

Windmill Weekly (01)

Achievement through Creativity, Community and Challenge

Value for September - Responsibility

06 September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to you all, I hope that you all had a lovely holiday and are feeling ready for the new Autumn term. Also, a huge welcome to all of the new families who have joined us this term, both in Reception and across the school. We hope that our new children will all be very happy with us and that all the children have a successful year.

Dates List

As always, we will be compiling a date list for the year and this will be sent out next Friday, along with the weekly newsletter. This will hopefully allow you to plan for events that you might like to attend.

Changes to the Times of the School Day

Thank you to you all who have made sure that your children are in school by 8:40am in time for the earlier start to the school day. **This is a reminder that the school day now runs from 8:40am to 3:10pm.**

SENDCO - Our new SENDCO is Mrs Griffiths and can be emailed on SENCO@windmill.oxon.sch.uk.

Attendance and Penalty Notices

There is a huge link between good attendance and children being academically and socially successful. It is this evidence that is driving the changes that have been made to attendance policy.

I advised you last term that the Government has changed regulations about term time holiday and schools are now required to consider issuing a penalty notice if a child has more than 10 sessions (each morning and afternoon counts as 1 session) ie 5 days of unauthorised absence withing a 10 week rolling period. This might be term time holiday, persistent lateness after registers have closed at 9:10am or unexplained absences. Once the threshold is reached it is my responsibility to decide whether a penalty notice is appropriate or not. Should a penalty notice be issued the fine is £60 per child, per parent if paid within the first 21 days or £160 per child per parent if paid within 28 days.

As a school we will continue to mark term time holiday as unauthored absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. If circumstances do arise that require authorised absence as they inevitably will, we will require evidence to support your application.

If the threshold of 5 days unauthorised absence is met, we will consider each situation carefully to decide whether issuing a penalty notice is the appropriate course of action to support improving attendance.

The letter that the County suggest we send out to you to explain the changes is also included with this letter.

Photo /video permission forms - IMPORTANT

Could we please ask that ALL parents fill out the form linked below. It gives teachers up to date permissions for the taking and use of photo and video in school. Please fill out one form per child as soon as possible.

[Photo/video permissions 2024/25](#)



Key Dates

6 September	Year 3 parent meeting in School Hall 2.15pm
9 September	Year 2 parent meeting in Tigers class 2.30pm
12 September	Year 4 parent meeting in Hall 2.15pm
13 September	PTA coffee morning in After School Club 8.45am
17 September	Year 6 parent meeting in Violet Class 2.30pm
18 September	Year 5 parent meeting
18 September	Year 6 to Science Oxford
19 September	Year 5 to Science Oxford
10 October	Flue Vaccinations for the whole school

Year 3 Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Year 3 parents on Friday 6th September in the school hall at 2.15pm.

Year 2 Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Year 2 parents on Monday 9th September in Tigers class at 2.30pm - 3.00pm. The gates will be opened for you at 2.20pm

Forest School Needs You!

Forest School at Windmill is an important part of the curriculum and is rooted in the school ethos of achievement through community, creativity and challenge. It is child-led and is hugely important in enabling children to develop physical fitness, social skills, resilience and an understanding of the natural environment through investigation, exploration and free play. Forest School helps children to build the connection with the natural world which has been widely shown to support mental health and well-being.

In order to support Forest School in Years 1 and 2 we need a high adult: child ratio as we take the children off site to Stansfeld Park (part of Science Oxford). This is a difficult time and we understand that many parents have to work and are not able to help. But if we don't have enough staff we can't run Forest School for Years 1 and 2.

In addition to asking Year 1 and 2 parents and carers, we are hoping to find volunteers from the wider school community who might be able to offer to help at Forest School.

Are you a parent or carer or do you have a close relative or family friend who enjoys being outside with children in all weather? Would you like to volunteer at Forest School? No particular skills are required beyond patience, enthusiasm and being prepared to get a bit wet and muddy sometimes!

We run Forest School for Year 1 on a Thursday morning between 9.05 and 12.45 and the same times on a Tuesday morning for Year 2. If you are interested in finding out more about helping at Forest School please do get in touch with Sarah Howard at

forestschool@windmill.oxon.sch.uk or speak to your child's class teacher.

MUSIC at Windmill (message from Mrs Reading)

I am excited to have joined the team at Windmill and look forward to leading music across the school.

Choir will begin in the Music Room on Monday from 3:10pm to 4:00pm for children in Years 4 to 6.

Orchestra will begin in the School Hall on Tuesday from 3:10pm to 4:00pm for children in Years 3 to 6.

New members to both of these clubs will be welcomed.

Letters for these clubs will be sent out next week.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about music please do not hesitate to contact me on sreading@windmill.oxon.sch.uk

🎵 Thank you 🎵

Lost Property

Please view photos of unnamed lost property from the end of the last academic year here:
<https://share.icloud.com/photos/0e7o1h5TwFqZOZQfqlTPcL64Q>

Please name all items of clothes, it really does make a difference to the teachers and staff (and you/your child).

Please contact coliveira@windmill.oxon.sch.uk to claim your item, or visit between 8:25-8:40am, or 3:10pm-3:30pm. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate parents during school hours.

WELCOME FROM WINDMILL PTA COMMITTEE

Coffee Morning Friday 13th after drop-off

A very warm welcome (back) to the new school year; especially to the new members of our school community!

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is made up of all the parents, carers, teachers and staff in the school. It exists to organise events to get to know one another, to raise money, and to provide a forum for you to exchange ideas and be consulted.

Highlights of the calendar include the Autumn Fayre (Oct 5th), the Christmas Disco, the Curry and Quiz night, the Barn Dance and the Summer Disco.

Last year we raised and spent an incredible £11,000 on subsidising trips and classroom resources, buying books, funding the Green Club, providing supplies for an art exhibition and helping to create a sensory room. Our aim is for spending to benefit all the children in the school in different ways.

The PTA can only exist thanks to the support of the whole community. There are many opportunities to be involved, with as much or as little commitment as you like, from simply attending meetings, to volunteering at events, to joining the committee.

We have also recently been made a Charity (number 1209855), so will in future also be able to accept straightforward donations and match funding - please get in touch if this is something that you're interested in.

We hold regular online meetings (advertised on Classlist/the Newsletter/via class reps), and would love to see as many of you as possible there so that our decisions best reflect your views.

Find out more, and meet the committee, at our **coffee morning on Friday 13th September**, after drop-off (**from 8.45**), in the **After School Club room** (entrance from the carpark). All welcome, both old and new members!

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Committee:

Kai Zolleis - Chair

Jess Goodman & Martin Gillies - Secretaries

Jen Skym - Comms

Fergus Alexander & Gaya Thanabalasingham - Treasurers

Elizabeth Nuthall - Committee member

windmillpta@gmail.com

Thank you.

Classlist

If you are not already on Classlist, please join here

<https://classlist.page.link/VXS8KU1YpN2NnQ8c8> Classlist is a communication tool used by PTA and families. Whilst we know that individual classes have their own Whatsapp groups, Classlist is important too. It is an easy way of communicating across classes and Year groups and sending whole school messages. Tickets for events including Legoland and the Christmas Disco are sold through Classlist. It is quick and easy to sign up. If you are already on Classlist, but have not yet assigned your child to the correct class, then you can make sure you receive only messages relevant to you by going to your profile and assigning your child(ren) to their correct classes.

Class Reps

It is really helpful for teachers and parents for each class to have a rep. This is a person who the class teacher can contact to send messages to the rest of the class. The Class Reps also sometimes help to coordinate PTA or class events. Thank you to all the classes who have already chosen a rep and thank you to all the reps continuing in their role from last year. If your class has decided on a rep, but has not let the PTA know who this is, please can you send a message to windmillpta@gmail.com or to Jen Skym on Classlist. Thank you.

IMPORTANT information about School Dinners

We hope the children have enjoyed their school dinners this week from our new provider Dolce. All the key information about the changes is available on the Windmill website

<https://www.windmill.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Lunches&pid=18>

All children will need a school grid account. If you have not activated your account, you will need to ask the School Office to reset your password.

For children in reception, year 1 and year 2, parents will need to remember to log on to School Grid in advance and select their meal choices for the week or the term.

For children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6, parents will need to remember to log on to School Grid in advance, make a payment and select their meal choices for the week or the term.

If your child is absent or going on a school trip, please remember to cancel their meal on School Grid or there will be a charge to the school.

If you are in receipt of any income related benefits you may be able to claim free school meals, please check with the office if you think you may be eligible. The office email address is office.2527@windmill.oxon.sch.uk.

Clubs

The club list has been updated and posted on the windmill website with all the information we have for this term. Please see the club flyers on the school website:

<https://www.windmill.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Activities&pid=19>

Yours faithfully



Lynn Knapp
Headteacher

6th September 2024

Dear parent/carer

Re. PENALTY NOTICES FOR TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

Windmill Primary School is committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education to prepare them for the next stage of their life. Each school day is carefully planned, and each lesson informs a wider programme of learning. Therefore, every lesson really does count. Your child is a valued member of our school community and every day missed is a day lost without them.

It is the policy of this school not to authorise absence for holidays during term-time. While advance permission can be given in exceptional circumstances, this is rare and can only be granted by me in my capacity as Head Teacher. Any such request should be addressed to me in writing before the holiday is taken and you should not assume that permission will be granted.

If a term-time holiday is taken without permission, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and a referral may be made to the County Attendance Team. This may result in the issue of an Education Penalty Notice under section 444A Education Act 1996 in respect of each absent child, to each parent/carer. The current penalty is £60 per parent per child, rising to £120 per parent per child if not paid within 21 days.

Penalty notices are intended as an alternative to prosecution. If the penalty is not paid in full within 28 days, the usual consequence is a Magistrates' Court prosecution for the underlying section 444(1) Education Act 1996 offence of failure to secure regular school attendance. If further instances of unauthorised absence occur despite a penalty notice having previously been issued, or if the child's attendance is an ongoing matter of concern, the local authority may consider prosecution in any event.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Knapp

Head Teacher

MORE



**GREAT
OFFERS
ALL DAY**



BIG

Splash-a-Day

**at Barton Leisure Centre
Saturday 7th September**

Speak to a member of of our team, or head to our website, for more information.

 **Barton Leisure Centre** Tel: **0330 109 8770**
Waynflete Road, Oxford, OX3 8GA



oxfordcityleisure.com



let's do
MORE

Baby & Toddler Nearly New Clothes Charity Sale

Sunday 8th Sept 2024

10-12pm Magdalen Road Studios

74 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 1RE
(behind Caper bookshop)



Clothes for ages 0 to 4 years

All parents, carers, grandparents and children welcome

In aid of charities:

Refuge - providing specialist support for women and children experiencing domestic violence

Sameer Project - providing tents, medical treatment, water trucks, nappies and baby formula for displaced families in Gaza

HINKSEY LAKERS KIDS BASKETBALL CLUB

*Cheney Sports Hall,
Cheney Lane, £8/session*

**FOR 8-10 YEAR OLDS
GIRLS & BOYS**

**SUNDAYS
10.15-11.15AM**

**GRAHAM
LEVEL 2 COACH**

**HANNAH
07977 037859**



Dear Parents and Carers

A parent runs a basketball session for Year 4 and Year 5 age children on Sundays 10.15am-11.15am in Cheney School Sports hall, and has asked us to pass on this information. If interested please contact Hannah directly on 07977 037859.



Hinksey Lakers Kids Basketball for 8-10 year olds!

I run a very friendly weekly session on Sunday mornings at Cheney School Sports Hall, 10.15am-11.15am. The club is £8 a session, mixed gender, small group training (up to 12 kids with a couple of spaces left).

The coach is Graham Nichols, Level 2 Basketball England Coach (former Brookes' W head coach and Ox Uni women's head coach) and also a teacher at Meadowbrook College. Please DM me on 07977 037859 if interested in joining! Thanks, Hannah



In this game there is a POSITION FOR EVERYONE. No matter who you are FLAG FOOTBALL is the game for YOU!

Join the Flag Football Movement!



CONTACT YOUTH@OXFORDSAINTS.COM FOR DETAILS!



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Training every SATURDAY 1000-1130, SEPTEMBER to JULY
Located at Oxford Rugby Club

For Boys & Girls aged 8-17
U11's, U14's & U17's Teams

RECRUITING NOW
For the 2025 season

GIRLS

RUGBY TRAINING

WEDNESDAYS

TIMES: 18:00-19:00

SUNDAYS

TIMES: 9:45-11:00

AGES

U12/U14/16
(SCHOOL YEARS 6-11)

U6/U7/U8/U9/U10
(SCHOOL YEARS 1-5)

4 FREE
TASTER
SESSIONS

- Meet new friends
- Keep active
- Learn new skills
- Play games

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
AOIFE/STACY
GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG

**JOIN US
TODAY!**

**NO
PREVIOUS
EXPERIENCE
NEEDED**

OXFORDQUINSRFC

Location: Horspath Sports Ground, Oxford Road,
Horspath, Oxford, OX4 2RR