

Windmill Weekly (18)

Achievement through Creativity, Community and Challenge

Value for January - Hope

23 January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Winter Lights

I hope that all of you who visited our Winter Lights last night enjoyed seeing the beautiful willow lanterns that the children have made. It was a shame that we couldn't do the event outside as in previous years but tissue paper lanterns and rain just don't work well together!

Acoustic Panel Advice

We are considering buying some Acoustic panels for the school hall to improve the sound quality. We wondered if any of you have any specialist knowledge that you could offer us some advice with? If you do perhaps you could contact either me on head.2527@windmill.oxon.sch.uk or Mrs Reading, who is our music teacher on sreading@windmill.oxon.sch.uk.

Open Morning

This is a reminder that we have an Open Morning on Tuesday next week. You will be able to see the work that your children have been doing between 8:30am and 9:10am.

Reports

Interim reports for Years 1 to 6 are being sent home during the course of the day today. You will receive an email from "system@insighttracking.com" which will tell you that you have a report for your child. When you click on "Download report" you will be taken to a web page that will ask for your child's date of birth (please remember the "0" if the day or a month is single digit) and you can either view or download the report to your device.

Parents Governor elections

The ballot for parent governor elections is now open until Tuesday 27th January at midday. One vote is allowed per parent regardless of the number of children you have in the school. To vote, please click on this link <https://forms.gle/a5C54RUHiqJMFEiFA> or go to the school office for a paper ballot.



Key Dates

26 & 28 January	Year 6 Oxford Fire Station for Junior Citizens
27 January	Open Morning 8.30am - 9.10am
3 February	EAL Coffee Morning 8.45am - 9.45am
6 February	Virtual Quiz Night - 6.30pm
13 February	Year 1 sharing assembly
13 February	End of Term 3
23 February	Start of Term 4
30 January	General Coffee Morning 8.45am - 9.30am
24 - 27 February	Book Fair
2 - 6 March	Book Week
5 March	World Book Day - dress as your favourite book character

Winter lights

Thank you to all the children and families for coming to the Winter Lights last night. It was so lovely to see you all. A special thank you to children and staff for the fabulous installations, and the huge amount of work that they put into the event, the Art Leaders from Years 5 and 6 who all helped the event run smoothly and helped staff tidy away at the end of the evening. You are brilliant!

JUST GIVING

A quick reminder that our events cannot run without your financial support. A small donation would be much appreciated to help cover costs for the winter lights and help pay for the upcoming summer exhibition in July. Here's the link!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/winter-lights-at-windmill?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=EM

Two Part Parent Workshop on Managing your child's behaviour

Alice from the Schools Mental Health Support Team will be delivering this parent workshop on Thursday 5th February 9-10.30 and Thursday 12th February 9-10.30.

If you would like to reserve a place please email Jackie Aspden on jaspden@windmill.oxon.sch.uk.

EAL Coffee Morning

We will be running a coffee morning on Tuesday 3rd February, 8.45 am - 9.45 am, in the After-School Club room at the front of the school, for parents and carers of children with English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Mrs McIntyre (EAL Specialist TA) will give a short presentation and then there will be an opportunity to chat with other parents and carers. Please send an email to confirm your attendance. You are also welcome to email in advance with any questions you would like to be addressed:
jmcintyre@windmill.oxon.sch.uk

Please come directly to the After-School Club room and not through the main school office. Please do drop in and say hello!

Coffee Morning

There will be a drop in coffee morning on Friday 30th January, 8.45am - 9.30am. Please come to the after school club room at the front of the school.

All parents/carers are welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs Grates (Assistant SENCO) and Ms Painter (HSLW)



Girls' football

Huge congratulations to our U11 girls football team for winning 8-0 on Monday at Barley Hill and then on Thursday winning the county finals. We now go on to represent Oxfordshire in the South West finals. Well done Sreya, Sky, Agnes, Kitty, Amelia, Evie, Mei, Cindy, and Fatima.

PTA AGM Documents and Your New Committee

On Classlist you'll find the documents from our PTA AGM held on 4th November 2025, including the Chair's Report, Treasurer's Report, and full minutes.

We'd also like to introduce your PTA Committee for 2025/26:

Chair: Jess Goodman

Treasurer: Fergus Alexander

Secretary: Martin Gillies

Communications: Taryn Wheatley, Saima Aziz

Committee members: Kai Zolleis, Jen Skym, Elizabeth Nuthall

A huge thank you to Kai Zolleis for his four years of service as Chair - we're delighted he's continuing as a committee member.

Minutes from Monday night's meeting will be shared soon.

School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety

At Monday's PTA meeting, concerns were raised about parking and traffic safety around the school junctions during drop-off and pick-up times. Several parents have witnessed near misses, and we'd like to work together as a community to improve safety for our children.

Some ideas were discussed, including having parent volunteers present at key junctions to help keep areas clear and encourage safer parking practices. If you'd like to be part of the conversation about how we can address this issue together, please join our WhatsApp group here: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LU23Q5Oaa9y3M2Veupr8T>

We'd welcome input and support from anyone who shares these concerns and wants to help find solutions.

Chess - Oxfordshire Schools Team Tournament

Windmill Chess Club are planning to enter a team in the Oxfordshire Schools Team Tournament. The tournament is on Saturday 31st January. Children would need to be dropped off at Summer Fields School, Mayfield Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7EN at 11am and collected at 5.30pm.

If you have a child in year 3 - 6 that has some experience of playing chess and would be interested in joining the team, please contact Rajeev by email - rajeev.kumar@nds.ox.ac.uk

The child needs to be a member of the English Chess Federation before the tournament

How to join English Chess Federation for the first time -

Although for this tournament Junior Bronze membership is adequate, it is recommended that the free offer of one year's Junior Gold membership is taken up for new members: see <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-membership-rates-and-joining-details/>, scroll down to the big red button 'New members - join here', click on 'Sign Up' and fill in the form. The offer is completely free and renewal is entirely optional.

For further details and to register your interest please email Rajeev by Tuesday 27 January.

Get Your Team Ready for Quiz Night - Friday 6th February

Our annual Virtual Quiz Night is coming up on Friday, 6th February at 6.30pm, and we'd love to see your family there! Quiz Masters Knapp will be hosting an evening of friendly competition and fun, with questions that everyone can enjoy. Whether you're quiz enthusiasts or just fancy a go, it's a great way to spend time together. Feel free to purchase additional tickets for extended family or friends who want to join in.

Sign up your group at <https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1388430647>

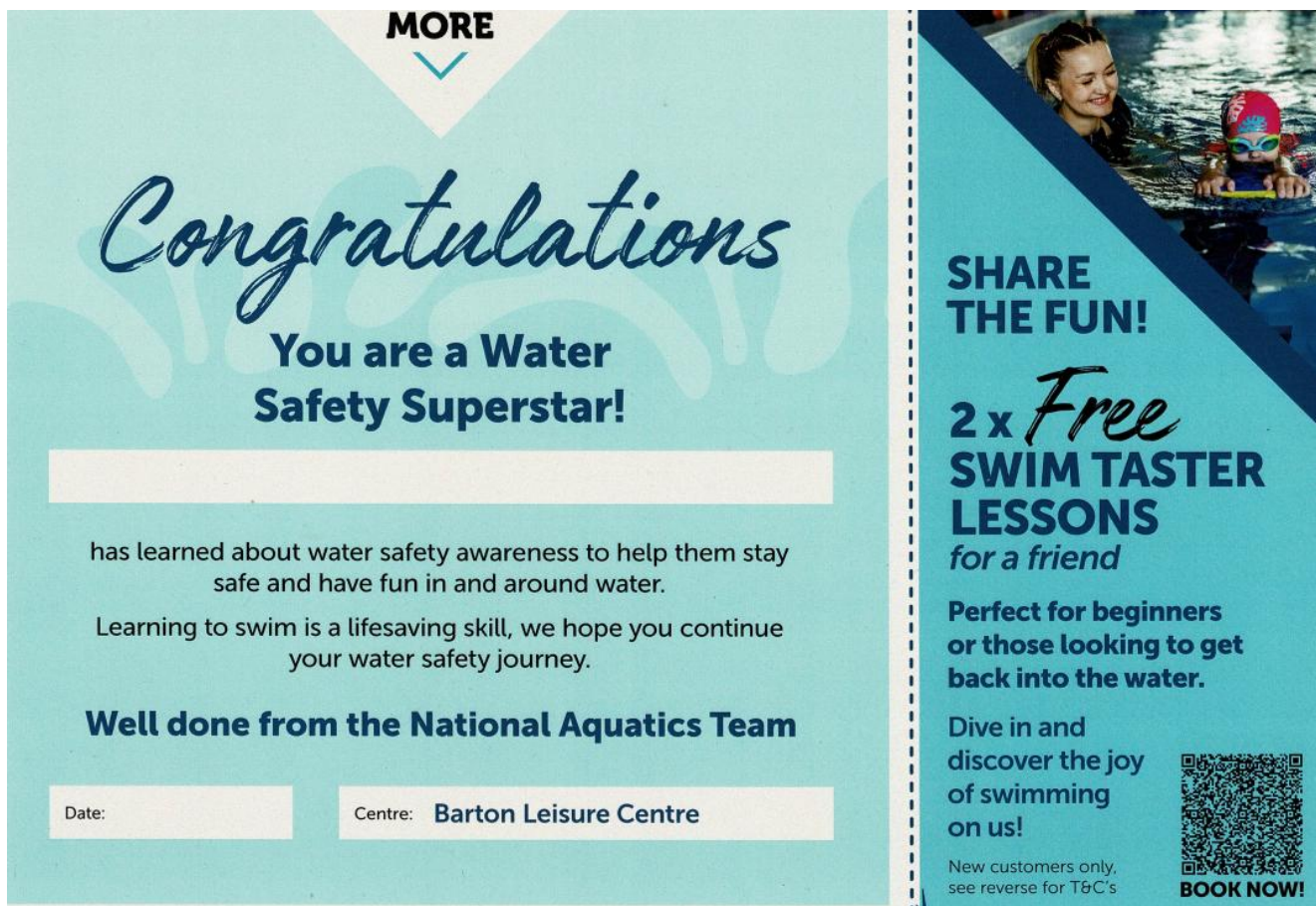
The cost of a group ticket is £5.

We hope to see you there!

Yours faithfully



Lynn Knapp
Headteacher



MORE
V

Congratulations

You are a Water Safety Superstar!

has learned about water safety awareness to help them stay safe and have fun in and around water.

Learning to swim is a lifesaving skill, we hope you continue your water safety journey.

Well done from the National Aquatics Team

Date: _____

Centre: **Barton Leisure Centre**


SHARE THE FUN!

2 x *Free* SWIM TASTER LESSONS for a friend

Perfect for beginners or those looking to get back into the water.

Dive in and discover the joy of swimming on us!

New customers only, see reverse for T&C's



BOOK NOW!



Hill End is 100 in 2026! We need your help
to celebrate a century of fun & learning

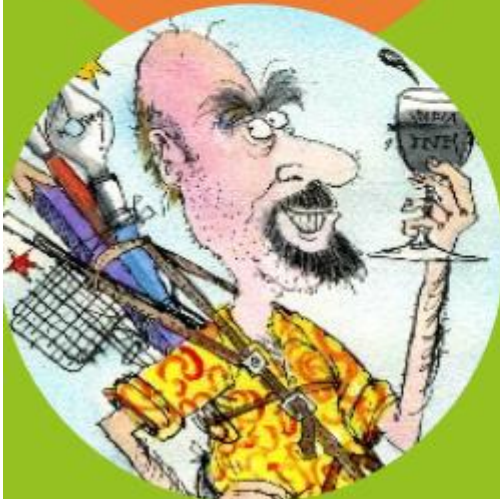
DESIGN AN AWESOME LOGO COMPETITION

Fab prizes to be won -
for children, families
and schools!

Enter by Thurs 30 April 2026

In our special birthday year we are
inviting children aged 4-12 years
to create a new centenary logo.

Winnie the Witch illustrator Korcky Paul
will choose the winning design!



Hill End
A place of possibilities

Full details at:

[www.hill-end.org/
news/logo-comp](http://www.hill-end.org/news/logo-comp)



Hill End Family Forest Days

10am - 2pm

Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 February (half term)

- * Make a bird nesting box or bird feeder (extra cost)
- * Create a giant nest in our den building area, or make crafts in The Barn
- * Follow trails, climb - enjoy our space, woodlands & wetlands. SO MUCH TO DO!
- * Meet Oxford University bird researchers - ringing and monitoring the blue tits and great tits and you can learn more about the Wytham Woods Tit Project

£9.50 child / £11 .50 adult

includes a hot vegetable pasta pot or soup



Hill_end_centre



@HillEndOEC



@Hill_End

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ

01865 863510



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS



SCIENCE BAZAAR

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe



BOOK
TICKETS

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

 @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch

 @oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS



Science Oxford Centre

Exploration Zone

Woodland & visitor café

Live Lab | Explorer Backpacks

Regular Science & Nature Clubs for ages 5-9

**Family Days
every
Saturday**

Book tickets: scienceoxford.com

Science Oxford Centre
Quarry Road, Headington
Oxford OX3 8SB

