Sonning Common Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs R Salmons

Weekly Newsletter 20th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News and Stars of the Week

Kites have enjoyed playing sound Bingo to help improve their listening skills and have also been making patterns.
Star of the week is Arlis R.

Year 1 have been learning about algorithms and giving clear instructions, and have also been making Christingles with their Year 6 buddies.
Star of the week is Oliwier S.

Year 2 have been busy learning nativity dances.
Star of the week is Lenny L.

Year 3 enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Zvi and were, in his words, "Brilliant ambassadors for the school!" Well done year 3!
Stars of the week are Isaac C and Marley M-T.

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed drawing and labelling mountains in Geography. They have also, rather surprisingly, taken great delight in seeing just how quietly they can work.
Stars of the week are Harry C and Ivy L.

Year 5 have enjoyed cracking codes in computing.
Stars of the week are Samuel W and Sam P.

Year 6 have been enjoying learning songs to sing at the Christingle celebration next week.
Stars of the week are Jack S and Alfie F.

OPAL Star of the Week
Star of the Week is Eliza E. Eliza was chosen for giving up her lunchtime to help a pupil in Kites who was struggling to climb the steps to the slide. She was both patient and encouraging.

SCPS Explained
Next week, we have non-school uniform day on THURSDAY. This is in preparation for our Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November. In exchange for being allowed to wear their own clothes, children are asked to bring in something for the Fair – a bottle for the tombola, some mistletoe, a wrapped child's

gift, some items suitable for luxury hampers etc. Home-made cakes are appreciated too but these should be brought into school on Friday. This year, we have swapped the non-uniform day to THURSDAY so that we get the donations a day earlier to allow PTA members a little more time to turn them into lovely hampers for the raffle.

OPAL
We are putting together a wish list on Amazon for items we would like for OPAL. Watch this space in the coming weeks!

MCAS
Following last week's Microsoft outlook problems, we were pleased that we could still communicate with parents via MyChildAtSchool. If you haven't yet downloaded the MyChildAtSchool parent app (for both android and apple devices) we would encourage you to do so, and you will be able to see information about your child's attendance and school reports, book onto clubs and crucially send and receive messages if email is unavailable.

Cross Country
On Tuesday, we took a big team of keen runners to Rotherfield FC's grounds to compete against local schools. There were strong fields in all events, with up to 80 children in each race. It is a particular challenge for children in Years 3 and 5 as they had to race against the children who are in the older year group. Having walked there and back too, the runners were exhausted by the time we got back to school! Great effort, great sportsmanship – well done all! Thanks to parents who accompanied us and especially to Tom Sturgess who runs our weekly Run Club to get everyone fit enough!
Year 3 and Year 4
Maxime P 2nd, Tristan B-M 7th, Billy W 9th, Brody D 10th, Isaac C 14th, Isaac N 16th, Jared B 17th, Rory W 47th; Team came 1st
Bella N 20th, Isabella R-H 24th, Grace V 30th, Layla-Mae P 43rd, Lyra P 46th, Ivy L 47th, Marlow P 50TH, Eva-Mae W 52nd ; Team came 7th
Year 5 and Year 6
Jack S 6th, Jacob N, 15th, Lawrence H 16th, Jesse D 22nd, Sam M 27th, Myles S 33rd, Miles R 34th, Sam P 38th, Max C 40th, Toby R 41st, Casper T 45th, Toby J 46th, Rhys H 52nd, Ethan B 59th; Team came 2nd
Mhairi R 13th, Georgie E 17th, Evie C 25th, Tilly E 30th, Tegan B 31st, Sophie B 34th, Oliva G 39th; Team came 6th

Y5/6 Boys' Football: ESFA Tournament at Moulsford Prep
Follow the link below to find out how our 'A' and 'B' teams got on:
https://sonningcommonprimary.co.uk/sport/2026/11/19/**y5-6-boys-esfa-f...th-november-2026/**

Scholastic Book Fair
The Scholastic Book Fair will be here next week after school on the KS2 playground on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and also at the Christmas Fair. The school gets a percentage of sales to buy books for classrooms. They can take card payments, if you have all the details stored on your phone, and cash is always welcome.

Christmas Fair Saturday 28th November 12 noon - 3pm.
Volunteers
We still need volunteers to help us set up 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 card orders

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

School Health Newsletter

Autumn Term (2): Primary SHN Newsletter November 2026

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.

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.

NEW – SEND football at Rotherfield United FC, Saturdays 10am to 11am

Rachel Salmons
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

NOVEMBER 2026	
Tuesday 24th	Christingle
Tuesday 24th	Year 5 to Leighton Park – A Christmas Carol
Wed 25th to Fri 27th	Scholastic Book Fair after school
Thursday 26th	Non-uniform day
Saturday 28th	PTA Christmas Fair 12pm to 3pm
Monday 30th	Choir singing at Widmore Park, 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
Wednesday 9th	Gift Room
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 sing-along with parents, 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 