

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School
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Weekly Newsletter 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News

Headteacher's Award for this week: Bruno D (Year 6)

Kites enjoyed going on their village walk, spotting different local superheroes despite the rainy weather!
Stars of the Week are Vinnie F and Isaac C.

Year 1 have enjoyed beginning to learn about space exploration and making tube sculptures.
Stars of the Week are Logan C and Zoe P.

Year 2 have really enjoyed looking at the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl this week, basing their Literacy around it and creating leaflets to describe Miss Honey.
Stars of the week are Adeline Y and Myles S.

Year 3 have enjoyed starting the Stone Age topic through art and exploring different artefacts in the classroom.
Stars of the Week are Theo G and Wilbur H.

Year 4 had a fantastic Roman day yesterday creating mosaics, decoding cryptic messages using Roman numerals, and practising defensive formations while under siege from angry Celts!
Stars of the Week are Henry B and Millie B.

Year 5 really enjoyed creating Top Trumps cards for each of the twelve key Greek gods, and then playing games with the cards based on the facts they had learned about each one.
Stars of the Week are Liam R and Jon S.

Year 6 have had a busy week considering the benefits of owning a pet. We apologise if you are inundated with well-considered arguments about getting a dog or cat!
Stars of the Week are Lily-May Y and Ella-Lily B.

Reading Heroes

The following children have impressed us by reading at home EVERY day since September:

Year 2 Miss Stone's class: Fenix W-B and John S-B

Year 3 Miss Green's class: Annabel A-C, Darragh F, William C and Beau H

Y5/6 Girls Football Tournament

On Tuesday the Y5/6 girls football team travelled to Peppard Common for the first group stage round of the County 5-a-side competition. We knew that we had to finish either first or second to qualify for the next stage.

We began with a match against Kidmore End. A dominant start saw us go 1-0 up after a great strike from Lola. After this, we continued to play some good football, and a quickfire double from Elsie saw us take a 3-0 lead before half time. The good football continued into the second half with no further goals as we began our tournament in fine form.

Our second game saw us face the hosts, Peppard. Despite a solid defensive performance, we conceded a goal either side of half time, and despite creating several chances late on we couldn't force our way back into the game, losing by a final score of 2-0.

We went into our last game against Shiplake knowing that we needed a win to see us through to the County Finals later in the term, and we achieved this in dramatic fashion. After an even start, it was Shiplake who broke the deadlock, volleying in from close range to go 1-0 up. This spurred the girls on, and after creating numerous chances, we finally equalised when Elsie squeezed in a shot from a tight angle. It wasn't long after that that we found ourselves 2-1 up, Elsie firing home again from close range after good work from Lola down the left.

The second half was just as entertaining – end to end football with the next goal becoming more and more important. When it came, it went to Shiplake, who finally beat the impressive Sofia with a blast from a few yards out.

As the game drew to a close, it looked set to finish as a draw. However, with seconds to spare, the ball rolled to the feet of Sophie, who struck a wonderful shot into the top corner of the net – some will say there was a hole in the net already, but we think it was just a powerful shot – to seal a 3-2 win and send us through to the County Finals!

All in all, a satisfying tournament full of good individual and team performances. The girls' determination and spirit, so often on show in our league games, was there for all to see, and our reward is a place at the County Finals, where we will be looking to finish higher than last year's 4th place.

A big thank you to those who helped transport the children to and from the event, and a big congratulations to Lily-May and Elsie, who were voted joint winners of the team 'Item of the Week' competition for bringing in the best flip flops/sandals!

The team was: Sofia M-P, Lily-May Y, Ella-Lily B, Sophie A, Freya K, Eva M, Elsie D, Lola B, Elsa D and Evie Q.

Y5/6 Boys Football Tournament

The Y5/6 boys football team also travelled to Peppard Common for their own football tournament, a local 7-a-side competition. Although there was no extra round of the boys' tournament, they were keen to take their chance and stay sharp for the upcoming league games.

We began with a match against an 'Invitation' side, made up of two or three children from each school so that the boys would also have three games to play. We began really well, launching attack after attack and forcing our opponents back towards their own goal, and it wasn't long before we took the lead through a ferocious strike from Wynter. We soon found ourselves 2-0 up, a great goal kick from George flying all the way into the goal at the opposite end of the pitch. Wynter added another before half time, and although we did concede in the second half, Xavi added another goal to give us a fantastic start – a 4-1 win.

Our second game, against Peppard, also began well. Solid defensive work gave us a good platform to build on, and we eventually took the lead when a cracking save from the Peppard goalkeeper ricocheted off the defender and into the net for an own goal. Unfortunately, we could not extend our lead, and went on to lose a tight match 2-1.

We went into our final match, against Kidmore End, still smarting from our earlier defeat but determined to show that we had learnt some lessons in that game. A hard fought, physical battle, full of desire and effort, ended with us winning 2-1, Xavi creating his own goal with some super footwork and strength before half time, and then latching on to a wonderful pass from Ronny to grab his second just after the half time break.

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Overall, the boys finished third out of four teams, and will feel unlucky not to have finished higher, with only goal difference keeping us out of the top two.

A big thank you to those who helped transport the children to and from the event, and well done to the boys for their efforts as we switch our attention back to the league.

The team was: George B, Ronny B, Ben L, Riley A, Xavi O'B-W, Wynter G, Theo T, Oli R, Joe S and Max L.

PTA School Disco NEW DATE – Thursday 29th February.

Inter-house competition Term 4

This term's inter-house competition will be run a little bit differently. Children will be asked to build something with LEGO or design something as though it was made out of LEGO. The theme is 'build the change' which is asking children to use their Geography, PSHE and problem-solving skills to create something to make our communities better in the future. There are specific themes which children can choose between and you can access them from home [using this link](#) from the Red Nose Day website. All classes will have a look in school and then will have time at home until the deadline to bring in entries on **Friday 15th March**. All entries to be photographs or drawings of their creation with a short description. Actual LEGO models should **not** be coming into school. Each child can enter once but they will need to be named with their house written clearly on it. Judging will happen the following week so the results can be revealed before the final newsletter of the term.

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

We are proud of the strong reading culture in our school and we all look forward to World Book Day each year. This year we have decided to celebrate our love of books in two ways. Firstly, older children will be paired with younger classes to enjoy sharing a book together. Secondly, it's dress-up time! This year we would like children to "Dress as a Word". To avoid lots of children simply coming in their favourite football kits, we would like the word to be an adjective (or describing word). So, perhaps they could dress as "colourful", "stormy", "puzzled" or "vivacious". I am sure there are a million ideas out there so please to encourage your child to take this opportunity to learn a new word (and how to spell it too!). If your child doesn't like dressing up, they can come simply come as a word which they feel best describes them such as "inventive", "caring", "energetic" or "original".

Thank you in advance for helping your child to enjoy the day and for all the reading that goes on all year.

Big Walk and Wheel Challenge

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is taking place from the 11th – 22nd March.

On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. There are daily prize draws for schools who have over 15% of pupils taking part. Pupils inform their teachers at register if they walked or wheeled to school and this will be submitted by the school on a daily basis. As an added bonus (and to encourage some healthy competition!), the class with the highest percentage of 'walkers and wheelers' will win an extra break-time!

Mother's Day drawing competition

Devoted Pet Foods are holding a Mother's Day drawing competition. Primary school children can enter by drawing a picture of their mum/carer with either their own dog or a dog they admire. Submissions can be entered easily on their website : <https://devotedpetfoods.co.uk/pages/mothers-day>
All entries will receive a free bag of dog treats!

Young Climate Warriors

Keep up to date with their weekly challenges via our website:
<https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/parents/eco-council/>

Community Noticeboard

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Remember to look at Community Noticeboard for events and activities that may be of interest:

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

New on the noticeboard – Chiltern Arts Poetry and Art Competition.

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

Dates for your Diary

February 2024	
Saturday 24 th	Cross Country at MECE 10am
Tuesday 27 th	Y5 Maidenhead Mosque Trip
Thursday 29 th	Kites & Year 6 Weighing & Measuring
Thursday 29 th	PTA School Disco
March 2024	
Tuesday 5 th	Year 3 Mr Burrows' class to Hill End
Tuesday 5 th	Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics Regional Final at Wheatley Park
Wednesday 6 th	Year 3 Miss Green's class to Hill End
Wednesday 6 th	Year 2 Medieval Day
Thursday 7 th	World Book Day
Thursday 7 th	Year 5/6 Girls football match at Goring (3:30pm)
Friday 8 th	Year 5 & 6 Young Shakespear Company performance – Henry V
Mon 11 th to Fri 15 th	STEM week
Tuesday 12 th	Year 5/6 Girls Football County Final at MECE 1pm
Thursday 14 th	Y5/6 Boys Football League Match v Goring (home) 3:30pm
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day
Friday 15 th	Village Quiz Night
Thursday 21 st	Year 5 & 6 Science Oxford Workshops
Saturday 23 rd	Cross Country Winter Dash at Oratory Prep NEW DATE
Tuesday 26 th	Year 1/2 mixed football tournament at Kidmore End 9:15am
Thursday 28 th	End of Term 4 – school finishes at 1.15pm
Friday 29 th	Good Friday
Sunday 31 st	Easter Sunday

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