

# Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary School

Newsletter 1 - Autumn Term

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and families,

Welcome to our first newsletter of year 25/26. We hope you have had an excellent Summer. A particular welcome to families new to the school – we hope this will be the start of new friendships and great opportunities for your children.



We have had developments over the summer, including our new solar panels, designed and fitted by local renewable energy specialists UK Solar Generation. I am also glad to say that we have an orchestra starting again from next week. There are also a wide range of clubs on offer. Thanks to those parents who helped with site development recently, including setting up the new OPAL storage. I was also glad to hear that so many children took up the Oxford Opera opportunity in school this summer. Thanks also to the Friends who I know are already making great plans for this year.



*"We're delighted to support Dr Radcliffe's in their transition to renewable energy. Schools are at the heart of our communities, and projects like this not only cut emissions but inspire the next generation to think about energy differently."*

**Russell Lyne, Director of UK Solar Generation**

# Staff News

We welcome new staff also - Jo Rees, TA in Y4 and Y6; Paula Blaya, TA in Y1 and playworker at Night Owls, who has started today; Louise Coleman, playworker at Night Owls, and former pupil; Florin Simpson and Primrose Tustian, former pupils and now playworkers at Night Owls. We also welcome Jobe Read, sports coach, who will work in the school two afternoons a week, including running sports clubs.



We are delighted to have a full Reception class and are already leading individual tours for parents looking for a place for 2026/2027. We would be grateful if you could encourage your friends to consider an individual tour and/or visit to our Reception Open Morning on Tuesday, 11th November, from 9.30am

We have had a large number of children come from the Steeple Aston pre-school this year but it is likely to be fewer next year so any help you can give on publicising our school offer would be appreciated. Pupil numbers are a considerable challenge for all schools at the moment and we want Dr Radcliffe's pupils to thrive in a school full of children.



We hope to live out our Vision of children 'living life to the full' by providing as many opportunities as we can for their academic and extra-curricular development, including through our school Values 'Respect', 'Truth' and 'Kindness'. We will also be focusing on children's spiritual development this year, including across the curriculum [Spirituality in the Curriculum](#) - in our school, spirituality is defined as 'a concern with the human spirit and person beyond the material or physical'.

In short, it's the stuff that isn't about just about stuff. We spent last year working on our curriculum more widely and hope that the children will benefit from this in the years to come. As ever, curriculum forecasts for Term 1 are available at [Termly Curriculum Forecasts by Class | Dr Radcliffe's Church of England School](#)

All the best for 25/26!



Donations of non-perishable food items for the Harvest Festival this Friday will be very gratefully received!

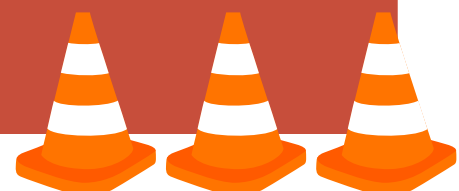
## Reminder → Flu Immunisations

A reminder please to complete the consent form via the link below for the Flu Vaccinations:

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Please note you will also need to complete this form to refuse the vaccine.

Please can we remind parents and carers not to park on the road by the school field, twice recently we have been unable to access the field to mow or perform other maintenance as the field gate has been blocked - thank you.



# OPAL Lunchtimes

by Mrs Goldsworthy

*Thank  
you*

Huge thanks to the parents who very kindly gave up their time on Saturday, 6th September, to prepare the ground and then construct our new OPAL shed. We have needed additional storage for a long time, so once we've got shelving and storage boxes in place, we will be able to source a wide range of new resources for the children to explore, create and construct with during their OPAL lunchtimes. Huge thanks to Russell, Richard, Leigh, Marco and Paul for giving up their very precious sunny weekend to do this.



## Sand Pit Development

After an initial order of 2 tonnes of sand and further fundraising last year from non-school uniform days and other events, we were able to order another 5 tonnes of sand. Some of the Opal Play Rangers' muscle has been utilised to move the sand into the tyres that have kindly been donated. There is still some sand left to move, which we will do in due course, and we are waiting for another donation of smaller tyres to use to create the boundary of the sand area. There are 4 salt bins of resources to support sand play, ready to be used once the remaining sand is in place. These have been bought using Sports Premium Funding.

## KS2 Cross Country

This week, KS2 were doing a Level 1 cross country competition in school. All the children ran brilliantly and gave it their all!

Some of the children have now been selected to run in the cross country event held each year against other primary school.

Good luck to those children!

Tracy Fane



## Church Services



October 5th -Holy Communion- North Aston 9.30am, Steeple Aston 11.00am, Tackley 5.30pm Harvest Festival & Auction

October 12th- Morning Prayer North Aston 9.30am, Family Worship Steeple Aston 11:00am Holy Communion, Tackley 5.30pm

October 19th- Holy Communion North Aston 9.30am, Steeple Aston 11.00am, Evensong -Tackley 5.30pm

October 26th - Morning Prayer North Aston 9:30am, Steeple Aston 11:00am, Family Communion - Tackley 9.30am

We were very lucky to have Jose come into KS2 classes to show and play his instruments. He even let some children have a try on the Trumpet and French horn.

It was great fun and some children are now inspired to start lessons. We can't wait to hear them play!

Tracy Fane



26th September - Harvest Festival - 11AM



3rd October - Friends Coffee Morning - 8.30 - 9.30AM

9th October - Flu Immunisations

10th October - School Photographs (Individual)

17th October - OPAL Non-Uniform Day

20th October - Parents Evening: 3.30 - 6PM

21st October - Parents Evening: 3.30 - 7PM

11th November - Reception Open Morning: 9.30 - 11AM

23rd October - Term ends

24th October - INSET Day

School Closed to  
Children





# Attendance and Lateness

We continue to expect good attendance for all students and acknowledge how important this is for their well-being as well as academic success. We have and are obliged to have high expectations for attendance and lateness.

Last year, our attendance rate was 95.1% with 10% (19 children) missing more than 10% of their time in school. We are working with ODST this year on the Five Foundations of Attendance in order to continue to work towards less school being missed. This is in line with statutory changes which came into place last academic year.

Our attendance rate to date this term is 96.7%.

We regularly track student attendance and make contact home where we have concerns. It is not only important learning and personal development that your child misses but also opportunities to be with their peers and build friendships.

We also ask that you continue to support us with good time keeping. Just being late 5 minutes per day equates to missing three school days over the academic year.

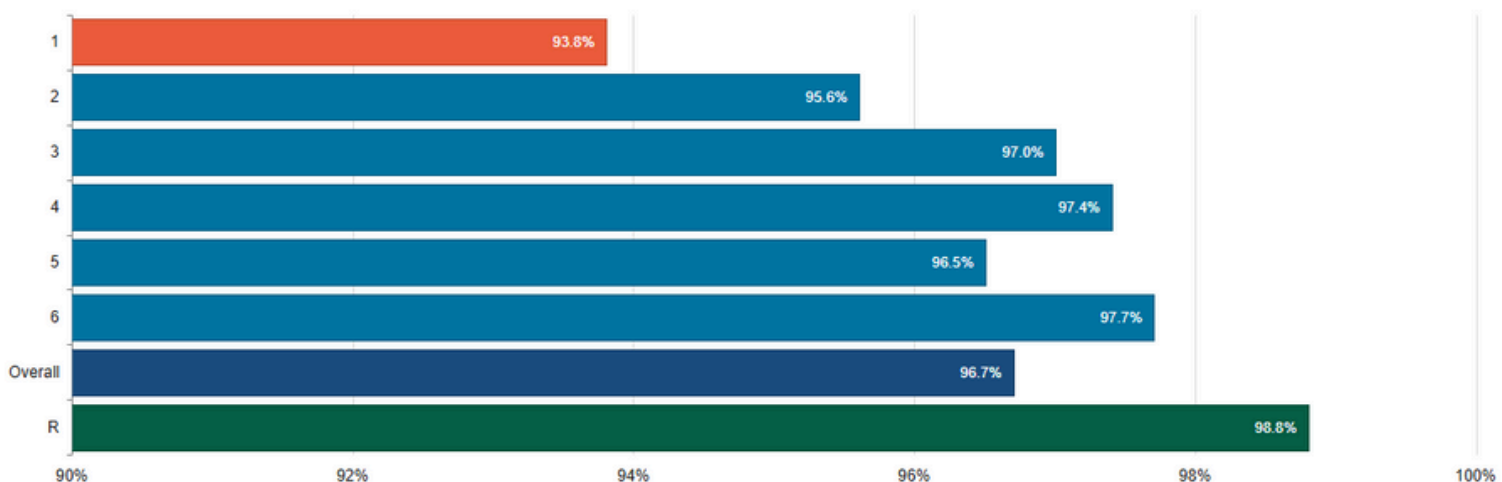
Being 30 minutes late per day equates to missing 19 school days over the academic year. Lateness has a considerable effect on the whole class who will have started working at the close of registration.

If you feel you need help with your child's attendance, please contact the office and we will be in touch to organise support.

Class attendance to date is as below. Well done to Reception – what a great start to your life in school.

Overall

Attendance



In August, Olivia, Frankee and three ponies headed down to the famous Hickstead in Sussex for the day representing Dr Radcliffe's. Olivia jumped Toby in the 40cm class achieving a fantastic clear round and finishing 54th. Frankee had one unlucky fence down in the 70cm on Rosie in a big class and jumped a brilliant, fast clear round in the 60cm on Cassie placing 5th.

Both girls had a round in the hobby horse jumping which was great fun! They were very lucky to be given a guided tour of the international arena too and got to stand on top of the famous Hickstead derby bank. These are great achievements and opportunities - we look forward to more children getting involved in the school equestrian team this year.



## Night Owls

If you are having a clear out, or have any of these items that your child has out-grown, Night Owls would be grateful for any of the following:

- Jigsaw puzzles and games for younger children.
- My Little Ponies, Barbie type dolls or dolls house.
- Play kitchen or shop.
- Construction and STEM type sets for older children such as Polydron or K'Nex

Thank you!



## Road Closure

There will be a road closure later this month, please [follow this link](#) for more information, and a map with details of diversions.





Louise's fundraiser for  
Katharine House  
Hospice - Banbury,

Cycling London to Paris

Please donate via this link  
if you would like to:

[https://www.justgiving.com/  
page/Louise-thompson-  
1730836442249?](https://www.justgiving.com/page/Louise-thompson-1730836442249?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015)

[utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_sourc  
e=CL&utm\\_campaign=015](https://www.justgiving.com/page/Louise-thompson-1730836442249?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015)

## Your School Nurse



School health nurses are specialist public health nurses who are based in state schools across Oxfordshire. We work closely with children, young people and their families to support and promote health and wellbeing. We often work alongside school safeguarding and multi-agency professionals to keep children and young people safe and well. Our team is made up of qualified nurses and school nurse assistants.

Our team can also work with children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability who attend the schools we cover.

There is a parent line and a text service that can be used.



# Stringbeans

## BICESTER

St Edburg's School  
Ludlow Road site  
Saturdays, 10:15 - 11:00



£7  
per  
session

Delivered by a qualified music and strings teacher, this class aims to develop a love of music for young children  
Suitable for 2-7 year olds

Fun, age-appropriate activities, including an introduction to:

Musical appreciation    Violin    Percussion instruments  
Use of balls and scarves    Notation    Puppets  
Pitch training    Parachute    Story songs



OXFORD  
Centre for Music  
Wednesdays, 14:00 - 14:45

## THAME

Thame Library  
Thursdays, 16:05 - 16:50



Sign up by scanning the QR code or visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest)  
Contact Lisa for more information or to reserve a free trial space:  
[elizabeth.callejopaterson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.callejopaterson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



WITNEY  
Witney Methodist Church  
Mondays, 16:00 - 16:45



Supported using public funding by



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# Bicester Music Centre

St Edburg's Primary School (Ludlow Road site)  
9:00 - 11:30, Saturday mornings during term time

Only  
£8.20  
per session

Would you like to...

### JOIN AN ORCHESTRA?

Bicester Junior Orchestra is suitable for primary and secondary aged musicians who are already learning an instrument.

### LEARN A NEW INSTRUMENT?

Our Super Strings and Wonderful Winds classes are perfect for complete beginners who would like to learn a new instrument.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicgroups](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicgroups)  
to sign up or find out more!

Families on certain benefits can apply for free ensemble membership by completing the 'help with payment' section of the sign-up form



## A Short Course for Parents and Carers of Children and Young People with SEND Support Needs

We will be exploring how to look after our own wellbeing, whilst supporting our child with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities

This four-week course is running at our Banbury Mind Hub each Wednesday between 10am and 1pm

From 5<sup>th</sup> November to 26<sup>th</sup> November

Please note we are unable to provide childcare facilities

A 30 min Options Appointment with a wellbeing worker, is needed before you book onto the Course

### Contact our information team:

To book an Options appointment and request a place on the course.

Call: 01865 247788 - 9.30-4.30 Mon-Thurs / 9.30-4pm Fri

Email: [info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk)

Text: 07451 277973



[oxfordshiremind.org.uk](http://oxfordshiremind.org.uk)

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