

Windmill Weekly (17)

Achievement through Creativity, Community and Challenge

Value for January - Hope

26 January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Open Morning

This is a reminder that we will be holding an Open Morning on Tuesday 30 January. The school will be open from 8:30am to 9:10am for you to visit your child / children's classrooms to see their work.

LGBTQ meeting

A while ago I asked whether any of you would be interested in joining a working party to help the school ensure that homophobia within the school is as unacceptable as racism. We had a good meeting this morning and would like to invite any of you to join us for the next meeting which will be held on Thursday 14 March, 8:00am to 8:30am. This morning's meeting was hybrid so you could join us in person or online.



Key Dates

25 January	Weights & Measures for Reception / Year 6
30 January	Open Morning 08.30am - 09.10am
1 February	Cake Sale - Reception and Year 5
2 February	Family Quiz 6.30pm
8 February	Year 1 sharing assembly
9 February	End of Term 3 - 3.05pm
19 February	Start of Term 4 - 08.45am
27 February - 1 st March	Book Fair

Boys Manor Cup Football

Congratulations to our boys for beating Tyndale School 9-1 in our cup match on Tuesday this week. We are now through to the quarter-finals against Pegasus. Well done Gabriel, Josiah, Shai, Yuji, Yusuf, Kayden, Krishen, Mason, Matteo, and Jacob.

Girls OUFC Tournament

Congratulations also to our girls' team for winning the Oxford United EFL Kids Cup at the end of November. They will now go on to represent Oxfordshire and Oxford United at Premier League Wolverhampton Wanderers' training ground on Friday 22nd March.

Schools Cross Country Competition

Congratulations to the Year 5 pupils who competed in the Oxfordshire Schools Cross Country Competition. They were all fantastic and showed some impressive resilience. The results and times can be found at tempoevents.co.uk. Special mention to Freya H who placed in the top 10. Well done everyone!

Cake Sale!

Save the date: Thursday 01 February.

This cake sale is being run by Reception and Year 5. Yummy treats for all in the hall after school!

Family quiz. This online event is coming up next week **Friday 2nd Feb 6.30pm** and is an event suitable for all ages. Experienced Quizmasters Mr & Mrs Knapp have been planning fun-filled questions. Past highlights include the ever popular float or sink round. If you would like to join in, please enter [here](#). There are no limits on size of team so either enter on your own or gather some friends to come and try your hand at being crowned Windmill Family Quiz Champions 2024.

We ask for a voluntary donation to the PTA for each team and suggest somewhere in the region of £5 which you can transfer directly to the PTA account.

Barclays Bank
sort code: 206521
account no: 00978604
reference: Quiz

If quizzing is your thing then you have a second opportunity to show off your quizzing prowess on **10th May at our Quiz**. This is our one adult only event of the year. Put the date in your diary. In previous years we have combined this event with a curry, but we would love to keep costs down and make this event as affordable as possible so we are aiming to skip the curry in favour of the option to buy some bar snacks and drinks from our well stocked bar.

The next PTA meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th March**, but if you have any comments or feedback before then, you are always welcome to get in touch windmillpta@gmail.com

Windmill Governors

Windmill governors have held their first full meeting of 2024. One or two changes have been made in the governing board. Nick Hunter finished his period of office as Chair of Governors, a role in which he was much appreciated. In his place, Brid Cronin and I have agreed to be Co-Chairs and have already started in the role. Unlike Brid, I am a newcomer to Windmill, and indeed to Oxfordshire, although I have been a school governor for many years in the past. Not having children of my own at the school, I am trying to learn as much as I can about Windmill in as short a time possible! I hope to spend a lot of time in school, getting to know the staff and children in order to understand the particular challenges of what is, clearly, a wonderful place for learning and growing. As governors we hope to be visible to parents, children and staff alike. I, for one, am very much looking forward to it.

Anne Cowan

Yours faithfully



Lynn Knapp
Headteacher

25th January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

ROYAL ACADEMY YOUNG ARTISTS SUMMER SHOW 2024

Your child has expressed an interest in creating a work of art to submit for the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show.

Any child at Windmill between the age of 4 and 11 can submit **ONE** piece of artwork. The Royal Academy judges will then choose those which will go on display in an online exhibition with a few pieces being chosen to be shown at the Royal Academy in London.

We would be very proud for Windmill children to enter their artwork.

What can your child enter?

The art can be made using any material – **painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing**, or a **combination**. It can be a piece made by one person or a collaboration of children from the school. A video needs to be uploaded onto **vimeo** or **YouTube** and the url linked to the submission form following the copyright rules for music. There is no theme.

To enter:

Your child will need to create a special piece of artwork.

You (a parent/carer) will need to upload an image of this artwork through the school's RA account.

You will need to supply some information: title, size, medium and a little text about the artwork and why the child made it. Further information can be found at <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

Key dates:

Registration and submission opens: 8 January - 27 March 2024

Judging: May 2024

Online exhibition opens: 16 July 2024

Display at the RA opens: 16 July - 11 August 2024

I will hold a meeting with children after half term to see how they are progressing with their entries. Please contact me should you have any special requirements or have further questions that cannot be answered <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/faqs>

I am really looking forward to speaking with your children about their ideas and seeing their fabulous creations!

Many thanks, Anna Rianne, Art Coordinator

Amazing Brain Festival for all ages: Tuesday 20th February, 3.45 - 6pm at Cheney School

1. Amazing Brain Festival, Tuesday 20th February, 3.45 - 6pm at Cheney School

We are very excited to be holding an ['Amazing Brain' Festival](#) on Tuesday 20th February, 3.45 to 6pm, which will explore ancient and modern ideas about the brain.

The festival will include a range of engaging activity and information stalls aimed at all ages, all exploring the human brain and mind. It will include a 2 metre high T-Rex which people can operate, as part of a range of activities exploring dinosaur brains. There will also be activities and stalls also exploring ancient ideas about the mind and brain. There will be refreshments and a bookstore too. Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore "Your Amazing Brain", an exhibition which we are privileged to be hosting. It is designed and created by the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging and features striking educational displays and interactive exhibits, all exploring the brain behaviour, structure and abilities.

The stalls and activities will be open from **3.45 to 5.30pm** (from 3pm for Cheney students). There will be a closing talk from **5.30 - 6pm** by Professor Sophie Scott, neuroscientist and comedian: "The Brain: Ten Things You Should Know".

To book places, please email lro@cheneyschool.org - individuals, families and school groups of all ages are warmly welcome.

The event is free, but please do donate online [here](#) if you are able to.

2. *Telling Tales in Nature* Compendium now out!

We are delighted to announce our *Telling Tales in Nature* compendium, which includes all four little books in our *Telling Tales in Nature* Series. It can be ordered [here](#).

Underworld Tales explored plants from the twilight world of the dead in Greek mythology, while *Forest Tales* was set in forests in the upper world. It introduced four particular trees named in ancient sources as "hamadryad" sisters, that is, nymphs whose lives are bound to their trees. In *Orchard Tales*, readers met the remaining four sisters, all of whom connected to trees or plants which are grown in orchards and vineyards. In *Meadow Tales*, the flowers that grow in our fields, verges, gardens and parks, told their stories. All four books appear in our compendium!

In each chapter, there is an introduction on the plant, with botanical drawings, followed by a retelling and reimagining of the myth. It finishes with some brief notes on the sources for the myths and explanations of the retellings. In each case, the story is retold from the perspective of the spirit of the plant.

January 2024

Anonymous OxPCF Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Family Survey

Dear Parents,

The Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) is delighted to run its first comprehensive school survey to gather the experiences of families of children and young people in the county with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

If your child or children have SEND or additional needs, are aged 4-18 (school age, up to and including Year 13), please complete the survey via the link below.

[LINK Anonymous OxPCF Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Family Survey January 2024](#)

- Please complete one survey for each individual child.
- Each survey should take approximately seven minutes to complete.
- The survey closes at 7pm on Thursday 29th February 2024
- The survey can be completed via a mobile device, tablet or laptop/PC, however if you require a paper copy (including large print) please email sarah.karnik@oxfsn.org.uk and we will be happy to facilitate this for you.

OxPCF is also looking to gather more detailed experiences and views from Oxfordshire parent carers of children with SEND or additional needs. If you would like to provide a more detailed account of your experiences within schools, or require any further information, please email: sarah.karnik@oxfsn.org.uk

Further Information:

What is OxPCF?

OxPCF is a wholly independent and formally recognised organisation, funded by the Department of Education. It is made up of a dedicated team of volunteer parent carers of children and young people with SEND, with a wide and varied range of lived experience spanning from 5 to over 20+ years.

We work closely with, and act as Subject Matter Experts for the local authority and local area partnership across education, health and social care. We work in co-production with the local area partnership to help shape and improve statutory services in Oxfordshire for children and young people with SEND. We regularly gather views and experiences of parent carers via online surveys, in person events and meetings.

Further information on who we are, and the work that we do can be found on our website: www.oxpcf.org.uk . We can also be found on Facebook: [OxPCF Facebook](#) , on Instagram: [OxPCF Instagram](#) and on LinkedIn: [OxPCF LinkedIn](#)

Why is OxPCF running this survey?

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure that the voices of parent carers in Oxfordshire are heard and fed back into the local area partnership, OxPCF is running this survey aimed

at all parent carers of children and young people with SEND or additional needs who are currently of education age (up to and including Year 13/maximum compulsory school age). The aim of this survey is to gather current school experiences and views of families.

Am I able to complete the survey if my child doesn't have a formal diagnosis, or any formal support in place?

Yes! Please do. The survey is intended to capture experiences of all families whose children and young people with SEND or additional needs, from age 4 to 18 (up to and including children and young people currently in Year 13).

Are my responses to the survey anonymous?

Yes. We are not collecting any personal data via the survey. All individual responses and experiences will be held securely by OxPCF. No responses will be shared with your child's current or previous school/s.

What will you do with the survey responses?

OxPCF will use the responses and data gathered to produce a report. This will be published on our website and shared with our network of parent carers on social media. It will also be shared with the local authority, and other statutory services (including health and social care) within Oxfordshire.

We may use quotes or partial quotes from the survey responses in the report, however we will not name any individuals or schools. If we would like to use more a detailed quote that you have provided via email outside of the main survey, we will contact you by return email prior to the report's publication.

How do I become a part of OxPCF's parent carer network?

OxPCF welcomes all parent carers of children and young people with SEND to join our network. You may do so by joining our mailing list: [OxPCF Mailing List Subscribe Form](#) or by emailing us at: info@oxpcf.org.uk.

You may also join OxPCF's closed peer to peer support group which is facilitated on Facebook. This is called The Oxfordshire SEND Room, and can be found here: [The Oxfordshire SEND Room](#)

Do you offer individual support services or advice?

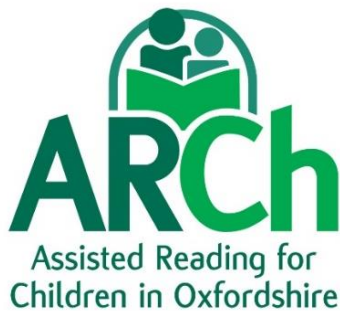
OxPCF as an organisation is not a support service, able to offer advice or resolve complaints on an individual basis. These services fall outside of our remit.

If you require individual advice, information or support regarding your child's education, you may obtain this by contacting SENDIASS Oxfordshire here: [SENDIASS Oxfordshire](#)

I have further queries or would like further information, who do I contact?

Any queries relating to the survey should be sent to sarah.karnik@oxfsn.org.uk. Any general queries relating to OxPCF can be sent to us at info@oxpcf.org.uk

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.



Opportunity to train as an ARCh Reading Helper

ARCh volunteers work one to one with selected children in a primary school, close to their home or workplace, providing personalised support to boost confidence, build self-esteem and turn around negative attitudes to reading.

We are looking for more people to join us in making a real difference to children's lives.

All volunteers are interviewed by ARCh, receive enhanced DBS checks and receive initial and ongoing training and support as well as resources tailored to each child.

[If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or supporter, or if you work in a school and are interested in our service, please email info@archoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@archoxfordshire.org.uk)

Please support us – you can donate via <https://localgiving.org/donation/arch>

Registered Charity number 1146276



Company number 7962217

ARCh is committed to Safeguarding and this role is exempt from ROA 1974 and eligible for enhanced DBS certificate/barred list check