

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mr Chris Hirst  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Salmons

### Weekly Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Happy News

**Kites** have had a week learning all about safety in class, at home, online and on the road. They've been spotting dangers and will make fabulous health and safety inspectors one day.

**Year 1** have enjoyed writing their letters to Santa and practising for our KS1 Nativity!

**Year 2** have been looking at the book 'Dread Cat' by Michael Rosen and have been thinking of imaginative tips to help mice escape from cats!

**Year 3** made some excellent bird feeders on Tuesday so that the birds in Sonning Common don't go hungry this winter.

**Year 4** have been doing some great still life drawings this week, practising their shading and perspective techniques.

**Year 5** have continued with their Victorians topic this week, learning about how much nicer SCPS is now than it might have been in Victorian times.

**Year 6** have enjoyed making French Christmas cards.

#### Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper in exchange for a £1 donation that will be sent to Save the Children. School Council will be holding collection buckets at the school gates.

In the days leading up to this we will hold a Christmas jumper swap. If you have a jumper that is too small please donate it so that it can be enjoyed by someone else. You may be able to pick up a larger one at the same time.

There will be a rail to hang them one in the bike shed.

#### Christmas Celebrations

Our annual outdoor **Carol Concert** will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**KS1 Nativity** performances will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am, whilst **Kites will be singing** to parents on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm.

### Young Climate Warriors

COP28, Dubai - a moment for challenge and transformational opportunity.

Young Climate Warriors are challenged to choose as many plant-based meals as possible over the course of the 12 days of COP. Plant-based eating is one of the most powerful changes individuals can make to help combat climate change.

### Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2023

The Winter Mini Challenge is a free reading challenge, completely online, that tackles the holiday reading 'dip', encouraging children to keep up good habits or discover the joy of reading.

A target of 3 books is recommended and these can be any books, eBooks or eAudio, which can be borrowed for free from Oxfordshire Libraries. Parents and carers can register their children for free at [Winter Mini Registration - www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk)

### KS1 Christingle

Thank you for your generous donations for the Christingle collection. We raised a total £267.03 for The Children's Society.

### Oxfordshire Libraries eBook short story competition 2024

Monday 11 December 2023 – Sunday 11 February 2024

The Oxfordshire Libraries 10<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition)

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

### Dates for your Diary

December 2023	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	INSET DAY – Children not in school
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cross Country 10am MECE
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Y1 & Y2 Nativity Performance
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Y1 & Y2 Nativity Performance
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Gift Room (details to follow)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm Kites Christmas songs to parents
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6pm Carol Concert

Space to learn Space to grow  
Space to be inspired

[www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk)

Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Term 2 – school finishes at 1:15pm
<b>January 2024</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Term 3
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cross Country 10am Oratory Prep Winter Dash
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Young Voices Choir Trip
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Author Workshop
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Eco Council visit to Ardley Waster Recycling Centre
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5 Ancient Greek Day

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