

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School
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Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Salmons

Weekly Newsletter 3rd May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News

Headteacher's Award for this week is Hazel B-M, Year 5.

Kites have enjoyed exploring technology and looking at how it has developed over time and focusing on caption writing to describe TV characters.

Stars of the Week are Isla A and Leo D.

Year 1 have enjoyed looking at maps and aerial photos of Sonning Common and finding our school and familiar routes.

Stars of the Week are Harry C and Ruken Y.

Year 2 have enjoyed working with clay and have created tiles with fantastic patterns on them using a range of equipment.

Stars of the week are Florence C and Amelia C.

Year 3 have loved reading more of Charlie and The Chocolate Factory to help with them write a diary entry as Charlie Bucket.

Stars of the Week are Georgie E and Beau H.

Year 4 The murder mystery is definitely afoot! The children have spent all week collecting evidence and creating their own opinions about who killed Mr X... The results so far are incredible and we are very impressed with all the hard work.

Stars of the Week are Andy B and Oscar P.

Year 5 loved seeing their new class photos and meeting eight-day-old Toby, Miss Brakspear's beautiful new baby.

Star of the Week are Will A, Bay K and Bella A.

Year 6 have been practising some of the finer detail of the SPAG curriculum but have been very impressive in their knowledge and diligence!

Stars of the Week are Ronny B and Ella-Lily B.

Year 6 French Performance

Last Thursday, the children performed four plays to their families, all modern day takes on traditional fairy tales, all performed in French! It was a fantastic evening, and the children did themselves proud. All their hard work and dedication paid off. An evening to remember. Formidable!

April's Big Thank You

Mrs Hogan is the well-deserving recipient of April's Big Thank You Award. She had many, many nominations which mentioned words like: 'hard work', 'kindness', 'caring' and 'support'. She looks after not only the children in the school but other staff members and adults too. She is already being missed by everyone! Thank you to 'Holistic Pampering by Jolene' for their kind donation.

Parent Survey

Please find attached the link to our annual Parents' Survey.

We are constantly seeking to improve our school and we value your views. Last year, for example, you pointed to many of the things we are doing well, and you challenged us to improve a number of others. In particular this year we have ensured that all pupils attend at least some Forest School sessions. We have also continued to develop our pastoral support programme by creating the role of Pastoral Support Assistant who is able to help pupils struggling with their mental well-being.

We are now looking forward to receiving your feedback for the 2024 Parents' Survey.

Please use the following link and if you would like to be entered into the draw for a bottle of something nice, please leave your name at the end.

The survey will close on 7th June 2024.

<https://forms.office.com/e/kk6Yem81YC>

Maths Made Clear

Did you struggle with maths at school? Didn't like it? Found it boring? Or do you just want to understand how we teach maths to your children at SCPS? Well, Maths Made Clear is for you. Today we are proud to launch our series of nine videos (starring Mr Burrows, Miss Snowden, and Claudia!) which should help. They explain the basics of how we teach different aspects of maths from Early Years up to Year Six, and should help you support your children with their own learning. The films are available on our MMC YouTube channel as fully captioned 6-8 minute videos, or as 1-minute shorts. We hope you enjoy them – please leave your comments on them, and pass them around.

The videos are here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjgwJ6pzEVeTFTOChdiGZlz7PI2hY02XY>,

The shorts are here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjgwJ6pzEVeSc1JqfvXD-CVm-q8kkILOa>.

We also have one or two places left on our Maths Made Clear hands-on sessions for parents and teaching assistants – 4.30pm on Thursdays. Fractions next week!

Sunflower seeds

Do you remember when we gave you the sunflower seeds to grow? We know that you have been taking great care of them at home and some of you would like to hand at least one of them back to us. We would love to see them – please bring them back in and place them by the Christmas trees near to the main entrance. Thank you.

Plants

Kites would love any spare plants or cuttings that you may have to add to their garden. Please bring any donations to either the school office or to Kites.

Active Leaders Summer Fun

Active Leaders has created a 48-page Summer Fun activity booklet for children and families, providing over 100 low cost, accessible ideas for holiday fun. It's hot off the press and they've set up on-line ordering to make things simple. They are charging £5 a copy to recover their printing and production costs as they've deliberately tried to keep the price affordable for all.

Please follow this link to purchase: [Summer Fun Booklet Order – 2024 | Active Leaders](#)

PTA Running Challenge

A parent from our school is undertaking a running challenge in aid of our wonderful PTA!

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Phil is running 4 events this year, his next event is the Silchester 7 mile, then Nettlebed Stinger 10K and finishing with the Basingstoke Half Marathon in October.

For further details and to donate please visit his JustGiving page: [Phil's Just Giving link](#)

Pollution Competition

Are you passionate about reducing pollution? Do you have an idea to save the planet? This COMPETITION is for you! At SCPS we have the chance to take part in an exhibition during the 'Great Big Green Week'. This year's challenge is all about POLLUTION.

Pollution of various kinds is having a significant impact on society and the environment. For instance, we know that air particulates have contributed to the increase in asthma and other respiratory diseases in humans, but did you know that insects such as butterflies, moths and bees are affected too by the clogging of their antennae making them unable to sense/smell a mate or find food? Likewise light pollution is causing major problems to many non-human species.

To enter this competition, all you need to do is create a piece of work around the subject pollution! The work can be in any form you like; written, art, surveys, 2-d design, 3-d design! You could think about how pollution affects the ocean or you could create a LEGO model of part of our planet and write about how pollution affects it! Be as creative as you can. All pieces of work need to be submitted to Mr Hirst and Miss Snowden by the **8th May** to be part of the exhibition on the 10th of May in Henley. Good luck and we can't wait to see what you come up with!

Spare swimming kit

A request to please donate any outgrown swimming kit to our stock of spare kit! Any donations can either be given to the school office or your child's teacher.

Young Climate Warriors

Keep up to date with their weekly challenges via our website: [Eco Council](#)

Community Noticeboard

Remember to look at the [Community Noticeboard](#) for events and activities that may be of interest.

Henley Canoe Club – Junior Canoe Sessions for 8-14 year olds starting 8th May: [Henley Canoe Club](#)

Your headteacher

Mr Chris Hirst

Dates for your Diary

May 2024	
Monday 6th	Bank Holiday
Thursday 9 th	Year 5/6 Girls Football v Fir Tree (home) 3:30pm
Mon 13 th	Year 6 SATS week
Tuesday 21 st	Year 1 Earth Trust Trip
Tuesday 21 st	Year 3/4 & 5/6 Quad Kids first round at MECE
Thursday 23 rd	Kites Bucklebury Farm Park Trip
Friday 24 th	End of Term 5
Mon 26 th to Fri 31 st	Half Term

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June 2024	
Monday 3 rd	First day of Term 6
Tuesday 4 th	Year 6 Science Oxford workshop (am)
Tuesday 4 th	Year 2 Science Oxford workshop (pm)
Tuesday 11 th	Year 6 Watersports Day (6RS/MF)
Wednesday 12 th	Year 6 Watersports Day (6DF)
Wednesday 12 th	Kites eye screening
Thursday 13 th	Whole School Photo
Wed 19 th – Fri 21 st	Year 4 Ufton Court residential trip

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