



# Sonning Common Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs R Salmons

## Weekly Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Happy News and Headteacher's Awards

**Kites** have loved making Easter nests, going on an Easter Egg hunt and learning all about the story of Easter.

Headteacher's Awards go to Harriet S, Lizzie K and Poppy H.

**Year 1** have had a busy week making cards and chocolate nests and learning about Spring and Easter! Headteacher's Awards go to Remy C, Ethan Q, River L and Lenny L.

**Year 2** have had a wonderful week. They have made some beautiful Kenyan Safari art inspired by our class pet Trumpet the Elephant!

Headteacher's Awards go to Mark N, Isaac N and Alice N.

**Year 3** have been writing important persuasive letters to a member of Parliament about how we could improve Sonning Common and have celebrated Easter with fun challenges including an Easter themed code breaker.

Headteacher's Awards go to Rowan K, Ellison H, Henry H, Grace B, Layla-Mae P and Maxime P.

**Year 4** have been getting excited about being split into two teams for a times tables battle over the holiday.

Headteacher's Awards go to Jayden B, Evie C, Sam P, Rhys H, Mhairi R and Ocean S.

**Year 5** have been thinking about online reputations and learning more about the Mayans!

Headteacher's Awards go to Gracie B, William C, Ethan T, Bell A-C, Darragh F and Nanaka S.

**Year 6** have finished the term by writing some fantastic World War 2 information texts.

Headteacher's Awards go to Aniyah C, Olivia P, Poppy C, Albie H, Freya H and Max O.

### SCPS explained

**Lunches in the summer term:** Provided that the weather is dry, children will all play on the field during the summer term. They are outside the whole lunch hour so please make sure your child has a hat, suncream and a water bottle. On hot days, we encourage children to keep in the shade. For most people in school, staff and children, summer lunches on the field are some of our favourite times.

### Speak Up! Conversation corner

As we enter the holidays, it would be great if you could have a family conversation around playtimes:

- What is your favourite playtime activity?
- What were playtimes like for parents and grandparents?
- What would your dream playtime look like?

Once you have enjoyed talking about this, please can you complete the parent survey if you haven't already done so [Parent's survey about playtime at school](#)

### **Word of the Week**

This week's word has been **optimistic**, meaning 'thinking good things will happen, even when something feels hard'.

### **Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics - South Oxfordshire Final**

On Tuesday we made our annual trip to Wheatley Park secondary school to compete in the South Oxfordshire Final - the last event of the indoor athletics season. Follow the link to see if we could defend our title: <https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/sport/2026/03/24/y5-6-sportshall-...-24th-march-2026/>

### **KS1 Football Tournament**

On Thursday our mixed Year 1 and 2 football teams ventured to Kidmore End to participate in a local football competition. For more details, click here:

<https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/sport/2026/03/27/year-1-2-footbal...-26th-march-2026/>

### **Athletics**

Over the whole of Terms 3 and 4, children from Years 3 to 6 have shown their commitment to school sports by turning up for athletics practice before school. We have practised each week to improve their skills in running, jumping and throwing, eventually choosing those with the best scores to represent school.

More than just sporting prowess, we want the children to know that we have noticed their steadfast commitment to turning up every week, often in cold and wet weather, to practice. All of them have improved their scores, shown great sportsmanship and impressed us with their resilience. These are the skills we value and we hope they all feel proud of themselves for playing a part in our school sporting success.

**Year 3:** Lana H, Evie C, Bella N, Flo C, Rory W, Tristan BM, Jared B, Billy W, Reuben C, Jasper B, Maxime P, Ellison H.

**Year 4:** Mhairi R, Evie C, Phoebe H, Tegan B, Olivia G, Sophie B, Myles S, Miles R, Jesse D, Laurence H, Max C, Samuel W, Joey Q, Toby J, Rhys H, Sam P, Lucas S.

**Year 5:** Georgie E, Vivienne RH, Elodie D, Bell AC, Robin BM, Nia B, Nanaka S, Gracie B, Tilly H, Tilly E, Harvey B, Quinn C, Ethan B, Sam M, Sam T, Darragh F, Albie W, Rafa F, Dino D, Jack S, Noah D, Vitya P, Casper T, Toby R, Theo G, Kit G.

**Year 6:** Issy C, Isabella DS, Lili F, Freya H, Bella BL, Eliza G, Saule B, Ella Y, Josh G, Albie H, Adomas B, Oliver J, Ben N, Jaxson J, Xander O'BW, Max O, Charlie C, Anson M, Henry B.

### **Interhouse challenge term 5: Rock, paper, scissors**

This term, Years 2 to 6 have competed in a rock, paper, scissors battle. Congratulations to the following children who excelled at this challenge:

Year 2: Isaac N, Freddie M, Leo V, Dominic T.

Year 3: Evie C, Charlie B, Tristan B-M, Matthew A.

Year 4: Sophie B, Joey Q, Lucas Y, Evie C, Tegan B and Flo C.

Year 5: Harvey B, Harlow M, Tilly E and William C.

Overall, the winners were Air with 210 team points! The battle is getting close now as there aren't many team points between the houses. Only one more fun challenge before the finale on Sports Day. Which house will be champion this year?

## OPAL, Outdoor Play and Learning

We are busy preparing for the launch and are now starting to collect items. If you are having a Spring clean over the holidays, please can you keep an eye open for things which we could use, such as pots and pans, crates, cones, ropes, cable drums etc. Please check the list at the bottom of the newsletter, then contact our OPAL team on [opal@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:opal@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk) to let us know what you have. We will be opening school on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 4pm for you to drop items.

## Red Nose Day

Well done to the winners of the cake/biscuit design competition:

**Year 1** Annabel M, **Year 2** Marlow P, **Year 3** Grace V, **Year 4** Toby T, **Year 5** Robin B-M, **Year 6** Alice B.

## Mini Marathon!

Get ready for an active week! From Monday 13<sup>th</sup>–Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, our pupils will be joining thousands of children across the country in the Mini London Marathon. Each class will run or walk 2 miles around the school grounds. We're asking for a small donation of £1 per child, with collection buckets at the school gate on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, to help us raise the final funds needed for our brand-new running track. We're thrilled to be taking part and grateful for your continued support in helping us reach the finish line!

## 70 at 70: Mrs Dunstan walks her age!

Just after Easter, Mrs Dunstan is walking St Cuthbert's Way, from Melrose in the Scottish borders to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, just off the Northumberland coast, to raise money for the Institute of Cancer Research. The route itself is 65 miles, and the circular walk round Lindisfarne is another 5 miles, making 70 miles altogether - which will be done in 6 days! (that's an average of 11.5 miles a day) If you'd like to help her reach her target of £1500 go to: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/rosemarydunstan70?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/rosemarydunstan70?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL) to donate, or she can be found in the bookshop on Wednesday mornings for donations of cash or cheques.

## Teach children road safety with Footsteps

Teaching road safety skills to children should start early and the Footsteps guide and videos for parents/carers has some great ways to help you get started! They're packed with practical tips, questions and engaging activities to do when you're out and about together, helping you teach your little ones the skills they need to use the road safely. Help your child become a safer and more confident pedestrian with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue's Footsteps programme.

[Footsteps | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

## Community Noticeboard

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

Rachel Salmons  
Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

APRIL	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 5
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 Girls' Oxfordshire Football Final at Oxford City FC, 9.30am-12.30pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photos
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Class Photos
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Science Oxford Planetarium workshop for Years 3 & 4 (£4)
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Book Fair (after school), Buy 2 get 1 free!
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 Maidenhead Mosque visit (£9)

Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Poetry Performance Evening 6pm
<b>MAY</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	On Your Bike
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	SATS week
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Kites eye screening
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kites visit to Bucklebury Farm Park
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
<b>JUNE</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Start of Term 6
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 1 Harcourt Arboretum visit
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park visit
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Ufton Court visit
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sports Day
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Fair
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sonning Common Village Day

Link to website calendar for further dates: <https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/parents/calendar/>

### **OPAL Wishlist: Drop to school on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2pm – 4pm**

<b>Scaffolding wooden planks or unused decking boards</b>
<b>IBC water tanks 1000l</b>
<b>Playground slides, large 4-5m</b>
<b>Swings, monkey bars, rings, outdoor ropes</b>
<b>Swing or rope attachments (Amazon £15 each, tree friendly)</b>
<b>Large grass mats (min size 1mx1.5m)</b>
<b>Metre strong (3-5mm) stainless steel chains, could be shorter</b>
<b>Brooms, dustpans and brushes, lightweight mucking out/snow shovels</b>
<b>Anything on wheels/castors, e.g. pushchairs</b>
<b>Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays</b>
<b>Road signs and cones</b>
<b>Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, wooden spoons, chopping boards</b>
<b>Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels</b>
<b>Buckets &amp; pipes (e.g. vacuum cleaner hoses)</b>
<b>Nets and thick ropes</b>
<b>Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats</b>
<b>Cable drums</b>
<b>Guttering</b>
<b>Pegs (to help to set up dens)</b>
<b>Tuff trays</b>
<b>Lightweight plastic tarpaulins</b>