



Headteachers update

Dear Families,

I can't believe how quickly the time is going, only two weeks until half term and HEART Christmas is even on the radio 😊. Your children continue to thrive really putting our Values at the forefront of everything they do. One of our aims this year is to embed our values further by encouraging our children and community to use the words in everyday conversation – **Respect, Kind, Inclusive, Determined and Safe** – see if you can do the same 😊. Even try and surprise your children by knowing them better than they do... although the children are VERY good!

Yesterday was Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5's Harvest Festival. Thank you so much for coming to watch and support your children. It is amazing to see how much they have all grown, even in 12 months. The children projected themselves beautifully and the songs and poems that were shared were brilliant. It was truly a memorable celebration.

Our new House Captains and Vice House Captains have been elected for 2023 – 2024. The team which consists of **Izzy Read, Alexis Bradley, Kiarash Bashokooh and Eliza Lee** as our Captains and **Joshua Novelle, Hannah Robson, Maisie Pocock and Charlie Taylor Haynes** as our Vice Captains. The children had to prepare speeches, campaigns and then were voted for by their peers. The team have already started about their duties and have really stepped into their roles with maturity and a real sense of purpose! Keep an eye out for some of the events the House teams have planned for this year, they are promising some big things 😊.

School Councillors have also been elected for this year as have our Playground Pals and Play Leaders. The children are all very excited about their new roles. The children play such a HUGE part in the growing the school, their voice is very important to us. The children love the responsibilities they are given and really do form an integral part of the school community.

Our wonderful new crossing is having a really positive effect and the council have kindly installed a new set of railings for us! There will be some works on the nursery gate next week and I will send out some communications shortly as there may be a little disruption to drop off and pick up (11th and 12th October). Please can you refrain from parking in the **NO** parking zone or where there are double yellow lines. The new **RED** part of the road needs to be kept clear for the safety of our families. I have had to speak to several parents already but we will continue to be asking parents to move their cars because it simply isn't safe.

Finally, we have our first 'Parent Consultation' on **Wednesday 18th October**. The school will close as normal at 12:00pm and the meetings will be held via TEAMS. You will be able to book your appointments very soon. Any issues please pop and see your class teacher or a member of our admin team, as for some of you this will be your very first one 😊.

Thank you all so much for everything you do for your children and Owlsmoor Primary School. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be your Headteacher but we couldn't do what we do without all of your support.

Take care and be kind to each other.

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

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	James Barrington	Eva Freeman
Mrs Wood	Lacey Rance	Lottie Gilbert
Miss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Teddy Holland	Robbie Toporek
Miss Parr	Betty Cridge	Oliver McFadden
Miss Wakelin	Max Archer	Eilidh McLeish
Ms Gardiner	Henry Steel	Sara Sharma
Mrs Read/Miss Holness	Roman Gurung	Spencer Boddy
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	Brody Shaw	Izzy Horan
Mr Francis	Lewis Middleton	Ayla Straker
Miss Hadley	Joshua Dodd	Jamil Helvacioğlu
Miss Megrath	Kai Sparks	Dexter Jones
Miss Bess	Charlie Haynes-Taylor	Amber Nandra
Mr Taylor	Cheryl Cheuk Tang	Kyle Chigumba
Mrs Panesar	Lucas Rivers	Steven Turner
Mr Stevens	Jack Weavers	Ruby Gorton
Mr Saunders	Tyler Waite	Amelia Enriquez

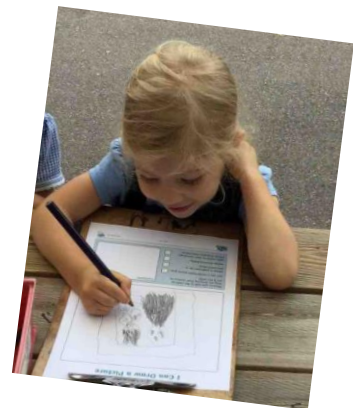
Nursery

The Puffins have settled in fantastically and we are super proud of them all. This half term our topic has been **All About Me**. We would like to thank you for the family photos that have been coming in, we have loved seeing them and the children have really enjoyed sharing and talking about them with us. It has been a great way for us to get to know the children.

We have been looking at different rooms in the house and the children have enjoyed using the role play areas to show us a great understanding of roles that are played at home. They have been preparing meals, laying the tables, cleaning up and looking after the baby dolls.



The Puffins have also been showing off their mark making skills and have been drawing and painting pictures of themselves and their families. They have used the mirrors to look at themselves and talk about their skin, hair and eye colour before having a go at painting their own portrait.



Puffins you have had a great start to the year and we are super excited to be sharing the first part of your learning journey with you.

small hands
CHANGE
the world

Miss Grant and the Team

RESPECT – KIND – INCLUSIVE – DETERMINED - SAFE

Emergency services.....



Reception have had such fun learning about 'People who help us' – On Thursday we were lucky enough to have both **police officers** and **paramedics** come in and talk to the Reception children about their roles. The children loved hearing all about how they help people and of course the **sirens** were a huge hit. They enjoyed seeing the police car and ambulance and all their equipment that they have to do their job. A huge thank you to them all.



The rest of the week we have looked at **Construction workers/builders** with our literacy link being 'The Three Little Pigs.' We have made stick puppets, mixed paint to make pink pigs taken turns to build walls using straw, sticks and blocks, roleplayed the story with masks and used lolly sticks to stack up to make houses. Which one do you think was the strongest?



Please can you help..... We would love for each child to plant a bulb in our garden outside linked to our science topic of growing and seasons. Please could each child bring in a packet of bulbs, tulips, daffodils, crocuses or any other bulb ***we*** could plant before half term break. ***A huge thank you in advance.***



Reception Team

Mrs Layton – Matthews, Mrs Lourens and Miss Watkins

Fabulous Farming.

Year one had an extra special treat this month when Miller's Ark Farm came to visit us. They children learned about what the animals eat, where they sleep, and where their own food comes from. They were extremely excited to be able to pet the different animals on the farm especially 'Samlamb' the sheep.



It was a pleasure to see how much they enjoyed the experience and we were very proud of their behaviour and the thoughtful questions they asked.



Harvest Festival Celebrations.

The children made us all extremely proud during their Harvest Festival celebration. They gave thanks with a delightful performance which had us all 'bopping along' in our seat. The children sang beautifully and it was amazing to see so many of you supporting them.



As we enter the autumn months, we are always grateful of tissue box donations. Please do make sure your child comes to school prepared for the changing weather, as we will continue with our outdoor learning.

Year 1 Team

Enchanted woods

Year 2 have had a great Autumn studying our topic 'The Enchanted wood'. The children have made their own mini fairy gardens and created characters who live in them to write stories about.

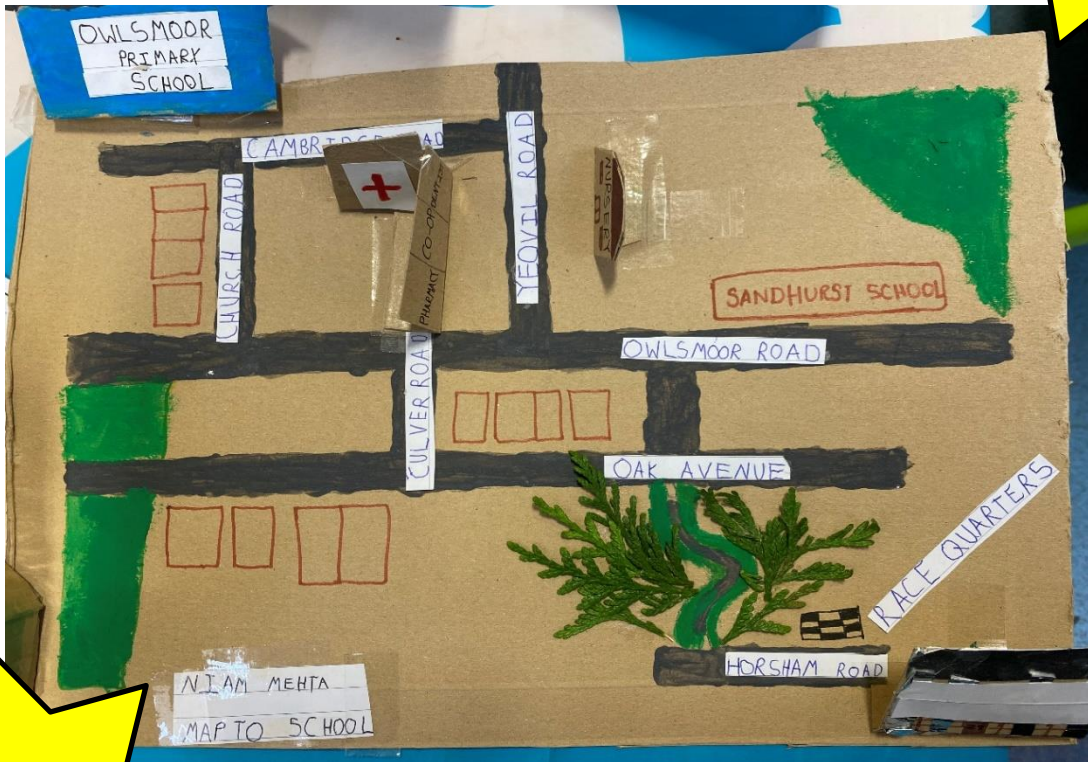


We had a very eventful week capturing woodlice and making mini woodland habitats to test which habitat the woodlice would prefer.



All eyes were on the trays at the back of the room to check that the woodlice didn't make a hasty get away before we wrote up our results! Thank you to those parents who helped find and send in **extra woodlice** with the willing support of your little helpers to bring our science to life.

We have been so impressed by the standard of homework that is starting to come in for our new homework 'bingo'. So far the children have been very enthusiastic about the change. We have seen some amazing home-made musical instruments and woodland art, and even a 3d map of a walk to school.

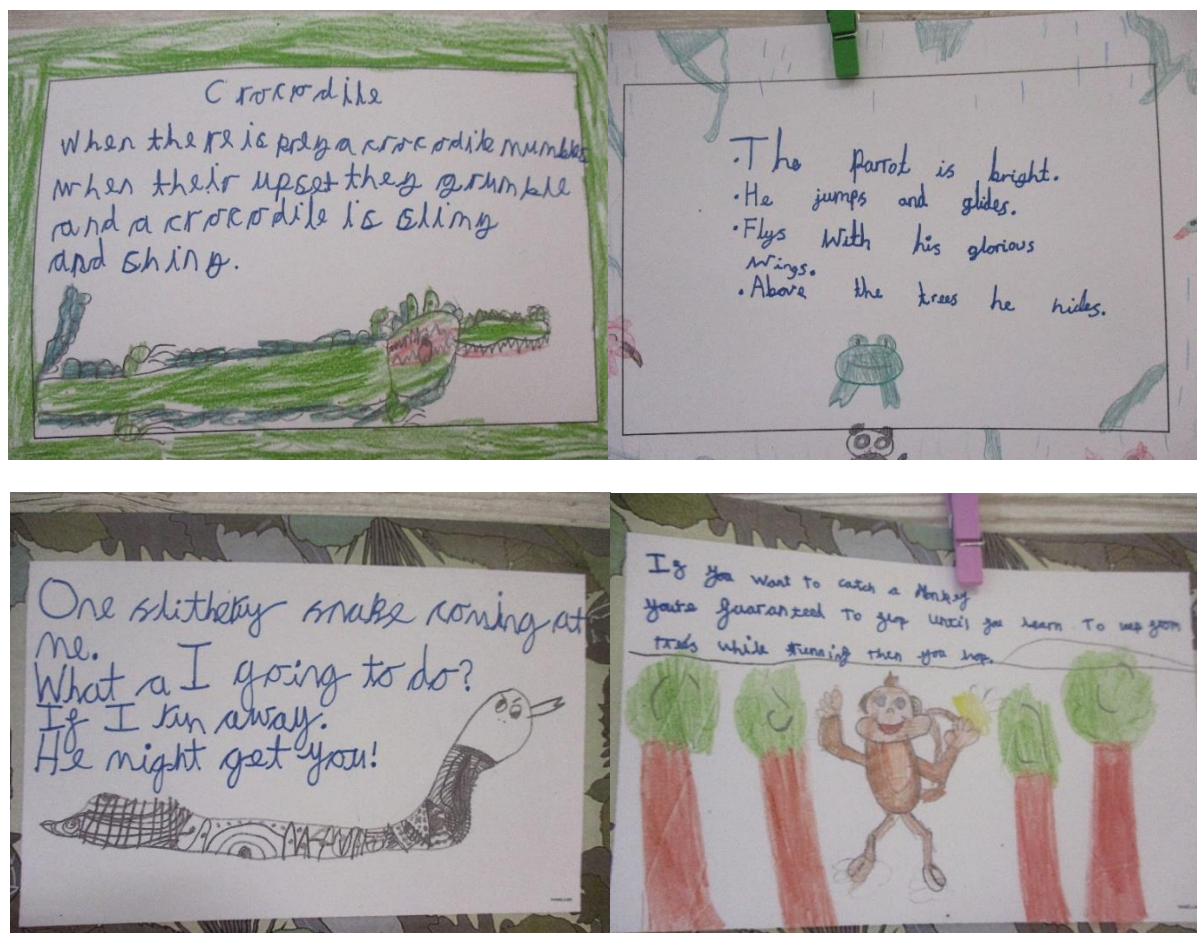




Well done children and to all the parents supporting them for their hard work. We really hope this new style of 'enjoyable homework' will continue to foster good habits in all of the children. Keep up the good work!

Year 3

It is hard to believe how quickly the first month back has flown by! We are enjoying our topic of rainforests and spent some time in English working on writing poems relating to rainforest animals.



In science, we have been experimenting to find the best growing conditions for plants. We planted five seeds in containers and kept them under different conditions. It was interesting to observe the different rates at which the plants grew (or, in some cases, didn't!). We are very much looking forward to our trip to Kew Gardens next week, where we will continue our studies of plants, particularly ones which grow in tropical climates.



Thank you to all the children who have already started completing tasks from their new homework book! We have enjoyed seeing some of the things you've produced already! As a reminder, the children are welcome to bring their homework books in on any Monday to show us what they have been working on. If they still have more tasks to complete, we will send it back home with them so that they can carry on. We would like all homework books returned to school **by Wednesday 18th October** so that we can look through what they have done and get their books set up for next half term's tasks. Please remember it is an expectation that children will read every day at home too. Any time they read should be recorded in their reading record. Thank you for your support with this.

Finally, we would like to ask for any donations of tissues you may be able to provide as we head further into coughs and sneezes season!

Year 3 Team

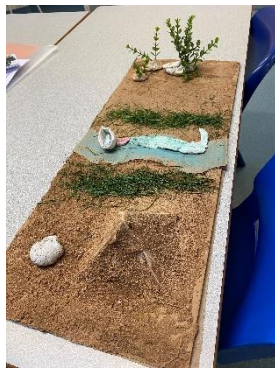
Year 4

We are so proud of the Year 4 Harvest Festival. Thank you to everyone who met us at the church to support our Year group and for all the behind the scenes practicing of the poems we presented.

PICTURE

We have had some lovely pieces of home learning returned to far, from well decorated shoe boxes, to lego masterpieces of Egypt and videos of gymnastic sequences.

We have created an assignment on TEAMS for any of those digital evidence of home learning that you would like to upload.



We will be swimming next half term - all details are available on our website on the 'Meet the team' PowerPoint. Please can you ensure that you return the swimming group letter by the 13th October.



We will be tasting and making bread over the next two weeks, please inform your class teacher of any allergies so that we can be aware of these.

Year 5

Our children have begun the year wonderfully; we couldn't be prouder. Congratulations to the children who were elected to be our School Councillors and to our Vice House Captains. Well done!

Communicating in Computing



The children have been diving deep into the world of communication, especially exploring methods people used to connect over vast distances before the invention of the telephone and internet.

Their journey began with the semaphore flag signalling system, where they not only constructed their own flags but also successfully decoded messages. Furthermore, we have introduced them to Morse code and they're currently mastering the art of encrypting and decrypting messages using the Caesar cipher.

In English, the children wrote captivating myths and crafted their own tales. Later in the week, they had the opportunity to read their myths to their peers.



Finally we'd like to extend our gratitude to both the children and their families for their commitment to the homework. We sincerely hope that this innovative approach to home work will further nurture positive habits in all the children.

Year 5 Team 😊

Year 6

Firstly, we would just like to say how amazingly the children have settled into life at school and year 6 – we still can't believe it has only been 4 weeks since we returned from the summer holidays!

Plenty has been happening in Year 6 since the return...

House Captains

Many of our amazing year 6 children put together a FANTASTIC persuasive speech in front of their houses, explaining why they should be the house captain. After showing bravery and courage, the votes were in and the house captains were (drum roll please...)

- Alexis Bradley
- Eliza Lee
- Izzie Read
- Kiarash Bashokooh

Congratulations to the four above; however, we just wanted to say a MASSIVE well done to everyone who showed bravery in reading out their speeches.

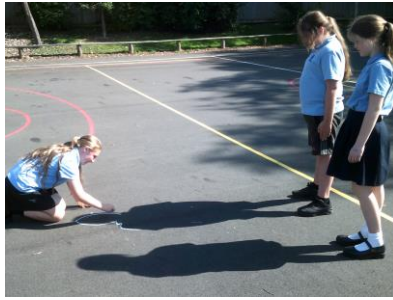
School Council

Another highlight in the month of September was the school council voting. Once again, many of our year 6 children spoke in front of their respective classes; however, there could only be two representatives in each class. Once the votes had been counted and our school council representatives are:

Darcey Passingham (Eagles), Oscar Dransfield (Eagles), Lilly Hughes (Kites), Amelia Enriquez (Kites)

As well as all the above, the children have been producing some fantastic pieces of work within the classroom. From science investigations (please see pictures below – based on light/shadows) to setting / character descriptions and plenty of sport (including trials for various teams). As well as working extremely hard on their maths skills – in particular long division and multiplication. Last but not least, the favourite so

far has been their work based on The Tudors and Henry VIII; we are very proud of the work produced so far.



Thank you all for your ongoing support and we look forward to speaking to you all at the parent consultations in a couple of weeks' time.

Kingfishers

We have had a lovely couple of weeks of learning in Kingfishers!

The children have really enjoyed reading Leaf Man. We went on an Autumn scavenger hunt and then used what we found to make our own 'Leaf Man'. We then wrote about where he would fly to.

Here are some of our photos of our 'Leaf Man'



In Maths, we have been partitioning numbers in to tens and ones and we have been learning our number bonds to 10 and 20.

The children are also learning about seasonal changes in Science. We are looking at the four seasons and what happens in each season.

We have enjoyed our music sessions, where we are learning new songs and we have had the chance to explore musical instruments.

Well done Kingfishers, you have worked really hard!

Wrens



We are all now back and all our new children have settled really well. We are now full and are enjoying lots of activities and some very messy ones! The children loved seeing Miller's Ark Farm – some even went a few times! They loved looking at the chickens and learning about the feathers.

School Council: Interview with Mr Jackson – parent governor

School council met with Mr Jackson in school to interview him about his role.

What do governors do and why do you want to be a governor?

Governors help make decisions and improve the school.

I want to make it better for my daughter, my son and the future children.

I'm very new to the role – I will be learning as I go to the meetings.

Are governors important to the school and if so, why?

Yes, governors are important and help improve the school and make it a better place for everyone.

Do you work as well as being a governor?

I work as Food and Beverage manager at the Castle Reef Golf Club.

Do you enjoy your job?

I very much like my job. I like people, I like golf and it is sunny at the moment so it is a bit nicer!

I really like meeting people then and making them happy. I like listening to them when they talk about their days.

I also organise parties and events for people and children. I like arranging children's parties with fun clowns and magicians.

Can you tell us about yourself? Do you have any activities or hobbies you enjoy?

I am married – my wife is a teacher. We have two children – a daughter in reception and a young son.

I have just moved to the area from Birmingham with my job. I like the area very much.

I have two cats named Arthur and Harley - cats are my dream pets.

One of my hobbies is football - I enjoy it very much.

I take Thursdays off to spend time with our young son and I really enjoy taking him to farms – cows are his favourite animal. I enjoy going to trampoline parks with my daughter and son.

I like spending time with family and meeting up with them.

Thank you to Mr Jackson – it was lovely to meet you and find out about you and why you wanted to be a governor at our school.

Report by Phoebe, Jessica, Camden and Leo, year 4.

BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition

As a way of promoting children's choice in writing, I would like to invite all KS2 children to consider entering the BBC 500 words competition this year. The dates are a little earlier than before and so it actually launched last Wednesday but there is still plenty of time to get stories written and entered. I have spoken to the children in KS2 in assembly to outline what it entails, but full details are on the following link.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/about-500-words/zctk7v4>

This link shows everything that they would need to know – entries have to be in by Friday 10th November and I am happy to read any stories that your child/ren write before they send them in. I can send the stories in for them too if you would prefer as there could be a lot of entries from Owlsmoor and that would be amazing. I am also looking to offer writing "clinics" at lunchtimes in the Computer Suite where children can have a chance to type up their stories and ask questions about their work.

There is a live lesson that launched it – about 30 mins long that you might be show your child/ren. There are great tips from 3 very successful authors in it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/500-words-2023-live-lesson/zwp6fdm>

Or maybe listen to some previous stories to inspire you.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/KNWskPrg7stQ54tTbcf6P7/500-words-the-stories>

It would be great to see as many entries as possible from our KS2 children. Obviously, it is NOT compulsory, but I'm really looking forward to seeing any stories that the children write and, who knows, we might have a winner within our midst!

Many thanks

Mr. Saunders (Y6 teacher and KS2 writing lead)

Blue Peter Badge Winner

I was speaking to Elodie's Dad on the gate and he mentioned that Elodie had won a Blue Peter Badge. Elodie won her badge for her artistic talent but more importantly her support of endangered animals.

Elodie's family said: 'We're super proud of Elodie for not just designing and sending in a picture of a tiger but also because of the really important message of "Save Endangered Tigers" it had on it. She received her personal letter of congratulation from the Blue Peter team and they were so impressed with her picture they awarded her with her very special Blue Peter badge!'



Well done Elodie – what a star 😊

KEY DATES

Friday 6 th October	PTA – Comedy Night
Thursday 12 th October	Year 3 to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 18 th October	Parent Consultations (letter will be sent separately)
Friday 20 th October	PTA Non- Uniform Day £1 Donation
Friday 20 th October	School Ends at 3:15pm for Half Term
Monday 30 th October	Children Return to school
Tuesday 31 st October	Cardwell to do Siblings & Absentees from October 3rd
Friday 3 rd November	Flu Spray for Reception to Year 6 please book before 9am on the 2 nd November
Friday 10 th November	Remembrance Assembly
Saturday 11 th November	PTA – Fireworks
Tuesday 14 th November	Height and Weight Measurements for Year 6
Friday 17 th November	Child in Need (more details to follow)
Friday 17 th November	Year 5 Ancient Greeks workshops
Monday 20 th November	Year 4 Swimming Starts for 2 weeks
Wednesday 22 nd November	Nuthatches Class Assembly at 9am
Wednesday 22 nd November	Family Forum 18:00 – 20:00 All welcome ☺
Friday 24 th November	Ostriches Class Assembly at 9am
Friday 24 th November	PTA Neon Disco (More details to follow)
Friday 1 st December	Nursery Nativity at St George's Church (Time TBC)
Thursday 7 th December	Year 2 Nativity at St George's Church (Time TBC)
Friday 8 th December	Reception Nativity in School Hall (Time TBC)
Friday 8 th December	Year 4 Egyptian Workshop
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Lunch for the Children
Friday 15 th December	Rudolph Rave 9am
Friday 15 th December	Kingfishers and Wrens to the Panto
Friday 15 th December	School Finishes at 2:00pm for Christmas Holidays
Monday 1 st July 2024	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Time TBC)
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Nursery Sport Day (Time TBC)
Friday 5 th July 2024	KS2 Sports Day (Time TBC)

REMAINING INSET DAYS - 2023 - 2024

Tuesday 2nd January
 Monday 3rd June
 Monday 22nd July
 Tuesday 23rd July

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Pupils Start on Wednesday 4th September 2024

October Half Term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 4th November 2024

Pupils start on Tuesday 5th November 2024

Autumn Term ends on – Friday 20th December 2024 at 2.00pm

(Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025)

Spring Term 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 6th January 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 7th January 2025

February Half Term – Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Pupils start on Monday 24th February 2025

Spring Term ends on Friday 4th 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 22nd April 2025

Pupils start on Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 5th May 2025

(May holiday: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025)

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 2nd June 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Summer Term ends on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 2pm.



RESPECT – KIND – INCLUSIVE – DETERMINED - SAFE



We're now LIVE!

Follow us on X (Twitter) to keep up to date with what we do at
Owlsmoor Primary School!

@OwlsmoorPrimary



A Halloween-themed poster for 'Spooky Camp Week'. The background is dark grey. At the top left is a green spiderweb with a small spider hanging from it. At the top right is a full moon with a black silhouette of a wolf howling at it. In the center, the text 'in2sport in2care' is written in green and orange. Below this, 'SPOOKY CAMP WEEK!' is written in large, orange, dripping letters. Underneath the title are three orange jack-o'-lanterns and a green, one-eyed monster with orange horns and arms. Below the illustrations, the dates 'MONDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 27TH' and 'OCTOBER 2023' are written in orange, dripping letters. In the center background is a large, faint grey silhouette of a ghost. At the bottom, there are two circular inset photos: the left one shows a girl with green and orange face paint and a green mustache, and the right one shows two boys playing a game on a grassy field. Below the photos, the times and prices '8AM-5PM £31' and '9AM-3PM £25' are written in green, dripping letters. At the very bottom, the school name 'Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst, GU47 0TA' and the booking website 'To book head to: in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk' are written in orange and green.

in2sport in2care

SPOOKY CAMP WEEK!

MONDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 27TH
OCTOBER 2023

8AM-5PM £31
9AM-3PM £25

Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst, GU47 0TA
To book head to: in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk

