



February 28th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

A short but sweet newsletter this week to let you know about some of the fun we have been having over the last couple of weeks and some more that we have planned over the next few weeks too.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We love World Book Day and the opportunity to share books and our favourite stories. This year it is on Thursday 6th March. If your child would like to bring their favourite book in to share with their friends, that would be lovely. Please can you write their name inside the front cover so that we can make sure it gets back to you.

If they would like to join in with dressing up, we have lots of options including a Where's Wally theme this year and so if they'd like to wear a stripy top and trousers that would be fab. They could also dress as their favourite book character for us to guess who they might be. If they'd prefer not to, that's ok too (it will help with spotting some of the others!).

Here is some information about the day.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

All of our children will receive a World Book Day token to use to buy a book of their choice.

We are really excited to let you know that each child will be given a book of their own to bring home. We have been working with Bookstart and Oxford Library to source dual language books. We also have some single language English books. We hope that you have lots of fun sharing the books at home.

LIBRARY VISITS

On Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th March a few of our older children are off to visit Oxford Library. We are hoping to build links with them and so are planning to find out about all of the things we can learn about with our Library. Please see link below for events run for families.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/events/libraries/oxford-westgate-storytime-and-crafts>

You may also have noticed our revamped Lending Library for the children near the sofas in the foyer. Please do spend some time with your child choosing a book to borrow and share. There is a clipboard to sign out the book that you've borrowed on the shelf.

GRANDPONT GROWN UP BOOK SWAP

We also wanted our grown-ups to be able to share in the book fun and so next week will be unveiling our 'Grandpont grown up book swap'! Please do feel free to take a book from the shelf to read and bring a book in that you've enjoyed for someone else to read too. We have some avid readers amongst the staff team and so we will all be bringing and borrowing books too.

SUPERTATO SUPER FUN!



Rainbows children all had lots of fun learning with Supertato and his friends! We listened to the story and listened again with a stick puppet show. Then we decided to make some stick puppets of our own so that we could retell the story too. Some of the veggies decided to have a race, even the evil peas were cheering. At times though, the evil peas were up to mischief and so we had to find them. We used our positional language to describe where they were, they managed to hide in lots of different places!



WONDERFUL WOODS!



When we went to the woods just before the half term break, we did a listening and looking walk when we arrived. We noticed snowdrops and moss and talked about the bamboo and that it's a Panda's favourite food.

After checking that we all remember our safety rules we looked at the pots that we had with us and noticed that they had magnifying glasses on the end. We thought our friends looked very funny when we looked at them. Then we went off to find some bugs, centipedes, worms and woodlice to name a few!

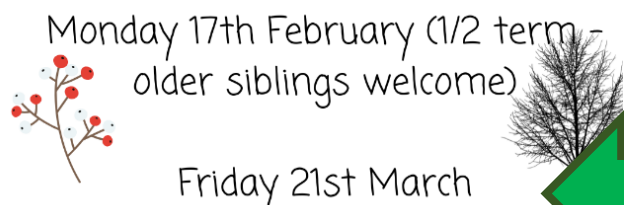
When we came back inside, we were very excited to tell everyone about all of the wonderful things we have discovered.



We are excited to learn about what we might find and do this week too!

FOREST SCHOOL SESSION

SOFR have very kindly offered for some of our Nursery children who attend on Fridays the opportunity to come along for these sessions. If your child does not attend nursery on a Friday and you're free to go along, please do.



Leaving at 10:15am. Snack for children provided and a marshmallow over the fire. Please wear long trousers and sleeves.

NEW HINKSEY STORY TRAIL

New Hinksey Primary School is looking to run a walking trail around South Oxford to help raise money for the school. If you are interested in helping out we are looking for local houses who would be willing to put up a display in their front window or garden based around the theme of stories, writers, or books on the weekend of the 29th-30th March. People who walk the trail can then make a small donation to the school if they like.

This is not just for people who have links to New Hinksey Primary School: it can be for anyone in the area, part of a community activity (but money raised will go to the school for much-needed supplies, repairs, facilities, etc.). If you are interested in helping out just email newhinkseytrail@gmail.com - and we will send you more details.

FOOD LARDER

It's so lovely to see that our mini food larder is popular and to see the items being used. Thank you for supporting this initiative. As you know, we are receiving regular weekly deliveries and so please do continue to take anything you would like.

For more details about Oxford Food Hub please see their website - <https://oxfordfoodhub.org/>

HINKSEY PARK COMMUNITY LARDER

Here is information about another local larder which has recently been set up locally.



SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE,
LAKE STREET, OX1 4RP

**HINKSEY PARK
COMMUNITY
LARDER**

The Hinksey Park Community Larder
runs every Thursday 2.00-4.00pm
Registration is now open www.sofea.uk.com

WWW.SOUTHOXFORD.ORG/COMMUNITY-LARDER/ COMMUNITY@SOUTHOXFORD.ORG
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 304351

SEND TOGETHER

Please find below details of an event for parents. If you would like some more information about the event please do ask Louise or Sarah.



The poster features a row of colorful, stylized human figures holding hands at the top. Below this, the text 'SEND TOGETHER' is prominently displayed in white on a dark blue background. Underneath, it says 'A DAY FOR PARENT CARERS TO CONNECT, SHARE AND LEARN'. A list of activities includes Workshops and Information Sessions, Panel Discussion and Q&A, SEND Advice Clinics, and SEND Marketplace. A circular graphic on the right contains the date and time: 'THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 9AM - 3PM' and the location: 'THE KINGS CENTRE, OX2 0ES'. At the bottom, it provides a registration link: 'FOR REGISTRATION OR MORE INFO: WWW.TINYURL.COM/SENDTOGETHER'. A green banner at the very bottom reads 'A LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP EVENT' and lists logos for BOB, Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum, and Oxfordshire County Council.

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A LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP EVENT

BOB Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System OXFORDSHIRE PARENT CARERS FORUM A Voice for Parent Carers in Oxfordshire TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EASY FUNDRAISING

We have had a few people sign up to Easy Fundraising and we can see how much of a difference it will make over time. Please do consider signing up. If you have a regular delivery from the supermarket, using the fundraising page for that alone would really help. We are hoping to use the funds to support us with redeveloping and resourcing our outdoor area.

Please ask if you'd like more details or see the link here – https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=365917&invite=nkpwax&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Or use the QR code. To borrow a well-known phrase – Every Little Helps!



HEALTHY START TO THE NEW TERM

[UKHSA is reminding parents and carers](#) of the simple steps they can take to ensure their children make the healthiest start to the new school term.

The new year brings with it an opportunity to teach children about the importance of good hygiene and with the recent increase in cases of flu and high levels of other viruses such as norovirus, it's more important than ever. The simple steps include teaching good hygiene habits; knowing when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school; stopping the spread of stomach bugs and getting vaccinated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-and-carers-urged-to-help-children-start-new-year-healthy>

With our very best wishes.

Sarah and the team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th March – Library Visits

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day



Instagram



Facebook

TAPESTRY

Here is a link to various guides that you may find useful in using Tapestry. Please do speak to us if you can't find what you are looking for and we will help.

<https://eyfs.info/forums/topic/47795-tutorials-contents-page-for-relatives/>

SAFETY

FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING and FOYER - Please can we kindly request that you do not let anyone else through as you go through the front door. This helps us to know who is in the building and to keep everyone safe, thank you.

If your child is in our Swans, term-time provision, please could you stand towards the back of the foyer when waiting for your child. This helps us to see who is waiting more easily and the children to find their adults more easily too. Many thanks.

SICKNESS – Please telephone to let us know if your child will not be attending a session by 9.30am, many thanks. Also a gentle reminder that if your child is sick and/or has diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout. This will help us to minimise the spread of tummy bugs, many thanks.

CAR PARK - For your child's safety, when dropping off and collecting your child from Grandpont, please keep them on the paths and not in the car park itself, many thanks.

DOORS - For the safety of all of our children and so that staff are aware of who is in the building, please do not open doors for other visitors, including parents, many thanks.

Rainbows – Please ring the bell next to the main door when you arrive. A member of the team will come and open the door for you.

Swans – Please wait until a member of the team opens the door at 9am and 3pm. They will invite you in to collect your child. Please stand towards the back of the foyer so that the children are able to come out to you.

TIMINGS –

Rainbows – You are able to bring your child any time after 8am. If you think you might be later than 8.30am, please let your child's keyperson know if it is planned and call the office if you're running late in the morning. You are able to collect anytime later in the day, again let your keyperson know if you are planning to collect before 5pm. Please ensure that you collect your child between 5.45pm and 5.55pm and by 6pm.

Swans – You are able to bring your child for a 9am start and 3pm or 3.30pm finish dependent on the sessions your child is attending each day. Please ask your keyperson if you are not sure of pick-up times.

MORE INFORMATION THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

HEALTH VISITORS

The Health Visitor has kindly signposted us to some great support that you may find useful. Here is a link to their website which then offer support for specific groups; children 0-1 years, 1-2 years and 3-4 years.

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/hv/>

They also have a support and advice messaging service. Parentline 0-4 years. Text: 07312263081

The Health Visitor advised that if you need advice, you can text this number and one of the Health Visitors will message you back. Please do also speak with your child's keyperson as we may have access to some more information that might be useful too.

HOME START

Home-Start Oxford provides non-judgemental, compassionate, confidential and individual support to families who are going through tough times and have at least one child under the age of five. If this is something that you might find helpful please contact them directly or speak to your child's keyperson.

<https://homestartoxford.org.uk/>

INDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

The NHS Healthier Families website have put together a list of indoor games and activities for children so they can still get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need – even when they cannot get outside.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/indoor-activities-for-kids/>

50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE FIVE

This is an amazing app that offers lots of fun and engaging ideas of things to do in and around Oxford. There is also an app for older children that may be useful if your child has older siblings.

<https://oxfordshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome>

Let us know how you get on and how much fun you've had!

BBC TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

The BBC have created an incredible website with lots of advice, hints and tips to support us all with parenting and supporting our children's development. The website has been created with the support of Early Childhood Experts and contains a wealth of information.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

THE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Wildlife Trust has some lovely information

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/where-to-see-autumn-wildlife?utm_source=Engagement+List+2024&utm_campaign=821e860e7c-BWW24+-+Autumn+focus&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-adf3d3b08e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

All Aboard the Toilet Train

ERIC have launched their new campaign, All Aboard the Toilet Train, which aims to help more children get ready to use the toilets independently. Please do ask your child's keyperson if you would like support with this.

[All aboard the Toilet Train: Get ready for school - ERIC](#)

Oxfordshire Healthier Together

The [Oxfordshire Healthier Together website](#) provides expert advice from local healthcare professionals for parents and carers when their child is unwell.

With a user-friendly traffic light system, parents can find clear information on common childhood illnesses, including what symptoms to look out for, what they should do, and when and where to seek help if required.

The website features a translation tool, a directory of local services to support family health and wellbeing, and advice on whether a child should go to school when they have a virus or infection.

Parents can also download the Healthier Together app if their child is unwell, to get advice at their fingertips. Using a red, amber, green self-assessment of symptoms, parents are directed to the appropriate setting at the right time.

Search for 'Healthier Together' in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

Strengthening family relationships

All families disagree sometimes. You might have problems that are hard to solve, or things going on that cause you stress.

There is a section of the Family Information Service website with information and tools that can help reduce or improve conflict at home. For more information click here: [Family Information Service | Family Support Toolkits \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)