Sonning Common Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs R Salmons

Weekly Newsletter 13th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News and Stars of the Week

Kites have been making poppies this week to mark Remembrance Day.
Star of the week is Leo K.

Year 1 have had a great week with their History of Toys day on Tuesday and then on Wednesday learning all about how to keep their teeth clean!
Star of the week is Artie W.

Year 2 built bridges out of different materials.
Star of the week is Remy C

Year 3 enjoyed doing their Big Write on the short film Oktopodi.
Star of the week is Lily W.

Year 4 enjoyed investigating the melting point of different foods and comparing them in science this week.
Stars of the week are Reuben C and all of 4KG.

Year 5 loved their trip to Milestones, they enjoyed embracing Victorian times, taking on different job roles and stepping back into a Victorian school.
Stars of the week will be awarded next week.

Year 6 enjoyed a visit from the school nurse who reminded them how to keep a clean and healthy smile!
Stars of the week are Albie W, Leo B and Elodie D.

OPAL Star of the Week
Star of the Week is Sam M in Y6. Sam is a brilliant role model to younger children, he thinks up fun games for them to play, encourages them to make good choices and is always kind and helpful. A very worth recipient of our first ever OPAL Star of the Week!

OPAL
This week we have introduced a "shop" in our dressing-up zone, put lots of tyres out, added drums to the music zone and introduced our OPAL Star of the Week . If you have any toy foods, shopping baskets, cash register etc at home that your children no longer play with, we would love them for our "shop"!

We would like to have a way to recycle outdoor gear to make it cheaper for parents to pick up some wellies, waterproofs or a spare coat. If you have any of these items that your child has outgrown, please hand them in to the school office. We will then put them out in an end-of-term OPAL sale – date tbc.

Children in Need

Well done to everyone who has completed their challenges this week. I have heard about lots of running, cycling, scooting, swimming and reading! Thank you for your generous donations and sponsorship collections, the monumental total we have raised so far this year is £787.30!
Medals for those registered online for their fundraising will be delivered to school in the coming weeks and Miss Green will make sure they are given to the correct children.

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

Volunteers

We still need lots of volunteers and rely on them to help us set up before and help with the games on the day. No expertise needed, kitchen food is mostly precooked, we use stencils and sponges for face paints and 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

Christmas Fair Donations

As a slight change to usual dates, on **Thursday 26th Novembe**r we will be holding a non-uniform day and accepting donations for the fair. We ask for donations of the following;

- Bottle for the tombola
- Wrapped gift for the children's tombola
- Cakes for the cake stall (please include a list of any allergens)
- Preloved toys for our sale (these can include soft toys)
- Suitable donations for our hamper raffle

Christmas Fair Prepaid Tokens

Again, we are trying to be as cashless as possible at the Fair and so we will be using prepaid tokens on our stalls.

- A **£5 payment card** will need to be purchased. This can be used on most stalls. They are available in advance through the MCAS PTA Shop and cards pre-purchased will be named and ready for you to collect at the entrance.
- The card has 10 squares, each worth 50p and everything at the fair will be in multiples of 50p.
- When you arrive at the entrance, you can purchase additional payment cards, and more will be available throughout the afternoon.

Santa Claus Grotto Tickets

Santa Claus will be visiting our Christmas Fair again this year. There will be limited tickets, and these are available through MCAS to purchase at £3.50 each. When you arrive at the Christmas Fair you will be given a time slot for your visit on a first come first served basis.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December we invite children to wear a Christmas jumper to school. If you have any unwanted Christmas jumpers you can donate these to school in the yellow bin outside the 2nd hand uniform shed. We will then be selling these at the Christmas Fair.

Christmas Trees for sale

We are once again selling high-quality Christmas trees at competitive prices:

- 5-6 ft - £43
- 6-7 ft - £53
- 4-6 ft pot grown at school - £30

Send your order to pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk by **20th November.** You will be sent details of how to make payment. Tree collections at school 4th December 4pm to 5pm or 5th December 10am to 11am.

Christmas card orders
There will be another opportunity to purchase items when the shop re-opens between 20th and 30th November. https://myfundraisinghub.com/welcome

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
Please do not park on double yellow lines, zigzag lines, time restricted lines or blocking dropped kerbs at drop off and collection times. There have been several near misses involving pedestrians and cars recently due to parking in restricted areas near the school site. We have asked our Community Police Officer to be present at these times to help keep our pupils safe.

Guitar lessons
Our guitar teacher, Russ Payne, is looking for any students who may wish to learn guitar following Wednesday's guitar assembly. Please contact Russ on goguitarmail@yahoo.co.uk to enrol or if you have any questions.

Christmas colouring & drawing competition
As the festive season approaches, the South & Vale TVP Schools Officers are delighted to invite pupils to take part in their Christmas Colouring & Drawing Competition. Please send entries by 4 December to: PCSO Sue Haynes, Christmas School Competition, Abingdon Police Station, Colwell Drive, Abingdon OX14 1AU. Please ensure each entry has the pupil's first name, age and school clearly written on the back. They will be selecting two winning entries from the South & Vale area, with each winner receiving a selection of PC Ben storybooks.

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.

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 midnight on Friday 20th November. To redeem your discount, visit 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

NOVEMBER 2026	
Tuesday 17th	Year 3/4 & 5/6 CrossCountry at Rotherfield United FC, 12-3pm
Wednesday 18th	Year 5/6 Boys football tournament Moulsford Prep, 12.30-3pm
Wednesday 18th	Year 3 visit from a Rabbi, £5.50
Friday 20th	Year 5/6 Girls football tournament Moulsford Prep, 12.30-3pm
Wed 25th to Fri 27th	Scholastic Book Fair after school
Thursday 26th	Non-uniform day
Saturday 28th	PTA Christmas Fair 12pm to 3pm
DECEMBER 2026	
Saturday 5th	Cross Country at MECE 1pm
Tuesday 8th	Years 5 & 6 Fire Safety talk from Oxfordshire Fire Service
Tuesday 8th	Parent Consultations – further information to follow soon
Thursday 10th	Parent Consultations – further information to follow soon
Thursday 10th	Choir at Kenton Theatre Carol Concert Evening
Friday 11th	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 14th	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance, 2.15pm (timings TBC)
Tuesday 15th	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Performance, 9.30am (timings TBC)
Tuesday 15th	Kites singing performance, 2.30pm
Wednesday 16th	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th	Carols singing at school, 6pm
Friday 18th	School finishes at 1.15pm, last day of Term 2
JANUARY 2026	
Monday 4th	INSET day – no children in school
Tuesday 5th	Term 3 starts

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

Get ready to play… OPAL BINGO

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