



## Sonning Common Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs R Salmons

### Weekly Newsletter 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Happy News and Rainbow Bands

**Kites** have been practising their cutting skills this week and created their own 'favourite things' books. They loved playing games with the *enormous* parachute in PE this week. Star of the week is Evelyn M.

**Year 1** have made some beautiful autumn trees and composed some great sentences about what they can see at this time of year. Rainbow band awarded to Koen W.

**Year 2** have loved making their Great Fire of London houses. Rainbow band awarded to Skyla F.

**Year 3** have enjoyed our end of topic tasting day and found making chocolate really fun! Even if the result was questionable... Rainbow band awarded to Ffion W.

**Year 4** have been having a go at writing some pieces whilst sticking to a word count. Rainbow bands awarded to Evie C and Billy W.

**Year 5** enjoyed exploring The Great Barrier Reef and created their own models using Lego! Rainbow bands awarded to Leo C and Sophie B.

**Year 6** have enjoyed debating who was to blame for the sinking of the Titanic. Rainbow bands awarded to Lottie H and Casper T.

#### SCPS Explained

Rainbow bands: each week a different School Value is discussed in a Monday assembly, with Stars of the Week relating to this value, and Value Bands handed out accordingly. On the final week of each term, we nominate children who have shown ALL of the school values that term, and these children receive a RAINBOW band.

#### OPAL

This was our first wet week. We know that there are still a few children who don't have the right equipment to make lunchtime comfortable. Playing in the rain was great fun, sitting in wet trousers all afternoon was less so. We know that many children do not play outside once they get home from

school in the winter months so they need the exercise and fresh air that lunchtime play can provide. Please can you make sure your child has:

- wellies
- several changes of socks, plus at least a spare top
- a coat which is warm and waterproof
- some waterproof trousers
- Hats and gloves as appropriate

It is pretty cold being outside for the whole of playtime and lunchtime so please can everyday uniform be warm enough for the weather.

### **Cross Country**

Saturday was the first race of the Winter Series at MECE. With a new start time and a new, more exciting finish line, it was good to see a rise in participation numbers. If you haven't given it a go before, why not try it in November? We need 3 runners in each year group to count for a team, the atmosphere is friendly and all are welcome. It is a good way to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon in winter! Particular thanks to Max C who turned up to cheer his brother on and then stepped in to race so that we would have a team in Year 5 boys' competition, and Tilly E who offered to be a hare for the Year 2 runners – great sportsmanship from both of them! Next month, we would love it if we had teams in each year group so will be encouraging all those who come to Run Club to attend if possible (and anyone else who fancies it). There is also cross country in school time on 17<sup>th</sup> November and we will be picking teams soon!

Kites: Ewan R 5<sup>th</sup> (running the in the Year 1 race!)

Year 1: Jenson B 1<sup>st</sup>, Harriet S 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bonnie 4<sup>th</sup>

Year 3: Isaac C 1<sup>st</sup>

Year 4: Maxime P 2<sup>nd</sup>

Year 5: Mhairi R 4<sup>th</sup>, Tegan B 7<sup>th</sup>, Laurence H 3<sup>rd</sup>, Myles S 8<sup>th</sup>, Max C 10<sup>th</sup>

Year 6: Tilly E 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Breakfast Club and After School Club**

From January 2027, all bookings for Breakfast Club and After School Club must be pre-paid via MCAS. When booking, you will be prompted to make a payment if there is no credit in your account.

### **Parking**

There have been several near misses involving pedestrians and cars recently due to parking in restricted areas near the school site. For safety reasons, cars should not park or drop off on any zigzag lines, double yellow lines or time restricted lines. Please do not use the already limited spaces in the staff car parks.

### **Swimming goggles consent**

Please remember to confirm consent on MCAS for your child in Years 1, 2 & 3 if you wish them to wear their goggles during swimming lessons. All children taking part in school swimming lessons require a swimming hat.

### **Children in Need**

This year we are joining runPudsey 2026, a fun way to get our pupils moving and raising money for BBC Children in Need. All money raised by your child must be donated via the Children in Need [website](#), using the pin **7681** to join the Sonning Common Primary total. All children who raise money and donate will get an exclusive runPudsey 2026 medal! Medals will be presented during a celebration assembly.

All children can choose a way of challenging themselves throughout the Children in Need fundraising week, which could be running, dancing, skipping, reading, scooting, biking or triking.

Space to learn, grow and be inspired

[www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk)

On Friday 13th November all children can wear Pudsey ears. Donation buckets will be by the gates in the morning for cash donations.

Track our progress online here <https://www.runpudsey.co.uk/school/sonning-common-primary-school>

### **Supporting Our Young Carers**

A young carer is a child who lives in a family where someone has special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), a long-term or terminal illness, a mental health condition, an addiction, or other support needs.

Young carers may take on additional responsibilities at home, such as helping with household tasks, looking after younger siblings, providing emotional support, translating or interpreting, assisting with medication, or helping a family member with personal care.

We recognise that being a young carer can sometimes be challenging, and we are committed to providing the support children may need.

Young carers can access regular group sessions within school. These sessions provide a safe and supportive environment where children can talk about their feelings, share any worries or concerns, and learn strategies to support their emotional wellbeing. Meeting with other young carers of a similar age, and who may have shared experiences, can help children feel understood, less isolated, and more confident in managing the challenges they face.

Our aim is to ensure that every young carer feels valued, supported, and able to thrive both in school and at home.

If you think your child may be a young carer and would benefit from this support, please complete the form linked here: [Young Carers Group in School. – Fill out form](#)

We look forward to working together to support our young carers and ensure they have the help they need to succeed.

### **Christmas card orders**

Products from your child's Christmas card design are now available to order. Please visit <https://myfundraisinghub.com/welcome> to place any orders before 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **Christmas Fair Saturday 28th November 12 noon - 3pm.**

In order for us to be able to hold the Christmas Fair, we need YOU! We rely on volunteers to help us set up before and help with the stalls and games on the day. All we ask is an hour of your time. If you could find some time to join in the fun, please fill in this form: [Christmas Fair 2026 Volunteers](#)

### **Scholastic Book Club**

Children should have been given a Scholastic Book Club leaflet this week. Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-HNMSO9JJ> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. The books will be delivered to the school, and distributed to the classes by Mrs Dunstan, the Bookshop Organiser.

### **After school activity clubs**

Information on all after school activity clubs are available on the website: <https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/parents/activities/>

### **Reading FC Schools & Grassroots Offer**

You have been invited to Reading FC's Schools & Grassroots fixture against Bromley on Saturday 21st November!

Get 40% off tickets. Use code #SonningCommonPrimary when booking. The code is available on tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand. Codes are valid until Space to learn, grow and be inspired

[www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonprimary.co.uk)

midnight on Friday 20th November. To redeem your discount, visit [tickets.readingfc.co.uk](https://tickets.readingfc.co.uk), log in, select your tickets and enter your unique code in the basket. Your 40% discount will then be applied. If we sell 25+ tickets, we'll be entered into a draw to win a Reading FC matchday experience! We could also be named School/Club of the Match if we sell the most tickets!

### 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

|                                               |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>OCTOBER 2026</b>                           |                                                            |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>                       | Last day of Term 1                                         |
| Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Half Term                                                  |
| Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>  | Years 5/6 Bikeability Level 1 & 2                          |
| Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> | Years 5/6 Bikeability Level 1 & 2                          |
| <b>NOVEMBER 2026</b>                          |                                                            |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>                      | Cross Country at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge 1pm           |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>                      | Year 1 Toys Day (in school), £23                           |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>                     | Open morning for prospective Kites pupils 9.30am to 11am   |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>                       | Year 5 Milestone Museum visit, £23                         |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>                       | Children in Need                                           |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>                    | Year 3 visit from a Rabbi                                  |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>  | Scholastic Book Fair after school                          |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>                     | Non-uniform day                                            |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>                     | PTA Christmas Fair                                         |
| <b>DECEMBER 2026</b>                          |                                                            |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>                      | Cross Country at MECE 1pm                                  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>                       | Years 5 & 6 Fire Safety talk from Oxfordshire Fire Service |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>                       | Christmas Jumper Day                                       |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>                       | Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance, 2.15pm (timings TBC)     |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>                      | Years 1 & 2 Christmas Performance, 9.30am (timings TBC)    |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>                      | Kites singing performance, 2.30pm                          |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>                    | Christmas Lunch                                            |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>                       | School finishes at 1.15pm, last day of Term 2              |
| <b>JANUARY 2026</b>                           |                                                            |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>                        | INSET day – no children in school                          |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>                       | Term 3 starts                                              |

Further dates are available on the website: <https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/parents/calendar/>

## Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



|                                      |                           |                          |                               |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Laundry basket</b><br>            | <b>Baking pans</b><br>    | <b>Wooden spoons</b><br> | <b>Action figures</b><br>     | <b>Corrugated pipes</b><br>                       |
| <b>Mythical creature figures</b><br> | <b>Cake moulds</b><br>    | <b>Hard hats</b><br>     | <b>Pans</b><br>               | <b>Christmas tableware (plastic or metal)</b><br> |
| <b>Pool noodles</b><br>              | <b>Barbie dolls</b><br>   | <b>Funnels</b><br>       | <b>Christmas clothing</b><br> | <b>Sand toys</b><br>                              |
| <b>Beach spades</b><br>              | <b>Buckets</b><br>        | <b>Sticker books</b><br> | <b>Colouring books</b><br>    | <b>Large cardboard tubes</b><br>                  |
| <b>Barbie clothing</b><br>           | <b>Plastic trucks</b><br> | <b>Jugs</b><br>          | <b>Measuring spoons</b><br>   | <b>Chalk</b><br>                                  |