

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School  
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### Weekly Newsletter 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Welcome back

It has been good to see so many cheerful pupils (and parents!) back at school this week. We hope that 2024 is a happy and healthy year for everyone in our school community.

#### Happy News

**Kites** have enjoyed learning all about rhyme! They have been creating their own rhyming pairs, story books and learning new rhyming songs!

Stars of the Week are Bailey W, Maddelise F and Leo D.

**Year 1** have enjoyed learning about different kinds of transport and starting work on their rocket project in computing!

Stars of the Week are Ruken and Tristan.

**Year 2** have made a great start back to school after the break. They have been reading 'The Disgusting Sandwich' and writing instructions on how to make a sandwich.

Stars of the week are Rhys H and Emir R.

**Year 3** loved learning how to use a glockenspiel correctly in music and creating an ancient Egyptian art page this week to start our new topic.

Stars of the Week are Ethan B and Elodie D.

**Year 4** have had a great first week back being introduced to our new topics: the Romans in history; electricity in science; Leon and the Place Between in literacy.

Stars of the Week are Saule B and Theo E-A.

**Year 5** have loved learning about how to write accurate instruction and using their instructions to make fantastically tasty Greek flatbread this morning.

Stars of the Week are Lexy S and William Q.

**Year 6** have learned about how governments are formed and have written their own party manifesto.

Stars of the Week are Jack H, Thomas Y and Leo C.

#### Breakfast and After School Clubs

We allow 'on the day' booking but we are still seeing significant numbers of children turn up without a booking. This causes us problems ensuring appropriate catering and staffing levels. We are at the point of stating that those who have not booked will not be able to attend.

All bookings **MUST BE MADE** through the MCAS App. If you need some help working out how to do it, please come and see us in the school office for some guidance.

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## School Uniform

**We are not as rigid as many schools regarding pupils wearing school uniform. That being said, we strongly request that you observe the compulsory items.**

School uniform (with the exception of our branded sweatshirts/cardigans and PE tops) can be bought from any retailer, including supermarkets. We strongly advise you to ensure **all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name**, as it is very difficult to return unlabelled uniform to your child. We make sure that the cost of our branded school uniform is reasonable and secures the best value for money.

Our PTA run a Second Hand Uniform Shop, open every Friday at school pick-up time. Donations of clean, outgrown uniform can be left in the yellow bin behind the shop for re-sale. All items for sale are 50p and all the money goes back to support your school. If you need additional help with uniform costs, please contact the school office in confidence.

### *Our uniform*

*Trousers or shorts in grey to be worn with grey socks.*

*Full length trousers in navy-blue to be worn with white, grey or navy blue socks.*

*Navy blue skirt or pinafore dress (knee length) to be worn with white, grey or navy blue socks or navy blue tights.*

*Pale blue polo shirt or blouse*

*Optional summer dress: blue/white gingham check to be worn with white socks.*

*Kites (Reception): Branded light blue sweatshirts and t-shirts with Kites logo*

*Years 1-6: Branded school sweatshirt or navy-blue jumper / cardigan with school badge.*

*Sensible black or navy shoes (heels no more than 1 cm), boots must NOT be worn.*

### *Hair and Jewellery*

*Boys and girls who choose to have long hair must keep it tied back and away from their face during school time. No extreme haircuts (shaved areas etc).*

*Hair accessories should be discreet and in school colours.*

*No jewellery or make-up (including nail varnish) is allowed. For pierced ears, discreet studs may be worn but must be removed or covered for PE.*

### *PE / Games*

*We relaxed the rules on uniform to allow pupils to come to school wearing their PE kit (**only on days they have PE**).*

*Branded school PE T-shirt with school logo*

*Branded school PE hoodie*

*Navy blue shorts and / or navy blue tracksuit bottoms*

*Year 3 and upwards also need football boots, shin pads and long navy socks.*

*Children must come to school with a spare pair of trainers to change into for PE, as muddy trainers are not permitted inside the buildings.*

## **Snow Closures – Hopefully not, but best to be prepared**

The decision is never taken lightly and is always made in consultation with senior leaders who live closer to the school than I do and always in conjunction with Mr Simic, our Caretaker. The process starts the night before when I look at the forecast for the next 24 hours. If the predictions are for more snow falling or if the snow is already deep and the temperatures due to remain below freezing overnight, then phone calls between senior leaders start at about 6.00am the following morning to see what the local conditions are, and if at that point the school can be open it will be. If it cannot, it is closed for the day, and we will send Parentmail texts out at around 6.30am giving parents enough time to sort out arrangements for the day. Even if there is a rapid thaw after that point in time, the school will still be closed. Factors that will result in the school closing are:

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1. There will not be enough staff, to enable the pupils to be 'safe' in school. Unfortunately, we cannot include parents in this ratio as many are not DBS checked. In practice we would need a member of staff per class with at least one teacher per year group. Even then there would have to be additional staff to cater for pupils who are sick, phone calls to be made etc.
2. The school site is not safe and allowing pupils onto the premises will, with a high degree of certainty, put pupils at risk.
3. There may be occasions where the situation changes during the day and the school needs to close as there may be a high probability that the collection of pupils and their safe journey home are severely compromised.
4. If the roads are in a very poor state, (e.g. ice, snow or accidents as a result of ice and snow) and staff are finding it almost impossible to get onto the school site then we have to assume that the emergency services would have the same problems. It is therefore unsafe to open the school. I have to look at what could be the worst-case scenario and then after balancing risks deciding whether to open the school or not. My primary concern is the welfare of your children and the staff who work here. If you have any questions as a result of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will answer them.

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

#### Dates for your Diary

January 2024	
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
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Quiz Night
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Eco Council visit to Ardley Waster Recycling Centre
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5 Ancient Greek Day