

# Spring Term – Newsletter 2



## Headteachers update

Dear Families,

We have FINALLY made it to February... the festive holidays seem a long time ago and half term is nearly upon us. The children have made an incredible start to the new term and continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm and inspirational determination to be the very best that they can be.

We have had so much going on over the last few weeks from our very own 'Stone Age' man; a visiting puppet show; the visit to the 'Mandir' and that is to name just a few experiences the children have been part of. We are continuing to develop our new curriculum in preparation for September 2024 and the staff cannot wait to launch it! 😊.

At our last Family Forum, the Governors and I discussed the academisation journey we have been on. We have exciting news that the Governing Body have made the decision to continue discussions with 'The Circle Trust'. We will enter a period of due diligence with the trust where we will explore joining on a permanent basis. The process is a very thorough and lengthy one but we will endeavour to keep you updated on the progress being made 😊. Our next Family Forum is on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 18:00**, we will be joined by members of the Team who will be sharing with you everything that is on offer at Owlsmoor regarding SEND, Interventions and general day to day support. We hope you can make it.



Following the last newsletter, I would like to personally thank you all for your generous donations. Your contributions have provided us with a real platform for our upcoming offer of play therapy and have also helped out in resourcing both EYFS and KS1. You are amazing!

Finally, due to some recent changes at the Local Authority and feedback from families, we are actively looking into changing our provider for school communications and pay systems. We are looking at a more integrated approach which will hopefully mean there will be less places to log into and communication will become even better. I have been promised the process will be 'smooth' (we will see) but please bear with us, more information will come to you in due course.

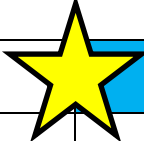

Thank you all so much for your support, I feel very lucky to be part of such an incredible community and we cannot do what we do without you – thank you all so much 😊.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Cope', located below the main body of text.

Mr. Cope

## Maths and English Superstars

A huge congratulations to our Maths and Writing Superstars for the month – keep up the good work 😊.

 Class	 Maths Superstars	 Writing Superstars
Mrs Reed	Arlo Patterson	Aadarshini Pradhan
Mrs Wood	Noah Keenan	Jake Timson
Miss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Amelia Masterman	Emily Collacott
Miss Parr	Jaxson Carthy	Josie Mossom
Miss Wakelin	Rueben Hunter	Rafferty Mullins
Ms Gardiner	Edward Harding	Elodie Handley
Mrs Read/Miss Holness	Lily Brooks	Therese-Isabelle Buenafe
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	Frank Whalley	Parker Horsgood
Mr Francis	Rebecca Martin	Noah West
Miss Hadley	Lincoln Hughes	Eva Spackman
Miss Megrath	Tommy Moore	Lewis Hancock
Miss Bess	Alyssia Murphy	Hannah Robson
Mr Taylor	Alanna McFadden	Gracie Archer
Mrs Panesar	Evelyn Murphy	Emmie Adu-Gyamfi
Mr Stevens	Darcey Passingham	Jessica Brown
Mr Saunders	Tyler Holloway	Honey Bishop

## Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics

The young boys and girls (below) took part in a local primary schools' Indoor Athletics competitions against 13 other schools on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January – 26 schools in total!

The event took place at Bracknell Leisure Centre sports hall where the children had to compete in a variety of different events, such as: sprints, hurdles, relays, javelin, chest push, speed bounce, long jump, triple jump and vertical jump.

With the young boys and girls demonstrating outstanding determination and sportsmanship, they finished in an incredible 6<sup>th</sup> position, out of 26 schools. This meant that the team qualified for the finals!



A MASSIVE well done to you all for representing our school and flying the Owlsmoor flag high!

## Nursery – People who help us

During January, we have been learning about People Who Help Us. The Puffins have really enjoyed looking at the different occupations and role playing some of their favourites.

We started by looking at the Emergency Services and were really lucky to have a visit from Mr Roberts, who is a fire fighter for the local Fire Brigade. The children sat and listened really well as he explained his job and showed the children the different parts of his uniform. Some of the children even got to try on the helmet. We were also lucky enough to see a fire engine when it popped in for a quick visit.



During this topic, we have also looked at the Police Service and Doctors. The Puffins have had great fun pretending to be police officers, doctors, nurses and dentists. We have made our own x-rays of our hands using paint and used the dolls and teddies as patients. The Puffins have also enjoyed sharing their own experiences and showing off how great they would be in each of these occupations. We definitely have some very caring doctors and nurses in the making!





## Numbers

This term, we have also been looking at our numbers 1 to 5 in more depth. We have been learning how to count out the correct number, what the numeral looks like and the different ways we can make up a number. We have also been learning rhymes to help us try to write our numbers.



We have had such a fantastic start to the year and can't wait to have even more fun!

## A little plea

A voluntary contribution of 50p per week would be gratefully received, this helps towards purchasing essential items for the children, such as cookery ingredients, food tasting, messy play etc. We all know how much Miss Grant loves her messy play! A pot can be found on the lunch box trolley before and after school.

Also, we seem to be going through a lot of tissues in the Unit due to all the coughs and colds going around at the moment. If you are able to do so, we would really appreciate boxes of tissues. Thank you so much.

Miss Grant and the Team

## Reception

**'Brush your teeth, brush your teeth, give them all a clean.....'**

We started this term learning about **Oral Hygiene** – We learnt all about looking after our teeth and what happens when we go for a visit to the dentist.



**Freezing and melting** – We explored the changes that occur when transitioning from Autumn to Winter. We used ice cubes to paint, wrote our names in the frost and had to rescue some of our toys from being frozen in the ice! The children enjoyed making hot chocolate for each other in the role play area and experimenting with freezing and melting.





### Traditional tales – ‘Run, Run, as fast as you can, you can’t catch me, I’m the Gingerbread Man!’

This half term we have enjoyed learning all about traditional tales. We looked specifically at ‘The Gingerbread Man’ and compared it to a modern version called ‘The Gingerbread Cowboy’. The children enjoyed exploring baking Gingerbread men using playdough, buttons and rolling pins. They then decorated them and baked them on a tray in the oven, ready to sell in ‘The Gingerbread Café.’



**This week we are learning about The Lunar/Chinese New Year** – The children are going to have great fun learning all about the ‘Year of the Dragon.’ We will be doing a lot of Dragon/Chinese crafts and activities to celebrate; the children will also try to write ‘Happy New Year’ in Cantonese – ‘Kung Hei Fat Choy’ The children will be answering the register by saying hello in Chinese - ‘Ni Hao’! At the end of next week we will have a go at tasting Chinese food. The children will attempt to use chopsticks to eat sweet and sour chicken, prawn crackers and rice. Please could each child contribute £1 towards the food tasting. Thank you.

We seem to be going through a lot of tissues in the Unit due to coughs and colds. Please may we request boxes of tissues. Thank you so much.

**Year R team**

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## Year 1

What a busy month!

At the start of the month and linked to our unit of 'Toys in the Attic', the children experienced a 'Punch & Judy' puppet show which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children were really involved with the show, shouting back, clapping and cheering along!



Year 1 have also been working really hard this term developing and writing stories. They used a traditional tale as inspiration and we had some amazing characters, settings and final stories written – well done year 1!

In our outdoor area, the children have been exploring the seasons. The children got a shock when they discovered some of the toys had been frozen but equally had a wonderful time chiselling away to set them free.



As the seasons begin to change, and to tie in with the RSPB's bird watch, the children have been doing some bird watching. They have been recording the different birds seen in our outside area as well as making a bird hide and bird feeders to hang in our small tree. We hope, as the winter turns into spring, that we will see an increasing variety of birds in our school.



A friendly reminder, please can you ensure that your child wears the correct clothing on PE days (Wednesday and Thursday). Please see the school website for further clarification on this.

Thank you for your ongoing support this half term – Year 1 Team

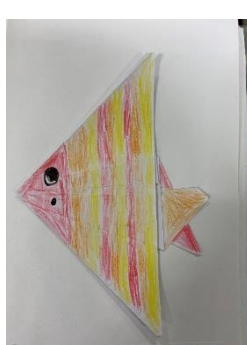
## Year 2

And then there were .....dragons!

What an exciting start to the New Year. The children have really enjoyed our new topic 'If I were a dragon..' linked to our study of Japan. We started the unit of work by creating some amazing dragon's eggs using mod-rock and balloons. Then we designed our own 'personal dragons' using the book 'Tell Me A Dragon' for inspiration.

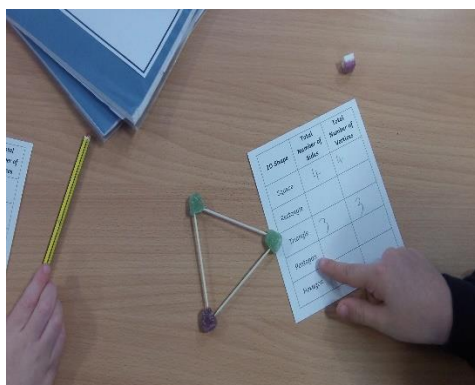


The children have written some wonderful dragon stories and poems as a result.



We have also had enormous fun studying Japanese art, learning how to draw Pokémon and experimenting with origami. We have been amazed how popular this was as one of our homework tasks and we have seen everything from origami fish to jumping frogs!

The children have also been experimenting with money totals in our 'gift shops' and investigating shapes using jelly tots and cocktail sticks.



In PE we have been learning dragon dances and are now moving on to learning animal dances linked our study of Japanese animals – so expect to see some mischievous macaques dancing around your living rooms!



We will be rounding off our unit of work by having a Japanese culture week – listening to Japanese music, playing Pokémon, drawing cartoons and tasting Japanese food!

Please do keep sending in your children's amazing homework and remember to read every day – as every time your child reads they can add a marble to the jar and increase their play time in school.

## Year 3

### Stone Age Day!

Year 3 had a busy and exciting day taking part in our Stone Age Workshop! The day began with our visitor, Ug, communicating to the children in the way that people would have communicated back in Stone Age times – through grunts and gestures! As the day went on, the children had the opportunity to craft Stone Age weapons using sticks, twine and flint and to try their hand at archery, aiming to secure themselves and their tribe some food to eat! They also handled a broad range of Stone Age artefacts, exploring what they might have been used for. The children also produced some beautiful cave art! It was a day packed full of hands-on experiences which really helped the children understand what life would have been like in the Stone Age!



The children have also written their own stories based on the book *Stone Age Boy*, twisting the tale to describe the adventures a Stone Age child would have if they fell down a hole and ended up in modern times! In science, we have been experimenting with different types of rock and classifying them according to their properties. We have also looked into how fossils are formed!

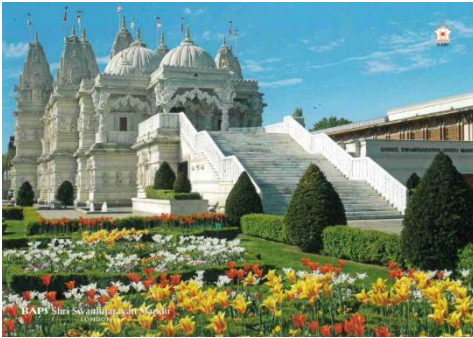






Please can we remind parents that if your child likes to have a snack at breaktime, this snack should be fruit or vegetables only. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

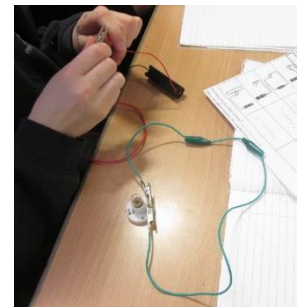
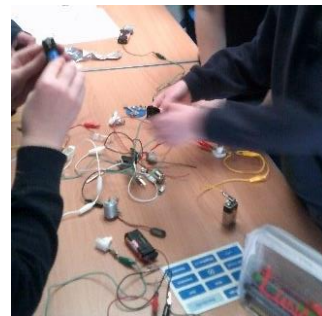
## Year 4 visited the Mandir



We loved the visit to the Mandir. We were able to explore the prayer room and see all the deities, we spotted Rama and Sita and King Hanuman. We saw the majestic dome that has been carved out of marble from Italy and we listen to our guide and a presentation about the building. It sure was the 'First of it's kind.'

## Science

In science, we have been experimenting with creating different circuits to find out how to light up bulbs and make buzzers go off! We worked very hard at creating our circuits, swapping and changing out different elements of the circuit until we got the lights and buzzers to work.



Thank you for continuing to support your children by hearing them read at least 4 times each week. Don't forget that all children have a log in for the Times Tables Rockstars website/app which is perfect for getting in some extra times tables practice as often as possible. Times tables knowledge forms the basis of so much of the work we do in maths, so improving their rapid recall of their times tables really helps.

The Year 4 Team

## Year 5



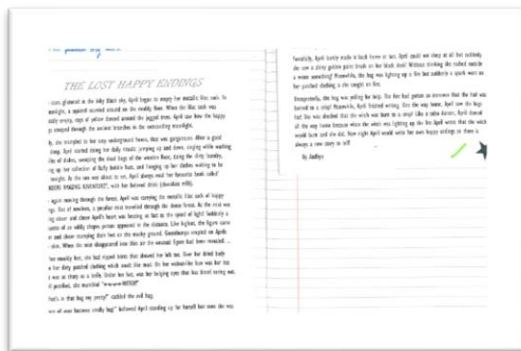
The children have been super busy this January and we are pleased to see that they are putting their best effort into their work.

In their recent science lessons, children explored how to separate various mixtures, such as sand and water, as well as rice and paperclips and a salt water solution.

They further examined reversible and irreversible changes. Furthermore, the children had the opportunity to study thermal insulators, deepening their understanding of these scientific concepts through fun hands-on learning.



In English, children embarked on an imaginative journey inspired by the story of Lost Happy Endings. They wrote alternative narratives and we are thrilled by their efforts. The stories written by our budding authors were not only engaging but also demonstrated a commendable level of hard work.



Y5 had a special visit from Crowthorne Fire Station firefighters. The children learned about fire safety, tried on their fire safety equipment and had an opportunity to explore a real fire engine!



Congratulations to Kiwis Class for delivering an outstanding class assembly! The assembly was both informative and entertaining, showcasing the children's' talents and learning so far. We've definitely got some budding actors. Well done to all of them!

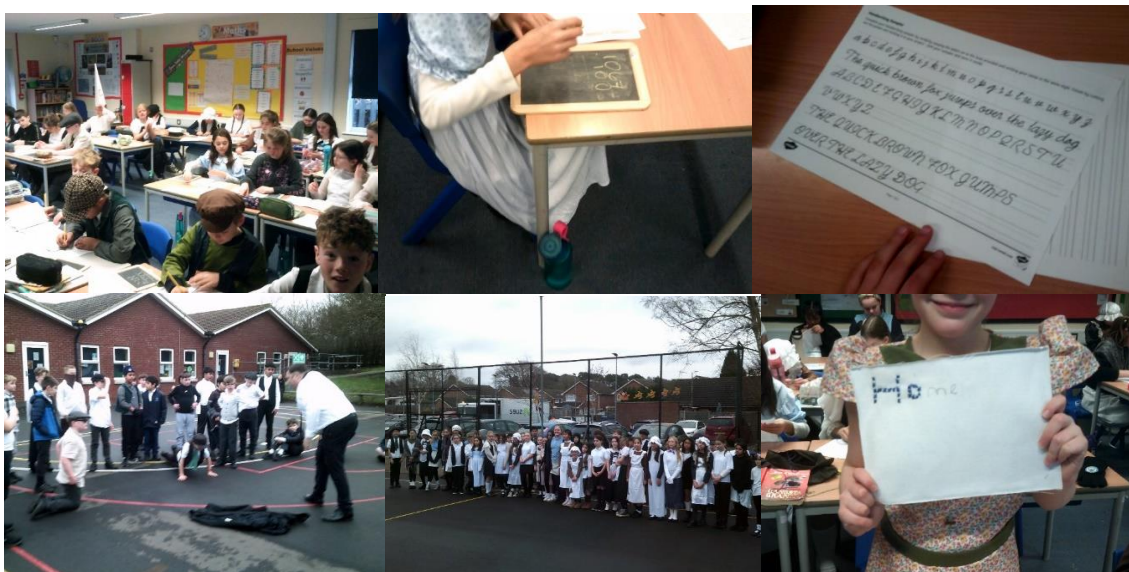
Thank you for your continued support with reading and homework. We have already had a look at some excellent pieces of homework and we are looking forward to seeing the rest of your work. Well done!

The Year 5 team



## Year 6 – Victorian Day

An action packed half term in Year 6 with plenty of activities and fun events taking place!



Firstly, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, Year 6 took part in a Victorian Day as part of our curriculum studies. The children had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of a Victorian child, whilst also dressing up for the occasion! In what was a fantastic and enjoyable day, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I'm not sure they would have enjoyed being at school during the Victorian times!

## Youth First Aid



As part of our curriculum promises, the children took part in a Youth First Aid course, held by The British Red Cross. The children learnt a variety of skills in a very practical morning such as: the recovery position, burns, choking, cuts, strokes and heart attacks. We are hoping that none of these first aid skills will be needed on the residential however, at least they now know what to do in an emergency!

## Success in Year 6!

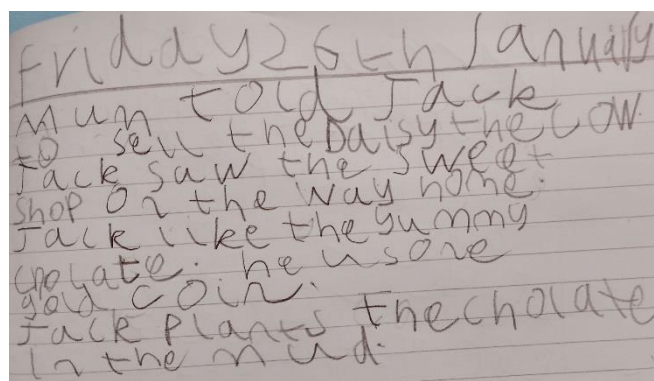


Lara, Kiarash, Harlee and Eduard represented Owlsmoor Primary School at a Maths challenge event hosted by Eagle House school. With over 70 other schools taking part, the children not only showcased their amazing Maths knowledge (taking part in games such as: finding the values, countdown, problem solving, etc) they worked brilliantly as partners and never gave up when the questions became challenging. Well done on an amazing achievement!

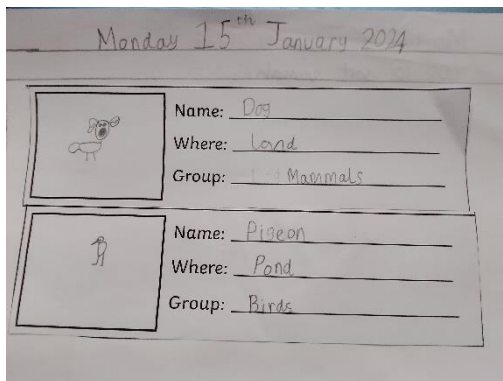
As well as the Maths Challenge, MASSIVE congratulations to Amelia. E and Lilly. H for almost making it into the Top 50 in the BBC 500 words story writing competition – they got through to the last round of judging that decides the top 50. Well done girls, fantastic achievement! Finally, well done to our Athletics team for reaching the Indoor Athletics finals out of 26 possible schools.

### Kingfishers and Wrens

Kingfishers and Wrens have been reading traditional tales starting with Jack and the Beanstalk and the Jelly Beanstalk! We have been making our own endings using a story plan and came up with some lovely stories.



In science we have been learning about where animals live.





## Foodbank in Owlsmoor and Sandhurst

Contact our FSA's to obtain a voucher- [fsa@owlsmoorprimary.com](mailto:fsa@owlsmoorprimary.com).

Owlsmoor Community Centre  
Mondays 1-2pm

Sandhurst Baptist Church Hall  
Thursdays 1-2pm



### KEY DATES

W/C 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Science Week
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Family Forum 18:00 – 20:00
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Non-Uniform Day £1 Donation Please
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Break for Half Term at 3:15pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	PTA Comedy Night Adults Only – School Hall
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Chaffinches Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	PTA School Disco (Reception – Year 6)
W/C 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Book Week
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Dress Up as Characters for WBD
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Nursery and Reception – Spring Celebration 9:15am in the School Hall – Everyone Welcome
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 5 to Woking Theatre
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Red Nose day (more details to follow)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	World Poetry Day
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Flamingos Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Parents Consultations (Remote) (more details to follow)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	PTA Break the Rules Day (more details to follow)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	School Finishes at 2:00pm for Easter Holidays
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Children return to school at 8:45am
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2024-Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Year 5 Bikeability (more details to follow)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	PTA Non-Uniform Day £1 Donation Please
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Toucans Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Woodpeckers Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 1 to Windsor Castle
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 5 to Maxwell Zoo
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 4 Sleepover at Winchester Science Centre Leave 5pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Emus Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 2 to Winchester Science Centre
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	PTA Break the Rules Day (more details to follow)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024	Year 4 to Ufton Court
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 6 Residential to Bushcraft
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Time TBC)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Nursery Sport Day (Time TBC)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	KS2 Sports Day (Time TBC)

### REMAINING INSET DAYS - 2023 – 2024

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

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# **SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 2024 – 2025**

## **Autumn Term 2024**

**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**

Pupils Start on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

October Half Term - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Pupils start on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Autumn Term ends on – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 2.00pm

Christmas holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

## **Spring Term 2025**

**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Pupils start on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

February Half Term – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Pupils start on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Spring Term ends on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 2.00pm

Spring holiday: Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025

Good Friday: 18 April 2025, Easter Monday 21 April 2025

## **Summer Term 2025**

**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

Pupils start on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

May holiday: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**

Pupils start on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

Summer Term ends on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at 2pm.



in2sport

in2care

# Tour Of Africa

## Holiday Camp

12th - 16th February 2024

Hammond Junior School, Lightwater

Holy Trinity School, Woking

Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst

Priory School, Slough

Upton House School, Windsor

Whitegrove Primary School, Bracknell

[in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk](https://in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk)

[in2care.magicbooking.co.uk](https://in2care.magicbooking.co.uk)

9am - 3pm from £22  
8am - 5pm from £28

\*Prices vary from site to site

Some Themed Crafts & Sports  
examples to get excited about!

Football  
Tournament

Desert  
Shoebox  
Scenes

Chess

Pyramid  
Craft

Volleyball

Djembe  
Drums

[camps@in-2-group.co.uk](mailto:camps@in-2-group.co.uk)

in **2** sport in **2** care

# Tour Of Africa Holiday Camp

12th - 16th February 2024

20% off -  
**Tour20**

Expires Friday 19th  
January

10% off -  
**AFRICA10**

Expires Wednesday  
31st January

[camps@in-2-group.co.uk](mailto:camps@in-2-group.co.uk)

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# Online relationship support for parents



Parents in this area can now access **THREE ONLINE COURSES** from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.



FOR  
ALL  
PARENTS

## Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.



FOR  
NEW  
PARENTS

## Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.



FOR  
SEPARATING  
PARENTS

## Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all **FREE** to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:  
[www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents](http://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents)

