

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School
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Weekly Newsletter 20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News

Kites have enjoyed completing their 3km walk this week to raise money for the Wildlife Trust as part of The Big Wild Walk!

Stars of the Week are Marley M and Isabella RH, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

Year 1 are meeting their Year 6 buddies for the first time today!

Stars of the Week are Tristan and Oliver, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

Year 2 have loved finishing our Great Fire of London houses and writing letters to Duncan from 'The day the crayons quit'.

Stars of the Week are Ariel D and Jesse D, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

Year 3 have completed some informative and well-written non-chronological reports about the rainforest to end our rainforest topic.

Stars of the Week are Vivienne RH, Rafa F, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

Year 4 have enjoyed making wax relief paintings. These involve using wax crayons and black paint to create a surface that can be scratched away to leave beautiful patterns, some of which will be displayed in the hall.

Stars of the Week are Anson M and Issy C, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

Year 5 have enjoyed a SPaG week, and especially their PE lessons dancing along to famous 90s tunes.

Stars of the Week are Louie B and Emily-Rose VH, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

Year 6 have enjoyed lively debates over who was to blame for the sinking of the Titanic. Both classes found the White Star Line Company to blame: contradicting the findings of both the British and American inquests at the time!

Stars of the week are William S, Bruno D, Mr Hirst and Mrs Salmons.

The whole school is suitably delighted by the OFSTED report which was published this morning. We hope you have had a chance to read it and enjoy the many wonderful comments. Thank you again for your part in making us successful.

Breakfast Club & After School Club

Please could you ensure that you book your child/ren into Breakfast and After school Club every time you would like them to attend. If you don't book your child/ren in it can create issues with under staffing and catering. Also, if we are not aware your child/ren are coming to After School Club, we will not contact you if they do not turn up. Any child/ren not booked in on the day will be automatically charged the 6pm rate and offered food.

Attendance Policy

Our Attendance Policy has been updated to reflect our new start time 8.50. Following advice from the County Attendance Officer we are now closing our registers at 9.10am. The following is an extract from our Attendance Policy. Please read.

10 Lateness

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If your child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons, it can be embarrassing for the child and can also encourage absence.

How we manage time keeping:

The school day starts at 8.50 am and we expect your child to be in class at that time.

Registers are marked by 9.00 am and your child will receive a late mark if they are not in by that time.

At 9.10 am the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time, they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site, but this will not count as a present mark, and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence. This may mean that you could face the possibility of a Penalty Notice if the problem persists.

Interhouse Competition Term 1

This term the challenge was to try and fly a paper aeroplane the furthest. These are the results:

Year 3: 1st place Fire (Zach W), 2nd place Earth (Zach H) and 3rd place Air (Jack S)

Year 4: 1st place Air (Zander), 2nd place Earth (Issy) and 3rd place Water (Andy)

Year 5: 1st place Fire (Freddie P), 2nd place Earth (Felix C) and 3rd Place Air/Fire/Earth (Louie B, Teddy E and Donnie F)

Year 6: 1st place Fire/Air (Riley A and Jake P), 2nd place Earth/Fire (Max M and Arthur S) and 3rd place Earth/Air (Bruno D and Joseph)

In KS1, Year 2s results are still pending but Year 1 chose to do an alternative challenge. They completed a quiz about the weather.

The year 1 results are as follows:

In Miss Snowden's class 1st place Earth, 2nd place is Water/Air and 3rd place is Fire

In Mrs Bartlett's class 1st place Air, 2nd place Earth and 3rd place was Fire

Well done to Earth and Air for earning the most team points so far, we will see if that remains when we get Year 2's results after half term.

Save the Date

Sonning Common Primary School's Christmas Fair is on 25th November 12pm – 3pm.

Come and join the festive cheer, be entertained by our talented children and maybe a sneak-peek at Father Christmas himself.

We would be very grateful for any hamper donations to be dropped off in the green box in the bike shed in front of reception.

PTA Quiz Night

Friday 3rd November in the school hall, 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

£5 per person. Drinks and snacks will be available (please bring cash)

Cross Country

Next event: MECE on Saturday November 4th. Races start at 10am.

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Light Party

Chiltern Evangelical Church is holding a LIGHT party on the 31st October, 6 -7:30pm for primary school aged children. It's aimed at families that want an alternative to Halloween and trick or treating. It's a free event and includes a packed tea for all children, a party bag, glow sticks, dressing up in bright colours, games, sweets and a short Bible talk. Book a place at www.cecuk.church/whats-on/light-party/

The Great Village Scarecrow Trail

If you're looking for a fun autumn activity during half term, The Great Village Scarecrow Trail will be taking place in Sonning Common. Buy a map (£2) from the Library, Heath & Watkins or Co-Op to follow the trail of Scarecrows on display around the village. Make a note of the Scarecrow names, return your map to any of the above locations to receive a reward and to be entered into the Prize Draw!

Scarecrows will be on display until Sunday 29th October. All money raised will go to Sonning Common Pre-School to help fund extra equipment and activities to support the children's early years learning journey.

Young Climate Warriors – Fascinating Fungi

Fungi could be helping our soils store the equivalent to 1/3 of global annual carbon emissions - wow! Young Climate Warriors are challenged this half-term to head into the wondrous woods, looking for fascinating fungi ... maybe making some woodland emojis along the way.

Woodland Trust Nature Detective links of potential interest:

[Fungi identification guide](#)

[Leaf fireworks](#)

[Woodland emojis](#)

Older pupils might like:

[Fungi store 1/3 of carbon emissions - Sheffield University](#)

[Earth's fungal life support - essay written by Zara Hussan aged 14yrs](#)

Sonning Common Library - Zoolab

ZooLab is visiting the library on Tuesday 24th October. There will be 2 sessions, one at 9.30am and one at 11am. Tickets cost £5.00 per child and must be paid for in advance (cash only) – tickets are limited. Children must be old enough to sit on the floor in a circle (not with parent) and wait patiently for their 'turn' with the creatures.

Free Activities in October Half Term

The Active Communities team will be running **free** events over October half term the details are on the websites below:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/school-holiday-activities/>

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/school-holiday-activities/>

Sonning Common Pre-School Vacancy

Sonning Common Pre-School are looking for a pre-school assistant level 2 or 3 to join the team. The vacancy is for 18 hours a week and term time only. A relevant qualification in childcare, such as NVQ level 2 or 3, or equivalent is required. For further information and an application form, contact Jo at

info@sonningcommonpreschool.co.uk

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

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Dates for your Diary

October 2023	
Friday 20 th	Term 1 ends 3:15pm
Monday 30 th	Year 1 History of Toys Day
Monday 30 th	Term 2 starts
November 2023	
Thursday 2 nd	Year 1 Phonics for Parents 6:30pm (online)
Friday 3 rd	PTA Quiz Night
Saturday 4 th	Cross Country MECE 10am
Friday 10 th	Year 5 visit to Milestones Centre
Tuesday 14 th	Childhood Flu Vaccinations
Friday 17 th	Children in Need
Wednesday 22 nd	Christingle
Thursday 23 rd	Year 3 Visit from a Rabbi
Friday 24 th	Non-Uniform Day
Saturday 25 th	PTA Christmas Fair 12-3pm

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