

Summer Term – Newsletter 1



Headteachers update

Families

I hope you are all well and managed to spend some quality time over the recent break. I hope you received a copy of our OFSTED report – very proud 😊. The children have settled back in beautifully and are full of enthusiasm and energy. I love the Summer term, this is where the children suddenly showcase their readiness for the next stage of their learning journey.

Our transition program is changing slightly this year with the children having two days rather than the whole week (Wednesday 5th July and Thursday 6th July). We felt that the two days gives the children plenty of time to experience their new surroundings; spend time with their new teaching teams and for you as families to get your bearings of new pick up points and locations around the school. These days are also when our Year 6's will be attending their transition days at Secondary schools, which means space is at a premium in school and the children will all complete their transition experiences at the same time. Please don't underestimate the transition period for your children, some will be absolutely fine and take it in their stride others might find this tricky. Just be assured we will ensure a smooth experience for them all.

I am sad to say we will be losing a few key members of staff this half term, we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Lee, Mrs Blake and Mr. Booth. Mr. Booth is leaving us after almost 7 years, he is moving onto a new adventure in his life and taking on a school closer to where his wife is currently working. Mr. Booth will be a huge miss to Owlsmoor, especially to our children who love spending time with Mr. Booth at lunchtimes and sharing a fist pump here and there.

Mrs. Lee is also leaving us to take up a new challenge, she will be swapping Owlsmoor's nursery for working with young adults. Mrs. Lee, like Mr. Booth, has a huge heart and has provided extraordinary care and kindness to our youngest of children.

Finally, Mrs. Blake, who has only recently joined us but is saying 'Au Revoir' to spend more time with her family.

I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to our children here at Owlsmoor. Family must always come first and these decisions don't come lightly. I hope you will join me in saying a huge thank you to them all and wishing them the very best on their next part of their journey.

More recently we had our second family forum, thank you to those that attended, it was once again a very positive and constructive get together. We discussed a number of key items and once again the family's voices are being heard and more importantly acted upon. I can't encourage you enough to attend, it is very informal and a really great forum to find out more about Owlsmoor and to take an active part in the direction we are travelling – pop along next time if you can 😊.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you on two fronts. Firstly, a huge thank you to Becky and her team for putting on an incredible day at the Circus. It was so lovely to see so many faces throughout the day the weather was even on our side. I hope those that attended enjoyed it and we are looking forward to seeing how much the event raised for our children 😊.

Secondly, I would like to say a personal thank you to one of our Mum's, Lisa Martin. Lisa, since I have started at Owlsmoor has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to improve safety outside the front of our school. This has involved contacting council members, countless emails, letter drops and even contacting local residents. Well I am delighted to say that Lisa's determination has paid off 😊. The council have approved to install a new Zebra crossing at the front of the school. The news is incredible for both the school and the local community. We are currently ironing out a few minor details but we have been informed that the works will be carried out during the Summer holidays. I cannot thank Lisa enough for her efforts but from Owlsmoor and the community THANK YOU 😊.

Apologies for the slightly longer than usual update but there have been so many incredible things happening and positive changes it is always a pleasure and important to share them with you. Thank you all again for your incredible support, I could not be prouder to lead such an amazing school and your support makes it that little bit easier.

Take care, keep safe and be kind to each other.



Mr. Cope

Green Team

Green Team are again leading the way with reducing the amount of waste that our school sends to landfill. All types of pens are now collected at the school office for recycling. Our nearest drop-off point is Rymans in Camberley. If you are planning to go into Camberley at any time, we would be really grateful if you could take a turn at doing the 'drop-off'. (I have spoken to the manager there to confirm it is ok to arrive with a carrier bag's worth!)

As part of our Earth Day activities, each child in the school voted for an endangered animal to adopt through the World Wildlife Foundation. There were twelve to choose from and each of us carefully considered which animal we would like to support. Green Team are pleased to announce the winner was the turtle and he has been named Tiny - after a character used in our maths lessons. Our school are proud to be supporting the biodiversity of our precious planet in this way.



You will have noticed our small copse of one hundred and fifty saplings now planted on the field. The trees were specially chosen for the habitat and food sources they can provide for local wildlife – downy birch, elder, hazel and rowan. Thank you to all the children who helped to plant them.

Kingfishers



We have had a busy term in Kingfishers! Our year 5 children have loved taking part in Bikability – learning to follow the rules of the road, cycling around some local streets and learning how to be safe on a bike!

The children enjoyed this very much, earning their own badges!

The children have loved cooking sessions – courgette and savoury muffins – a great success!



They have also loved adapting stories and sharing them with their classmates. Some of the class also joined others from the school to take part in the Oakwood Youth challenge activities.



Reception have been preparing for the Coronation!

Welcome back after what we hope was a lovely Easter break for you and your children. The children have come back for the summer term eager to learn and have so enjoyed our topics of 'The Circus', 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'The Kings Coronation'.



We were so excited to learn about The Circus. We learnt how to juggle and ended the week making tickets to go to the circus and then watching 'Madagascar' while eating popcorn.

The children have been read the story 'Oliver's Vegetables' and have learnt about all the different vegetables Oliver tasted. They got to use their senses to investigate the vegetables, cut up vegetables to discover the inside of each one and on the final day they got to take potatoes, cut them up and make chips to taste.



The Reception children have loved using our newly refurbished school library and reading in the new 'Storytelling Chair' bought by the PTA.

We have had a fun week learning about the King in the build up to the coronation. We've read stories, built our own castles to live in and pretended to have our own coronation. The children enjoyed dressing up as the King, having a picnic to celebrate with our friends and writing about what we would do if we were the King or Queen for a day.



Make a difference day 2023

On 1st April, we held our first 'Make a Difference Day' and it was a huge success thanks to the amazing parents and carers that gave up their Saturday afternoon. We started with our sensory garden which had been had been neglected since 2022. Our pond had been filled with leaves, sunken into the ground at one end and was not pleasant! The garden was hugely overgrown and the whole area was not ideal for anyone to be in. On the first Saturday in the Easter holidays, we had lots of parents and carers who came ready to get to work! They all did an amazing job, and after 3 hours the difference was huge! We now have a beautiful herb garden, lovely area with plants, stepping stones and equipment for the children and a pond with fish! The garden is such a lovely place to be and has already been in much use since Easter. A huge 'THANK YOU' to all the parents and carers who gave up their time and really made a difference for our children!

Before....

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Afterwards.....



Thank you again to all who came.

Year 1 have already been very busy this half term.

We celebrated Earth Day on Friday 21st April. The children designed and made their own bug hotels whilst also spending time making bird feeders to go outside in their gardens. We had lots of fun talking about ways we can help make our Earth more eco-friendly with suggestions of walking to school and recycling.



We have also been learning about King Charles III and his upcoming coronation. The children were very excited to learn that the King's favourite dog is a Jack Russell and that the King is very environmentally minded – we bet he would have loved our Earth day ideas!! Along with lots of lovely activities planned for Friday 5th May, year 1 have made their own souvenir dishes which they will bring home as a keepsake of the coronation.



We are all very much looking forward to our trip to Windsor Castle on Thursday 25th May. If you are yet to return your paper permission slip, please can we ask you to do so ASAP, thank you.

Please could we ask that your child brings in an empty cereal box the week of the 8th May 2023 for another wonderful creation!

Wishing you a lovely long weekend,

Year 1 Team

Rights Respecting Schools

The RRS Champs will be holding a mufti-day on **Monday 22nd May**. This year we would like to help raise money for a village in Rwanda that is supported and visited by children at Sandhurst School. This is a really good community link for our school as we will be helping to support their 'Reaching Rwanda' project. The money raised on mufti day, the RRS Champs would like to go towards purchasing some livestock for a village in Rwanda. These livestock will then be delivered at the end of July, when Mrs Hunt and some children from Sandhurst School go out again. Mrs Hunt has agreed to deliver them to a village that they are working with on our behalf. We will update you with any further information and hopefully photos once they have been received.



OWLSMOOR take on Oakwood!

During March and April, some of our children were invited to go to Oakwood Youth Challenge – an outdoor adventure centre in Wokingham. We took eleven children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for 6 weekly sessions, taking part in a range of activities – team building, high ropes, crate stacking, bouldering, archery and the leap of faith!

The children worked together brilliantly, they all challenged themselves and improved their skills. They encouraged each other, held ropes, hands and equipment to support their friends, pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone and achieved a range of successes! It was wonderful to see their progress and they all thoroughly enjoyed it. An amazing experience.

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#TeamJenson

Attention Parents "Don't Think use Instinct" Our Perspective of Jenson's Recovery Journey has now launched on Amazon as of 31st March 2023

Since we have been part of Owlsmoor Primary School for the last eleven years. Jenson has spent five years regaining his strength from his brain tumour diagnosis back in 2017. There are days when you will see him in his walker, flying around the corner getting to his class or maybe looking tired after a long week at school. He loves to be part of school life. However, this was not an easy process to enable him to enjoy independence and learning at the same time. Our view Don't Think use Instinct, highlights the impact families face when one of their children faces a life changing diagnosis. Raising awareness of the symptoms, and how they can be easily missed, this could happen to someone or is happening to someone you know right now. Our mission as part of #TeamJenson, is to improve the quality of life of children and young adults that are managing physical barriers to learning and instil coping strategies to continue their development. This story gives a viewpoint from many directions not just from Jenson's but from us as parents. We hope to inspire others to change their perception of what they think of this condition as it is sadly increasing. Jenson is a true warrior; he is relentless and will stubbornly continue to work on himself. As he knows life can be fragile, and he wants to make the most of it, by dropping fear and stepping into courage. We hope to be able to arrange a time to speak within schools in the local area as this could help to save lives. In collaboration with The Brain Tumour Charity and The Children's Trust, rehabilitation has never been so important at this important time of life. If you would like to purchase a copy, please use the link below:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dont-Think-Use-instinct-recovery/dp/1913501906/>

Simply incredible!

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Year 4 have been busy!

We have been very busy since the last newsletter! Towards the end of last term, we were delighted to welcome parents and carers to the school hall to watch our Dragon Days production. We were extremely proud of all the hard work the children put in to learning their parts and all the songs. We hope you enjoyed watching the show as much as we did!



We also had the opportunity to meet the newly-hatched chicks before the Easter break and loved getting to hold them – some of the chicks felt so relaxed in Year 4's company that they even fell asleep in their hands!



In our first week back after Easter, we took part in activities to mark Earth Day. One of our favourite activities was making seed bombs, which we then scattered on the grassy areas outside the Year 4 classrooms. We are hoping that they will start to grow and flower between June and October, supporting the pollinators around the school grounds. We would really appreciate your help in keeping people off the grassy areas outside Flamingos and Hummingbirds classrooms (where we have spread the seed bombs) at drop off and pick up times to give them the best chance of survival.



Just a quick reminder that children should keep practising their times tables, which they can do through Times Tables Rock Stars or on the Maths Frame website.

(<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>).

Marble Mayhem

In March, we celebrated National Science Week with the theme 'Connections'. The children accepted the challenge of moving a marble from Early Years to Year 6, and back again, to 'connect' our school. The marble had to be moved using forces and was not allowed to be held by a human hand, or directly touch the floor. In Ostriches, the children made a huge marble run spanning the whole classroom. The marble was then caught in a pot, attached to a parachute and dropped out of the window. The children from Kiwis class were waiting to collect the marble and they used a pulley system to lift the marble through a window into their classroom. Once inside, they used magnetism to pull the marble in a small train along a wooden track all the way to the Year 6 classrooms. Needless to say, they achieved their goal in impressive style. If you have not yet seen the video of the event, please visit our school website. You will find the video in the 'About Us' section at the bottom of the drop-down menu – the sound track alone makes it worth it!! 😊



Wonderful Woodlice



We were very lucky to be visited by one of the science teachers from Sandhurst School in March. She ran workshops for the children linked to our science theme, 'Living Things'. The children were astonished when she unpacked her bag to reveal a container of hundreds of woodlice! They spent the session using woodlice choice chambers, designed to

demonstrate that damp is more important to woodlice than dark- they will accumulate in damp, bright places in preference to dark, dry places. The children learned that these simple reflex actions in animals help to increase their chances of survival.

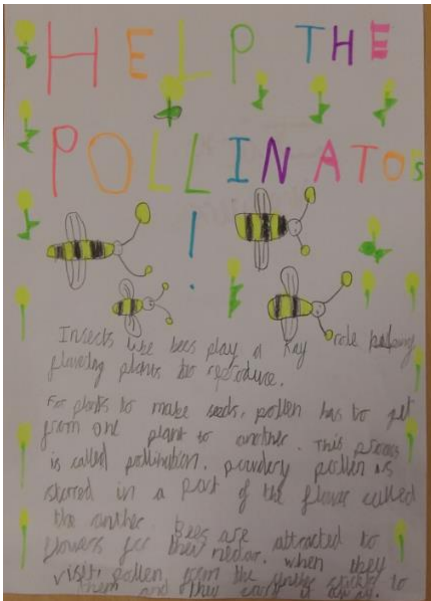


Poetry Performers



We had such fun celebrating World Poetry Day. The children worked very hard to learn a class poem as well as how to 'perform' it to others, using tone, volume, actions and expression. Kiwis class learned the poem, 'Poetry Pie' and Ostriches class learned, 'Gran Can You Rap?' We then performed our poems to the children and staff in Year 6 and Year 3. The children were amazing and 'performed' their socks off!

Planet Protectors



World Earth Day was held on 21st April and the children discussed the very important themes of recycling and reusing. They also learned about the crucial role that bees play in our survival, through the pollination of plants. We spent the afternoon enjoying fun, practical activities, including: scattering seeds onto grass verges to attract insects; planting seeds in planters made from unwanted items and making posters to display around the school. During break times and lunchtime, the children also used litter pickers to collect up any rubbish around the playground and field.



Super Cyclists

Over the last two weeks, the children have been brushing up their cycling skills with expert instructors from Avanti Cycling. All of the children who enrolled, had time to demonstrate their balance and coordination on the school playgrounds, and were shown how to maintain control of their bike with one hand while signalling with the other. Those children able to do the latter, were then taken in small groups to cycle around the roads in the local area. They had experience of cycling in traffic and were taught where to position their bike on the road when turning at junctions. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we hope this opportunity will have given them the confidence to cycle on our local roads independently in the future.

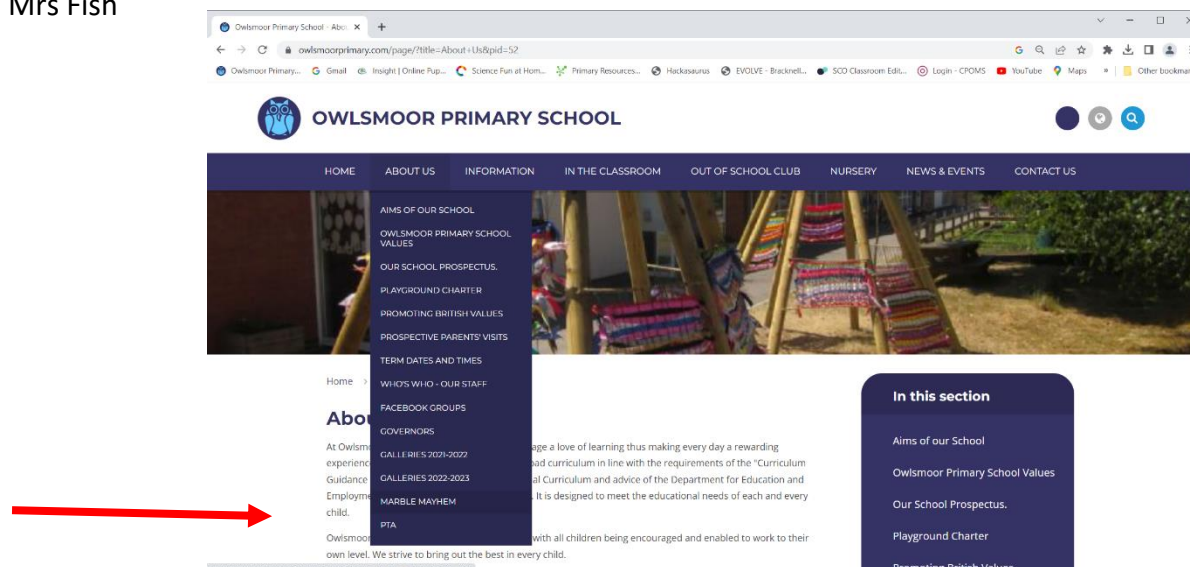
Science News

In March, we celebrated the national Science Week with the theme 'Connections'. The children were challenged to move a marble around the school from Early Years to Y6 and then back to Early Years to 'connect' our whole school using different forces. However, once its journey had begun, the marble could not be picked up by human hands and was not allowed to directly touch the floor at any point on its journey. As always, the children and teachers rose to the challenge and the mission was accomplished in spectacular style 😊

Huge thanks must be given to Mr Taylor for his film-making skills and the addition of the sound track. The complete video has now been loaded to the school website so you can enjoy watching the event with your children. From our Home Page, please select 'About Us' and then 'Marble Mayhem'.

We hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoyed completing the challenge.

Mrs Fish



Super Year 2

What a busy month we have had! Year 2 have been preparing for their SATs tests this month but we haven't let that stop us living up to our curriculum promise of growing something interesting to eat. So hot on the menu and almost ready to harvest ...SPRING ONIONS. Who knew that just a little water and sunshine can provide an **endless supply of fresh shoots**. All you need to do is chop off the green from a supermarket bunch and pop your spring onion bulbs in water in a sunny place. The children were very surprised to see our chopped off spring onions regrowing fresh green shoots. Though we haven't had quite as much success with the celery! We are also looking forward to the tasting session and to making sandwiches with our very fast growing cress.



The children's writing never ceases to impress us! This month we have been designing imaginary cities and creating leaflets to persuade one another to visit them. We have created some amazing leaflets about underwater cities, minecraft cities, cities in the sky, jungle cities and cities in orbit around the moon. They have proved to be incredible places to visit using some very unusual forms of transport and if you happen to visit one of these cities at home don't forget to ask about the amazing places to eat (there are some

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very unusual items on the menu). We are all looking forward to our school trip to Winchester Science centre next month. Please check your child's book bag if you haven't received a letter about the trip. Keep up the good work practising those maths and reading 'quizzes' we've been sending home for homework and if you have any questions just ask.

Nursery are growing up fast!

We can't believe we are already half way through this half term. Welcome to the new families that joined us after Easter, we are really pleased with how well the children have settled in already and picking up the routines.

This half term our theme is different places to visit. The children have enjoyed talking about their own experiences of the seaside. They have loved looking at the different creatures found in rock pools. They have also enjoyed talking about their favourite parks and what equipment they like to play on. They have carried out some great mark making drawing their own park designs.



This week our theme is the King's Coronation. The children have been learning facts about King Charles III and have liked creating their own crowns for his coronation. They have also really enjoyed playing with the small world castles and creating their own castles out of the wooden blocks.

Finally, could we please remind you to label all of your child's belongings, including water bottles, so that we can return them to the rightful owner. Also, if possible a voluntary contribution of 50p per week to help towards purchasing essential items for the children, such as cookery ingredients, food tasting, messy play etc. would be gratefully received.

Maths and Writing Superstars for March

A huge congratulations to our Maths and Writing Superstars for the month – keep up the good work 😊. Winners, you will also notice that this is the launch of our 'Brand New' certificates, keep them safe 😊.

Class	Maths Superstars	Writing Superstars
Miss Hadley	Archie Weston	Michael Osho
Mr Francis	Tommy Moore	Ethan Aldridge
Mrs Panesar	Jivan Ghattaoura	Alex Adams
Mrs Bruce / Mrs Plumtree	Cheuk Tung Chan	Steven Turner
Miss Megrath	Evelyn Murphy	Lydia North
Miss Barton	Mashumi Thapa	Darcey Passingham
Mrs Reed	Maxwell Sheppard	Izzy Read
Mrs Fish / Mrs Garrod	Clara Glover	Daisy Jones
Mrs Curran	Finley Gillett	Alexandra Manyuk
Mr Stevens	Jacob Curran	Vienna Stevens
Miss Bess	Sebastien Comley	J.L. Buenafe
Mr Taylor (Year 3)	x	Adam Toporek
Mr Taylor (Year 4)	x	Alicia Sutton

KEY DATES

Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday – Kings Coronation
Tuesday 9 th May – Friday 12 th May	Year 6 SATs
Thursday 18 th May	Woodpeckers Class Assembly 9:00
Friday 19 th May	Year 5 to Marwell Zoo
Friday 19 th May	Year 4 to Winchester Science Centre (Sleepover)
Thursday 25 th May	Year 1 to Windsor Castle
Friday 26 th May	Year 3 to Butser Farm
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	Half Term
Monday 5 th June	Inset Day
Tuesday 6 th June	Children Return to School
Wednesday 21 st June	Year 6 - 10p fair, after school 15:00 – 16:00
Thursday 22 nd June	Class Photos
Friday 23 rd June	Year 4 to Ufton Court

Friday 23rd June	Swans Class Assembly
Monday 26th June – Friday 30th June	Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 28th June	Millers Ark Farm to visit Nursery
Thursday 29th June	Year 2 Winchester Science Centre
Tuesday 4th July	Reception and KS1 Sports Day 9:00 – 11:30
Wednesday 5th July	Nursery Sports Day AM
Wednesday 5th July	Year 6 Transition to Secondary Owlsmoor Transition Day
Thursday 6th July	Year 6 Transition to Secondary Owlsmoor Transition Day
Friday 7th July	KS2 Sports Day Year 3 and 4 – 9:00 – 11:00 Year 5 and 6 – 11:15 – 13:15
Monday 10th July	Reserve KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 13th July	Year 3 Roman Day – more details to follow
Monday 17th July	Year 6 Production to parents 18:00 – 20:00 at Sandhurst
Tuesday 18th July	Year 6 Production to parents 18:00 – 20:00 at Sandhurst
Wednesday 19th July	Reserve Reception and KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 20th July	Year 6 Leavers 'Festival' and Presentation 16:30 – 19:00 – more information to follow
Friday 21st July	End of Term – Finish at 14:00



We're now LIVE!



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

@OwlsmoorPrimary

in sport
in care

WILDLIFE WEEK

TUES 30TH MAY - FRI 2ND JUNE

OWLSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL



8AM-5PM - £31*
9AM-3PM - £25*



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***DUE TO A SPECIAL ACTIVITY FRIDAY 2ND JUNE WILL HAVE A £5 INCREASE**

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