

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School  
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### Weekly Newsletter 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Happy News

**Kites** have enjoyed decorating their Christmas ornaments and making gingerbread men, they then wrote recipes for their adult to follow at home!  
Stars of the Week are Freddie M and Isla A.

**Year 1** have really enjoyed making books of the Christmas Story and singing their Nativity songs.  
Stars of the Week are Riley B, Brody D and Logan R.

**Year 2** impressed the school with their nativity performance. They are looking forward to sharing it with their parents next week.  
Stars of the week are Joshua A and Tegan B.

**Year 3** have been ramping up practising their Christmas song ready for the Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday 19th!  
Stars of the Week are Sam A and Zach H.

**Year 4** have loved practicing their song for the carol concert, we hope you can join us for it! We have also been working hard in maths, improving our multiplication and division skills.  
Stars of the Week are Keegan, Caine and Ivy H.

**Year 5** have enjoyed reaching the end of their Victorian novel – *Street Child*. They wrote some excellent book reviews and generally seem to have been captivated by Jim's story.  
Stars of the Week are Corey W, Jack B and Freddie P.

**Year 6** have been looking at Christmas books and thinking about underlying messages they carry. This is in preparation for writing a Christmas story featuring their Year 1 buddy as a main character.  
Stars of the Week are Vanessa P, Freya K and Luca T

#### Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you so much for your kind donations for Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £267 for Save the Children!

#### Cross Country

It was FREEZING at Chiltern Edge last Saturday for the final race in the Winter Series so well done to all the keen runners who turned up to represent our school, especially those who have attended all 4 of the races since September.

Year 2: Max C 2<sup>nd</sup>, Joey Q 8<sup>th</sup>, Myles S 10<sup>th</sup>; Mhairi R 9<sup>th</sup>, Olivia G 10<sup>th</sup>, Bailiey B 11<sup>th</sup>

Year 3: Theo G 11<sup>th</sup>

Year 5: Louie B 5<sup>th</sup>, Jack G 15<sup>th</sup>

Year 6: Sophie A 4<sup>th</sup>, Elsie D 9<sup>th</sup>, Evie Q 11<sup>th</sup> Edith W 21<sup>st</sup> ; Girls Team came 1<sup>st</sup>

Series results (using results from across the MECE races in October, November and December): Louie B Y5 came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, Elsie D Y6 came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and the Y6 girls team were the winners of their series. Great work, everyone!

Next race: January 20<sup>th</sup> at Oratory Prep School

### **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/>

### **November's Big Thank You**

Congratulations to Miss Stone for winning our Big Thank You for November! Our initiative recognises members of staff who have gone above and beyond their role. Miss Stone was nominated as she adapts every lesson and situation to support all Other pupils' needs so that they have the best possible chance of success, for finding time to organise the Science cupboard as well as preparing the children for the nativity. Thank you to Intentions Hair and Beauty Salon and Sienna Beauty for their kind donations.

### **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.

### **Christmas Gift Room Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

PTA are running a gift room on Thursday. Small gifts will be on sale for £1 to £3 for children to buy and wrap for their adult. Children who have brought in money to buy a gift will be taken by staff to the gift room during school hours.

If you have any donations, including wrapping paper, they will be gratefully received.

### **PTA Second Hand Uniform Shop**

They will be holding a 2 for the price of 1 sale after school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Remember all items are 50p!

### **Young Climate Warriors**

This week's challenge encourages children to become detectives in their bathroom – to find products that contain palm oil – staggeringly approximately half of packaged supermarket products contain palm oil. Bathroom toiletries are much a gifted Christmas pressie – a great opportunity to choose products that use 'sustainable' palm oil'. **'Keeping up the pressure'** works ... UK imports of 'certified sustainable' palm oil have increased from 16% in 2010 to 72% in 2021 ... a success story to build on.

### **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)

Space to learn Space to grow  
Space to be inspired

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

## 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)

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk)*

*Contact the library for more information.*

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

## Dates for your Diary

December 2023	
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
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm Kites Christmas songs to parents
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6pm Carol Concert
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Term 2 – school finishes at 1:15pm
January 2024	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Term 3
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Science Oxford Workshop (Kites & Y6)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Science Oxford Workshop (Y2 & Y6)
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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