform us of your arrival. Please avoid using the staff car park apart from this.
- A polite reminder that if someone other than yourself, or the person who usually collects your child, will be collecting them from school, please telephone the school office to let us know in advance. As our office inbox is extremely busy, we do not want to risk missing any important

messages sent by email. Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us keep all children safe.

- When driving and parking near the school, please be considerate of our neighbours and other drivers by not blocking drives, avoiding parking on the bend on Lashford Lane and not using The Field, which is a private road.
- Snacks and packed lunches should follow our healthy food approach and include a balance of different food groups. We encourage fruit and vegetables for break time snack. Please refrain from sending in items with high sugar, fat or salt content, such as chocolate bars and sharing bags of crisps. Attached to this newsletter is a **Guide to Food** leaflet, which includes helpful information and ideas for healthy snacks and packed lunches.
- Children should also bring a **named water bottle**.
- A reminder of our **school uniform** expectations is attached along with this newsletter. Make up should not be worn to school. Shoes should be all-black shoes or trainers. Each child should have a pair of wellies kept in school at all times – we regularly ask children to change into them for playtimes when the weather is wet and during outdoor learning lessons, such as Forest School, geography or science.

COMMUNICATION

Class teachers are available at the classroom/cloakroom door at drop-off and pick-up times each day and are happy to be given informal messages at this time.

All other communication should be directed, in the first instance, to the **school office, by email or phone**. For example, if you need to discuss a more sensitive matter or require more time. The office team will direct your message to the relevant member(s) of staff.

The **Class Dojo** app is used to share dates, reminders and photos with parents and guardians. Please note that, while teachers may occasionally use the direct messaging function to make individual contact, this is not routinely checked – please email the school office, rather than directly messaging teachers through dojo.

School Newsletters are emailed once a month, with important dates, information and reminders for all parents and guardians. Class Curriculum Letters are sent to each class once a term with details of class learning, topics, homework and events. Most other letters, such as trip letters, will be sent by email via Arbor.

You may also receive text messages from school through the **Arbor IAM** messaging service. We use this service to notify parents of any minor first aid incidents that occur during the school day. Please be assured that any significant first aid incidents, illnesses, injuries, or concerns requiring immediate attention will always be communicated directly to parents by telephone.

CLUBS



We are pleased to offer our own **After School Club** from **Monday to Thursday**, running from the end of the school day until **4.15pm or 5.15pm**, providing flexible childcare for families.

Jayne will be running her popular **Yoga Club** on **Thursdays** after school. To book a place, please contact Jayne directly at **yogafulminds@gmail.com**.

Footy Kids will continue to run every **Friday** after school. To book a place, please visit: www.enrolmy.com/footy-kids.

Unfortunately, it does not look likely that our Art After School Club will be running this term due to a lack of interest. We are currently exploring alternative club options and hope to secure a replacement soon. We will be in touch as soon as we have more information to share.



HEATING REPLACEMENT WORKS

You may have noticed some work taking place around the school since the summer holidays. This is part of a heating replacement project being organised by Oxfordshire County Council.

Over the summer, contractors have removed the old heating pipework, radiators and fan convectors and completed associated roof works. The site has been cleaned and made safe, and work will continue over the coming weeks as the new heating system is installed.

As we move into the colder months, temporary storage heaters will be delivered and installed in classrooms and key areas of the school to ensure that children and staff remain warm and comfortable while the project is completed.

The contractors undertaking this work have carried out similar projects in a number of schools and understand the importance of maintaining a calm learning environment. They are working closely with the school to minimise noise and disruption wherever possible, allowing teaching and learning to continue as normal. Children may need to use alternative classroom doors for drop off and pick up times whilst they are working on specific areas.

We appreciate your patience and understanding whilst these important improvements are carried out and will continue to keep you updated as the work progresses.

SCHOOL TOURS

We are pleased to share details of our upcoming school tours for prospective parents of children starting school in September 2027:

- Tuesday 6th October at 9:45am
- Friday 16th October at 9:45am
- Thursday 12th November at 9:45am
- Thursday 12th November at 5:30pm



These tours are a wonderful opportunity to visit our school, meet our staff, and learn more about what we can offer your child.

If you have friends, family members, neighbours, or colleagues with children due to start school in September 2027, we would be grateful if you could share this information with them. An email was sent last week containing further details and promotional materials. We would greatly appreciate it if you could display these at your workplace, on community noticeboards, or in any other locations where they may help raise awareness among local families.

To book a place on a tour, please contact the school office or email office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk. We look forward to welcoming prospective families to our school.

FODSS

If you have any time to spare, useful skills to share, or contacts who may be able to support our fundraising efforts, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contributions of any size can make a real difference to our school community and help provide additional opportunities and resources for our children.



To find out more about upcoming fundraising events or to offer your support, please contact **Kerry Glass** at the Friends of Dry Sandford Primary School: fodss.drysandford@gmail.com, or speak to **Miss Archer**, who will be happy to help.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Universal Infant Free School Meals are only available for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) will be charged for any school meals ordered unless they are entitled to Free School Meals.

From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit are eligible for Free School Meals in England. If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please speak to Mrs Purvey in the school office.

JUSTGIVING

Many of you will have seen reports of the devastating flooding in Nepal. As a school community, we would like to offer support to those affected through our JustGiving page in aid of the **Red Cross Nepal Floods Appeal**.

Any donation, however small, would be greatly appreciated. Donations are completely voluntary.

Donate here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/dry-sandford-1?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Thank you for your kindness and support. Our thoughts remain with everyone affected by this tragedy.

WISHLIST



We have an Amazon Wish List containing a range of resources, books, games and equipment that support learning and enhance opportunities for our pupils.

If you would like to support the school, we would be very grateful for any purchases from the wishlist. We would also be delighted to receive suitable second-hand alternatives that you may have at home and no longer need.

View our Amazon Wish List: [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Thank you for your generosity and support. Every contribution helps us provide additional resources and opportunities for our children.



DRY SANDFORD'S HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to the following pupils who earned certificates in Celebration Assemblies in May & June:



Learning & Caring Certificates:

Naomi
Daisy
Esmée

Headteacher's Award:

Evie D
Harry
Ava W
Hugh

CALENDAR DATES:

Monday 21 st to Friday 25 th September	Music Flood Week
Friday 9 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly (families welcome)
Tuesday 13 th October	Flu Immunisation Nasal Spray Clinic
Tuesday 13 th October	Parents Evening 1 (from 3.30pm)
Thursday 15 th October	Parents Evening 2 (from 4.00pm)
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	HALF TERM (school closed)
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need (pyjama day)
Tuesday 8 th December	Owlets and Barn Owls Nativity Performance 1 (9am)
Tuesday 8 th December	Snowy Owls and Eagle Owls Christmas Concert (TBC)
Thursday 10 th December	Owlets and Barn Owls Nativity Performance 2 (2pm)
Tuesday 15 th December	Christmas Class Party Day (non-school uniform)
Wednesday 16 th December	School Christmas Lunch (non-school uniform)
Monday 21st December – 31st December	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (school closed)
Monday 4th January	INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 9 th February	Maths House Challenge and Number Day
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February	HALF TERM (school closed)
Thursday 4 th May	World Book Day
Monday 22 nd March	Holi Festival Celebration
Thursday 25 th March	Easter Service
Friday 26th and Monday 29th March	BANK HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 30th March – Friday 9th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS (school closed)
Thursday 22 nd April	Multi-Sport Morning
Tuesday 27 th April	Parents Evening 1 (from 3.30pm)
Thursday 29 th April	Parents Evening 2 (from 4.00pm)
Monday 3rd May	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 14 th May	Art Day
Friday 21 st May	World Diversity Day
Monday 31st May	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th June	HALF TERM (school closed)
Monday 7th June	INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 8 th July	Transition Morning
Tuesday 13 th July	KS2 Production

Tuesday 20th July

LAST DAY OF TERM – finish at usual time (3.05/3.10pm)

Wednesday 21st July

INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

Thursday 22nd July – Tuesday 31st August

SUMMER HOLIDAYS (school closed)



Little sticks
BIG FUN!

HOCKEY TOTS

FUN. ACTIVE. FRIENDLY.
THE PERFECT START!

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Ages 2–4
- Boys and girls
- No experience needed!
- All equipment provided

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Fun games and activities
- Builds confidence, coordination & skills
- Introduces the basics of hockey
- Friendly, supportive coaches

WHEN
Sundays
9:30 – 10:20

WHERE
Tilsley Park
Abingdon

AGES
2–4
years

WHAT TO WEAR
Weather appropriate clothing & trainers

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY!

COME AND GIVE HOCKEY A GO! ★
A great way to make friends, have fun and fall in love with sport. ♥

INTERESTED?
Get in touch for more info or to register your interest!

CONTACT 2025 – JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
@abingdonhockeys@gmail.com
www.abingdonhockeyclub.co.uk



Could you be the next hockey star?

Junior sessions underway!

- Every session is professionally coached
- High-quality & modern playing facilities to play on
- Hockey Tots, U6s & U8s is 0930-1030 on Sunday @Tilsley Park
- U10s & U12 is 1030-1200 on Sunday @ Tilsley Park
- U18s is 1900-2000 on Mondays @ Radley college
- Fun festivals for all and U16 compete in league games
- Fun and social hockey for all players...beginners welcome!



Interested? Try us out for free!
Tilsley Park, Abingdon, OX14 1PU
Radley College, Radley, OX14 2HR
Socials: @AbingdonHockeyClub
Email: Abingdonavengers@gmail.com

MORE LEISURE



BIG Open WEEKEND

3RD & 4TH OCTOBER

FREE TASTER SWIMMING LESSON
Try a class for free during the weekend! Pre-booking essential.
Available for all age groups across all participating centres.

Head to our website for more information.

✉ robyn.weller@serco.com or harry.saunders@serco.com

f i s | oxfordcityleisure.com



MORE for everyone

MORE

Adult & Toddler SWIMMING LESSONS

for adults and children aged 18 months – 4 years

STARTING 13TH SEPTEMBER

ONLY £37.25 for 5 consecutive SUNDAYS



Speak to a member of our team or visit our website to sign up today.

let's do **MORE**

INSIDE LIFE & MIND

A free science fair for all ages
with stalls, activities, and talks



Scan or visit
bit.ly/insidelam

SAT 3 OCT 12:00–17:00

Life & Mind Building,
South Parks Road, OX1 3EL



FAMILY SHOWS
AUTUMN 2026



TINY IDEAS FESTIVAL

Page One Theatre presents

RISE AND FALL

Saturday 26 September 11am and 2pm

Meet all manner of balloons from small floating moons to vast bouncing orbs!

Forever expanding and contracting, balloons are free to float, fly and sway. Hold your breath and go sailing away.

Rise and Fall is a poetic and intriguing performance for young audiences about holding on and letting go. Performed by one dancer, Rise and Fall has toured internationally and at UK venues including The Royal Opera House.

AGES 2+



The Last Baguette presents

BIN RAT

Sunday 27 September 11am and 2pm

A rat-astic and realistic look into refuse and recycling. Rummage through the rubble with Bin Rat to discover where all the junk goes!

Scrape scraps off the streets in this interactive puppetry show, & find out what literally happens to litter.

The Last Baguette presents an entertaining, accessible and eccentric work for family audiences.

AGES 3-8



TICKETS: £12 (£8 children, under 2s go free)

BOX OFFICE: 01865 319 450 / thenorthwall.com

The North Wall, South Parade, Oxford, OX2 7JN



Catalyst STEM Stream

Aspirational learning for talented students with a keen
interest and an aptitude for learning STEM subjects



The Catalyst STEM Stream at Nova Hreod Academy is a unique opportunity in Swindon for ambitious students who have a keen interest and an aptitude for learning STEM subjects.

The Catalyst STEM Stream is rooted in Swindon's rich history of innovation in technology, design and engineering. Catalyst students will be enabled to play a significant role in society, invigorating industry in Swindon, the UK and the world.

Year 7 students joining the Catalyst STEM Stream in September 2027 will study Science, Technology, Mathematics and Computing in greater depth and at an accelerated pace, working alongside STEM professionals to develop their interests and knowledge.

Excellence | Hard Work | Kindness

You're Invited!

Book Now!

Open Mornings

September 2026 – June 2027: 9am–10am



Aureus School

Cultivating ambition; high standards for all.

Scan to book
a place

