Sonning Common Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs R Salmons

Weekly Newsletter 6th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy News and Stars of the Week

Kites have been learning about Diwali and enjoyed becoming fireworks in PE.
Star of the week is Evan S.

Year 1 have been busy making super spinning tops and firework pictures!
Star of the week is Bonnie F.

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about the continents and oceans of the world!
Star of the week is Isla H-J.

Year 3 have enjoyed writing about jungle animals and have created lots of pictograms in big maths!
Star of the week is Michael N.

Year 4 came up with some fantastic questions as we begin our new Geography topic, Mountains. We have also been thoroughly enjoying our new book in literacy, *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes.
Stars of the week are Isaac F and Rudi D-C.

Year 5 loved making pizza during our DT morning on Friday!
Stars of the week are Amelia C and Florence C.

Year 6 have enjoyed playing four-chord sequences on the glockenspiels.
Stars of the week are Harlow M and

OPAL
The welly racks are in place and are starting to fill up, thank you! Make sure ALL SHOES are named as children are changing them every day and lots look very similar! Please consider sending in waterproof trousers if you haven't already - wet trousers all afternoon can be pretty uncomfortable. Today the whole Play Team had training from OPAL so watch this space for some new, bigger play very soon. Two of our school governors came to the training too and then stayed to watch an OPAL lunchtime. We think they were impressed!

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

Entertainment

Our recorder group will be performing at the start of the fair from approximately 12.10pm and our choir and glee groups will be performing from 1pm.

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 the MCAS PTA Shop 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.

Interhouse Term 1 results: Chopstick Challenge

Last term, children put their chopstick skills to the test to try and win team points for their house. The challenge was a classic challenge asking children to move as many pieces of pasta using chopsticks in 60 seconds (KS2) or 90 seconds (KS1). The following children were victorious:
Year 4: Rudi C, Rory W, Jared B and Joseph M-J.
Year 5: Laurence H, Anya C, Wilfie Y and Ellie P.
Year 6: Tilly E, Albie W and Harlow M.

Art competition

If your child is interested in art, please take a look at the details below for more information on how to enter this Oxfordshire children's art competition run by Sunningwell School of Art: https://artschool.org.uk/whats-new/

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 or time restricted lines 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.

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.
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

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 – Karate Club for ages 4 to 10 at The Studio

Rachel Salmons
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

NOVEMBER 2026	
Saturday 7th	Cross Country at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge 1pm
Tuesday 10th	Year 1 Toys Day (in school), £23
Thursday 12th	Open morning for prospective Kites pupils 9.30am to 11am
Friday 13th	Year 5 Milestone Museum visit, £23
Friday 13th	Children in Need
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
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
Thursday 10th	Parent Consultations
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 