

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School
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Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Salmons

Weekly Newsletter 1st March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News

Headteacher's Award for this week: Ella Y (Year 4)

Kites have enjoyed learning how to keep healthy this week and had a very exciting visit from the local dental nurses!

Stars of the Week are Alice N and Marlow P.

Year 1 have loved building bridges and exploring how to make different structures this week.

Stars of the Week are Eva-Mae W and Albie R.

Year 2 made finger puppets in their DT lesson which was very enjoyable.

Stars of the week are Leo C and Luke J.

Year 3 have enjoyed trying different ways to break down problems and we are sure they would happily tell you all about it. They also had lots of fun exploring the properties of rocks in science. They loved using water to see if rocks were permeable or dense.

Stars of the Week are Jack S and Darragh F.

Year 4 have really enjoyed their science lessons this week, learning all about how sounds travel to the ear as vibrations and looking at how the wave of vibration changes for loud, quiet, high and low noises. We have also really enjoyed working with our new Year 4 member, Ben!

Stars of the Week are Ben H and Louie D.

Year 5 had a fascinating and peaceful morning at Maidenhead Mosque on Wednesday, learning about Islam.

Stars of the Week are Phoebe E and Jago Y.

Year 6 have enjoyed making model Anderson shelters as part of their WW2 topic.

Stars of the Week are Riley A and Edith W.

Reading Heroes

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

Year 1 Miss Snowden's class: Camilla B.

Year 5 Mr Andrews' class: Hazel B-M, Serenna B, Donnie F.

Year 5 Dr Loader's class: Freddie P.

School Disco

A huge thank you to everyone that helped at the School Disco.

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The children were amazing and after a successful night raised £290.00.

February's Big Thank You

Congratulations to Mrs Davis who has earned our Big Thank You for February! Mrs Davis was nominated for always being willing to help those in need as well as her ability to make others laugh. Thank you to Bina Tandoori in Caversham for their kind donation.

Henley Youth Festival – Writing Competition

A huge well done to Isabella D-S (Year 4) who was selected as the 2024 Junior Runner-Up for her short story, The Goblin Kingdom.

Cross Country

On Saturday 24th February, our runners were at MECE to race again. This event was open to all Oxfordshire schools, with a large number of pupils from independent schools. Our pupils represented us brilliantly and should all feel very proud of themselves.

Year 1: Isaac C (from Kites!) 3rd

Year 2: Joey Q 1st, Myles S 7th, Max C 12th ; Mhairi R 14th, Bailey 23rd

Year 5: Felix C 22nd, Toby T 23rd

Year 6: Edith W 19th

Next events: Oratory Prep School (Crays Pond) on Saturday 23rd March 10am start; Rupert House school are again organising The Great School Run at Stonor Park Sunday 21st April with races for adults, teenagers and primary-aged children (pre-book via thegreatschoolrun.org)

Eco-challenge

We are setting the challenge of growing something for nothing. We are trying to encourage positivity and maybe a little bit of awe and wonder by growing a plant from waste seeds that you may well have thrown away from fruit or vegetables that you have eaten or had prepared to eat. These could be seeds from apples, pears, oranges, lemons, tomatoes, peppers etc. Your child watched a video on Monday and will know that there is no cost involved. The container to grow the plant can be the bottom of an old plastic drinks bottle with soil from the garden. There will be a prize awarded, one per class, for the healthiest plant by the end of June.

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. 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**. 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, with entries 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

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doesn't like dressing up, they can 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.

SoCo Spring Clean 2024

As part of the Great British Spring Clean the SoCo Spring Clean is back and now in its sixth year! On **Sunday 3rd March at 10am** join local volunteers on a litter pick around Sonning Common parish. All kit is provided for adults and children including pickers, gloves, hi-viz and bags. Children must be accompanied by an adult. And the best bit, is that after the pick you return for cake and tea in the village hall!

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!

On Your Bike 2024

We are delighted to have 'On Your Bike' return this year, on Sunday 21st April.

Some of the organising team attended the school assembly recently, and the children were very excited (probably more so after seeing a bike they could win), as Rob from AW Cycles attended. We hope your children may have mentioned it to you?

On Your Bike is open to everyone, regardless of ability, as it's a ride, not a race! This is a fun and relaxed way to enjoy cycling round the quieter roads of Oxfordshire whilst raising money for charity. Everyone cycles at their own pace or alongside friends and families. You choose: 6, 12 or 20 miles. There is also a supervised playground cycle for youngsters (an accompanying adult needs to remain throughout). 100% of all entry fees are shared between Sonning Common Primary School PTA and this year's chosen local charities, Sonning Common First Responders and Sport in Mind.

Registrations are now live. All registrations (at £7) by 22nd March will be entered into a prize draw to win a new bike, kindly donated by AW Cycles. The draw will take place on Monday 25th March in the school assembly.

For further information and to register: [On Your Bike](#)

These events can't take place without many volunteers, if you are happy to help for a couple of hours route marshalling or maybe in the kitchen then please get in touch via:

onyourbikesonningcommon@outlook.com

Young Climate Warriors

Keep up to date with their weekly challenges via our website:

<https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/parents/eco-council/>

Community Noticeboard

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

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

Sunday 3rd March Soco Spring Clean 2024, 10am – 12.30pm.

Rabble Theatre Easter Camp

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

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Dates for your Diary

March 2024	
Sunday 3 rd	Soco Spring Clean 2024 10am – 12.30pm
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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