

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School
Grove Road, Sonning Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 9RJ
Tel: 0118 9722105
e-mail: office@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Chris Hirst
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Salmons

Weekly Newsletter 15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News

Kites did an amazing job in their Nativity and were all very proud of themselves!
Stars of the Week are Brooklyn V and Maia D.

Year 1 have loved showing off their moves in their sheep dance for the nativity.
Stars of the Week are Camilla B (1SS) and the whole of class 1RB!

Year 2 The Year 2 children have made the team very proud with their amazing nativity performances.
Stars of the week are Eliza G and Chloe C.

Year 3 have created some entertaining comics inspired by Aardman's 'The Flight before Christmas' and also showed some excellent athletics skills this week.
Stars of the Week are Darcie D and Nia B.

Year 4 has had a great last full week of term. We have had lots of singing, gift buying and Christmas quizzing. We have also been out in all weathers having a go at the different Sports Hall Athletics disciplines before training starts in January.
Stars of the Week are Jensen P and Lucas S.

Year 5 have had a good week writing newspaper reports, featuring the escape of Kevin the Carrot from the clutches of Russell Sprout and the Leafy Blinders!
Stars of the Week are Joey D and Hazel B-M.

Year 6 have enjoyed finishing writing stories for their buddies and a final practice of the song for the Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday!
Stars of the Week are Jake P and Max L.

Christmas Celebrations

Our annual outdoor **Carol Concert** will take place on December 19th at 6pm with performances from Year 2 to Year 6, plus Glee and Choir. This will include audience carols. Please come and support your child and enjoy this magical start to Christmas.
Children who are taking part should arrive at 5:50pm in the KS1 playground, underneath the canopy.

Last day of term

Reminder – school finishes at **1:15pm** on Wednesday 20th December.

Open Classrooms

We would like to invite parents to an Open Classroom session on Tuesday 19th December between 3.20 and 3.50pm.

We hope that you will be able to come into your child's classroom and see where they are taught and to have a look at the amazing displays. It is not however a time to have a look at your child's books or to speak to their class teacher. This can be done through booking a meeting.

Stuart Pitson

We have heard that Stuart Pitson, the sixth headteacher of Sonning Common Primary School has passed away. He was a great man and part of the rich history of our school, working here between 1965 and 1992, including 9 years as the headteacher. He was a popular man, who was very keen on sport, and we are sure that many people in the local community have fond memories of him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Safeguarding

We are frequently asked questions about safeguarding and who parents should report their concerns to. We have taken this advice from the Department for Education's web site and hope that you find it useful. Guidance

[Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm)

Call the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) helpline for support and advice if you have a concern for your own or another child's safety on 0808 800 5000.

If you feel that a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999. You can also report concerns to the police on their non-emergency number, 101.

You can contact the relevant social care team at your local council to report a concern about a child or adult.

Children and young people who have been victims of a crime may need support to cope and recover. You don't have to report the crime to the police to get support. You can find free, local support teams across England and Wales on the Victim and Witness Information site.

Community Noticeboard

Please take a look at the new Community Noticeboard on our website. This is where we will post information about local events and activities that may be of interest to you. These are not endorsed by the school but are provided for your information.

<https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/community/community-noticeboard/>

Young Climate Warriors

Information from Young Climate Warriors will now be posted on the Eco-Council page on the school website: <https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/parents/eco-council/>

Oxfordshire Libraries eBook short story competition 2024

Monday 11 December 2023 – Sunday 11 February 2024

The Oxfordshire Libraries 10th writing competition launches on 11 December 2023. This year, children aged 7-11 are invited to write a short story up to 1000 words. Other categories are for 12-17 year olds and 18+ (short story up to 3000 words). It is the perfect activity for winter, inviting children to build on the creative writing skills practised in class – to then explore at home and in their own time.

Inspire children to tell their own story and write for fun. They could become a published author!

Winners of each category will see their story published as an eBook and eAudiobook, available to members of Oxfordshire Libraries to borrow in 2024.

Space to learn Space to grow
Space to be inspired

www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk

Children's entries need to have parent/carer consent. Full terms and conditions, as well as instructions on how to submit entries, can be found on the Oxfordshire Libraries website:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition

Sonning Common Library

Looking for something to do in January, before the schools go back? Look no further....

There will be a Lego MasterBuilders session in the library at 10am on Wednesday 3rd January. The theme is 'An Arctic Adventure', and it will end at 11.30am – so that's that morning sorted! Tickets cost £10 and MUST be paid for in advance, preferably by cash in the library before Christmas. If you're too busy to think of anything after Christmas just yet, tickets can also be booked and paid for online

through: www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk

Contact the library for more information.

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

Dates for your Diary

December 2023	
Tuesday 19 th	3:20pm – 3:50pm Open Classrooms
Tuesday 19 th	6pm Carol Concert
Wednesday 20 th	Last day of Term 2 – school finishes at 1:15pm
January 2024	
Monday 8 th	First day of Term 3
Tuesday 16 th	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Thursday 18 th	Science Oxford Workshop (Kites & Y6)
Friday 19 th	Science Oxford Workshop (Y2 & Y6)
Saturday 20 th	Cross Country 10am Oratory Prep Winter Dash
Monday 22 nd	Young Voices Choir Trip
Wednesday 24 th	Year 3 Author Workshop
Tuesday 30 th	Eco Council visit to Ardley Waster Recycling Centre
Wednesday 31 st	Year 5 Ancient Greek Day

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