



NEWSLETTER

9TH SEPTEMBER 2024

We had a wonderful first few days back in school last week. The children have settled back in and are certainly showing our new staff just how kind and brilliant they all are. Thank you for ensuring they have the right uniform and are well prepared for school. Lessons started on the first day back and by five past nine, the classes were busy with maths or English lessons with children fully engaging. Phonics sessions will start on Monday for Reception children with a sound a day being introduced.

School lunches

- Please ensure that you have booked your child's school lunch well in advance **(by Thursday 9am of the previous week)**.
- You can book for the whole half term
- If you pay for lunches, please note that if you have booked and your child is absent, this will not be refunded as the food will have been ordered.

Phonics workshop for parents - 9am Wednesday 18th September in the studio



This workshop is aimed at reception parents and nursery parents.

- Come and find out how we teach your child to read through the systematic phonics programme Read Write Inc and how this is supported by a love for reading and rich diet of texts.
- Find out how you can support your child by using a consistent approach to school.
- The session will be run by our Early Years Leader: Mrs Clements and will last about 30 minutes.

The next two weeks	
9th September	Nursery children start Choir starts today
10th September	DGS and SBS information evening for children and parents in Year 5 and 6 at 5.30pm
11th September	Rocksteady lessons start
12th September	Birch class Swimming
13th September	
16th September	Forest school Willow class pm
17th September	Year 4 Henley River and Rowing museum visit
18th September	Phonics workshop for parents 9am - 9:30am
19th September	
20th September	



- All classes will experience Forest school across the school year.
- We utilise our fantastic grounds which include an orchard, pond and forest school area.
- Children will need to be dressed with long sleeved tops and long trousers, waterproofs for inclement weather - as not much weather stops forest school!
- Warm coat when the weather gets colder



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Rewards and recognition

Star of the Week

- On most Fridays we hold our celebration assembly.
- Staff are asked to choose one child for the 'Star of the Week' award. This is often a very hard decision as some weeks every child could achieve this.

Subject Awards

- Each half term teachers are asked to pick up to 4 children who have really stood out in a particular subject area.

Omnia Awards

- Every half term, one child from each class is awarded the 'Omnia Award'.
- This recognises children that are **always** doing the right thing and are ambassadors for the school consistently.

Principal Awards

- One of the best parts of my job is seeing children that have been brought to my office to show me a superb piece of work for them.

Year 6 Omnia Awards

- At the very end of Year 6 there are four special awards, linking directly to our values of: Inspiring, Nurturing, Empowering and Challenging.

UNIFORM

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD WEARS THE SCHOOL UNIFORM EVERY DAY.

RECEPTION - YEAR 4

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Purple sweatshirt with logo
- Dark grey shorts, trousers (not leggings), pinafore, skirt
- Grey, white or purple socks/tights
- Black school shoes or plain black trainers

YEAR 5 and 6

- Same as above with the option of wearing white shirt (tucked in) with school tie.

PE Uniform

You will be told which days are PE days and this is when the PE uniform will be worn. Children do not get changed at school and must come to school in their PE kits on these days.

- House colour top with logo
- Plain black hoodie, school sweatshirt or Omnia hoodie
- Black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- trainers (any colour)

Long hair (past shoulder length) must be fully tied back every day. Small purple/black accessories may be worn. No animal headbands.

No jewellery (exception of small studs but not on PE days)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL GATES ARE SHUT AND LOCKED PROMPTLY AT 8:50AM AND 3:35PM. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE LEFT THE SCHOOL PREMISES BY THIS TIME.

PARKING

- Please be considerate if you have to drive to school to drop your child off and park in a safe place without blocking the driveways of residents.
- **DO NOT USE THE STAFF CARPARK**
- You are able to use the Station Garden car park which is only a few minutes walk away.

YEAR 5 AND 6 WALKING HOME

With parental permission, Year 5 and 6 children are able to walk home independently after school. If you have agreed that they are able to do then children will be dismissed from the classroom to walk home every day. It is not possible to have a different arrangement for different days as this becomes very difficult to manage.



WANTED!

VOLUNTEER GARDENER

Do you have spare time and green fingers?! We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to help us look after and grow fruit and vegetables in our raised garden beds with the children. If you are interested, please speak to the school office. The school will undertake a DBS check on interested parties before they start.

We are looking for a regular commitment over the school year once a week/once a fortnight. Seeds, plants etc will be provided as will a small group of children (about 6) each week.

Term dates 2024-25

First Day of term	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half term	28th October – 1st November 2024
Last day of term	Thursday 19th December 2024 at 12 noon (nursery sessions finish on Wednesday 18th December)
Winter Holidays	20th December -3rd January
Further information	Wednesday 4th September 2024 and Thursday 5th September 2023 half days for Reception children, allocated as either morning or afternoon. 6th September in full time. 9th September Nursery children start on allocated days INSET DAYS Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September Friday 11th October 2024
Spring Term	
First day of term	Monday 6th January 2025
Half term	17th February 2025 – 21st Feb 2025
Last day of term	Nursery – Thursday 3rd April 2025 Friday 4th April (school finishes at 12 noon)
Easter/Spring holidays	7th April 2025 – 21st April 2025
Further information	Inset Days. Friday 3rd January Inset Day
Summer term	
First day of term	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Half term	26th – 30th May 2025
Last day of term	Nursery – 17th July 2025 18th July 2025 (school finishes at 12 noon)
Further information	INSET DAYS 2nd June

2024-25 Autumn 1

Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.

Date	Who	What
2nd Sept 2024	Whole school	Inset Day - School closed to children
3rd Sept 2024	Whole school	Inset Day - School Closed to children
4th September	Years 1-6	Term starts at 8:40am
4th September	Reception	half days either morning or afternoons
4th September	Nursery	No nursery sessions. 1:1 appointments for new starters
5th September	Reception	Half days either morning or afternoons
5th September	Nursery	No nursery sessions 1:1 appointments for new starters
6th September	Reception	Reception in full time
6th September	nursery	no nursery sessions 1:1 appointments for new starters
8th September	nursery	full time (30hrs) children start
9th September	nursery	part time (15hrs) children start
10th September	Year 5 and 6 children and parents	Didcot Girls School and St Birinus School information evening held at DPA at 5.30pm
12th September	Birch Class	Swimming starts
17th September	Year 4	River and Rowing Museum trip
18th September	Reception parents	Phonics Workshop 9am
23 September	Whole school	World Celebration Day - Children to come to school wearing clothes that are special to them, wear for special occasions to learn more about each other and our cultures and backgrounds.

2024-25 Autumn 1

Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.

25th September	Nursery	Didcot Fire Station to visit school
30th Sept - 11th Oct	Year 6	Bikeability all week
1st October	Year 5	Ancient Greece Workshop
3rd October	Year 3	Trip to Stonehenge
11th October	Whole school	Inset day - school closed to children
15th October	Whole school	Individual photographs
18th October	Whole school	Show Racism the Red Card day - wear red to school today
21st October	Whole school	Learning reviews 3:40pm till 7pm ten minute appointments in school or by phone
22nd October	Nursery	Little City to visit Acorn class
23rd October		childhood flu vaccination programme
23rd October	whole school	Learning reviews 3:40pm till 7pm ten minute appointments in school or by phone
28th -1st November	Whole school	School closed Get Active will be running holiday camp

2024-25 Autumn 2

Date	Who	What...
8th November	Early years and Year 1	Big Machines Roadshow
11th November-15th November	Parent/careers of children with SEND	Learning plan reviews will be held this week
12th November	Reception	Visit to Didcot Railway Station
15th November	Year 6	Trip to Milestones Museum
21st November	Elm class	Elm class starts swimming
10th December	Reception	Reception Christmas performance 2:30pm. Please note, no children under 5 will be admitted into the audience.
10th December	Year 5	Year 5 to watch High School Musical at Aureus School
12th December	Year 2	Christmas performance 2:30pm and 5:30 pm. Please note, no children under 5 will be admitted into the audience.
18th December	Years 3-6	Christmas Concert Red and Yellow house 9:15am Blue and Green House 2:15pm
Thursday 19th December	Nursery	No nursery sessions
Thursday 19th December	Whole school	End of term. School Closes at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am.

2025 Spring 1

When	who	What
6th January	whole school	Term starts at 8:40am
14th January	Year 5	Winchester Science Museum trip
24th January	Choir	Young Voices O2 Concert. children will leave school at 9:15pm and will return around midnight
10th February	Whole school	Learning reviews
12th February	whole school	Learning reviews
13th February	Chestnut Class	Chestnut class starts swimming
14th February	Year 3	Rocks and Fossils workshop

2025 Spring 2

When	Who	What...
24th February	whole school	Spring 2 starts
4th March	Whole school	Roving bookshop in school
10th March	Parents/carers of children with SEND	Learning Plan review meetings will be held this week
17th - 21st March	Year 6	Kilvrough Residential Trip
20th March	Year 2	Elizabeth 1st to visit Year 2
24th March	Year 6	Junior Citizens
4th April	Nursery	No nursery sessions
4th April	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am

2025 Summer 1

When	Who	What...
Tuesday 22nd April	Whole school	Summer 1 starts at 8:40am
30th April - 2nd May	Year 4	Year 4 Residential to PGL Liddington
1st May	Nursery	Acorn Class to visit Earth Trust
5th May	whole school	Bank holiday
12th May	Year 5	Earth Trust visit
12th May - 15th May	Year 6	SAT's Week
8th May	Sycamore	Sycamore Class starts swimming
19th May	Nursery and reception	Sports afternoon 2:15pm
20th May	Whole school	Group photos
23rd May	Years 1-6	Sports Day

2025 Summer 2

When	Who	What...
2nd June	Whole school	INSET DAY school closed to children
15th July	Year 6	Year 6 performance 2:30pm