

Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary School

Newsletter 5 - Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for giving Mrs Wood such a warm welcome to Dr Radcliffe's and helping her to settle in so quickly, we are so thankful for your support during this quick transition. Time is of the essence not only to manage the day to day running of the school and to continue to move the school improvement priorities forward but also to prepare for a SIAM's (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and, as our last OFSTED inspection was in March 2022, we are now in the window for an OFSTED inspection.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Wood has kindly offered to stay with us for the rest of this academic year which is excellent news. It gives the whole school community stability and continuity. The recruitment process for a new full time headteacher has begun and the advertisement went live on Monday. An interview day is scheduled for the end of April. We hope that we will attract strong candidates and I look forward to sharing news of the appointment as soon as I can.

Best Wishes,

Lisa Boote Chair of the LGB



!!! Lost Property !!!

Please can we ask parents and carers to ensure that any clothing, whether uniform or forest school clothes, is named before it comes into school.

We have emptied the lost property bin and were only able to reunite 16 items with their owners so far as the remainder was un-named.





Governor Morning



As School Governors, we make three subject focused visits a year to help us to understand and support staff in driving forward improvements in teaching and learning for all pupils. On 28th January, three of us (Rachel Marsden, Fiona Ritchie and Mags Goddard) came into school to look at 'Reading' at all levels of the school, from Phonics in the early years, to reading and comprehension higher up the school, including strategies to support those who need more help. We were impressed by the clear and structured teaching of Phonics and the personalised support for every child, including into KS2.

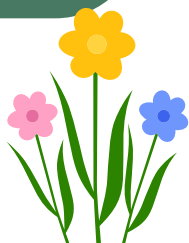
We could see the skill of teaching assistants in guiding children using various resources including Nesy, Shine and catch up phonics books, as well as class teachers extending pupils' understanding of class texts and more advanced vocabulary. In talking to pupils, we could see how successful the Accelerated Reader Scheme has been in motivating and encouraging a love of reading – a huge thank you to all the parents who have helped to make this happen.

Tom Fane, Subject Leader for reading, is committed to building a strong culture of Reading through the school and we discussed priorities for the future, including providing opportunities for older children to read with younger classes, ensuring resourcing for books, both in classrooms and the school library as well as helping parents to support their children with phonics and reading at home.

In line with the last point, you may be interested in a free webinar on reading, produced by the charity, ParentKind.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars>

Lisa Boote, Chair of Governors



Early Birds Booking Update

Last term we launched booking Early Birds via the MCAS school app, and we have had some really positive feedback.

From next term we will not be able to accept any children into Early Birds that have not been booked in via MCAS. Please see below how to book into Early Birds:

1. Log into your MCAS app.
2. Click 'Wraparound Care'. Please note that if you have already previously booked a session, it will be visible in the 'Enrolled' tab as opposed to the 'Available' tab.
3. Navigate to the correct week with the arrows above the calendar and click on the day(s) you would like to book – you can select multiple days across multiple months at one time.
4. Once you have chosen the dates you wish your child to attend, click proceed. You will get a message saying. 'You're about to enrol your child into 'X' session(s). This will create a balance of £x, which you can view in the Outstanding Payments page'.
5. Click 'OK'.
6. The date you have booked will now show as green in the calendar.



How to Pay:

- o Navigate to the 'My Child' home screen.
- o Click 'Outstanding payments.'
- o Click the 'Balance' tab and you will see the outstanding balance as a negative figure.

Either: If paying by card via the MCAS app:

- 1) Click on the outstanding balance.
- 2) Click the 'Top Up Balance' button.
- 3) Enter the amount due and then click 'Add to Basket' followed by 'Checkout'.
- 4) Add your address and click 'Next'.
- 5) Enter your card details and click to 'Make payment'.



Or: If paying by tax free childcare or childcare vouchers, arrange to transfer the correct amount across to the school and we will mark the sessions as paid once payment has been received.

Layla Jury
School Business Manager



Reception and KS1 visit to church

All three classes had their second visit to the church this year. There were four areas of the church for children to learn about in more detail, with a clear progression of knowledge from Reception to Year 2. The children learned more about the Altar and the receiving of bread and wine, and the links to the Easter story. They learned more about the font and how children and adults are welcomed into the church family.

In the prayer space, the children learned how it was a quiet space to provide time to think, reflect and write a prayer if visitors wished. The final part of the church was the lectern, where the Bible rests, and the child marvelled at the gold edges of the pages.

We are very grateful to the volunteers from the church community for making this visit possible, as well as to the parent volunteers who helped us safely get each class to and from church.



Reception multi-skills PE event



Class R had a wonderful morning at a PE event at Bloxham Primary School last week, the first PE for Reception children run by The Warriner Partnership and NOSSP. We were one of 4 schools taking part in this event, which was led by Y6 Sports Leaders from Bloxham Primary.

The children did six different multi-skills activities, including throwing beanbags onto a target, playing tag, dribbling footballs, parachute games, a relay race, and a relay obstacle challenge. The theme of the event was 'self-belief', which the children showed plenty of, as well as resilience, determination and respect. They were a credit to themselves and the school. Again, thanks go to the volunteers who accompanied us to this event.



People who help us, visitors

As many of you know, with your child having been through Class R, one of our Learning focuses in Spring Term 2 is finding out about people who help us. So far, we've had visits from a local vet and a dental nurse, and we are looking forward to a firefighter visiting us after the Easter holidays. It's wonderful for our children to have these firsthand learning experiences, ask questions of people who do these important jobs, and, hopefully, be inspired for their future careers. Being a vet is currently a popular option, as you can see from the photos of the children in Learning Through Play.

If you have a job that helps other people, such as police service, opticians, forces, doctors, and would be like to come and talk to our Reception children, please let me know, as it would be great to add a few more professions to our list of People Who Help that we can learn about.





BetterPoints



Making small changes to our daily routines can have a big impact on both our children's health and the environment. Where possible, we encourage families to walk to school instead of travelling by car. Even parking a little further away and walking the last part of the journey can make a real difference—helping children start the day feeling fresh, active, and ready to learn, while also reducing congestion and pollution around the school gates.

To make it even more motivating, you might like to try the BetterPoints app: <https://www.betterpoints.app/>

It rewards you for making greener travel choices like walking, cycling, or using public transport. You can earn points, track your progress, and even exchange rewards for vouchers or donate to charity. It's a simple, fun way to build healthy habits while helping the planet.

Thank you for supporting a healthier, safer journey to school for everyone!

Kerri Rymell - Eco Lead



Mrs Rees (year 4 and 6 TA) is currently conducting some research on the relationship between sleep, anxiety and school engagement as part of her psychology Masters in order to inform school interventions that boost children's engagement. She is looking for parents to fill in an anonymous survey on their children's sleep, wellbeing and school engagement. The study has been approved by the Oxford Brookes ethics committee and every response is helpful for her research. A link and more information about the research can be found here:

https://brookeshls.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9tOFLWJSfuf1HoO

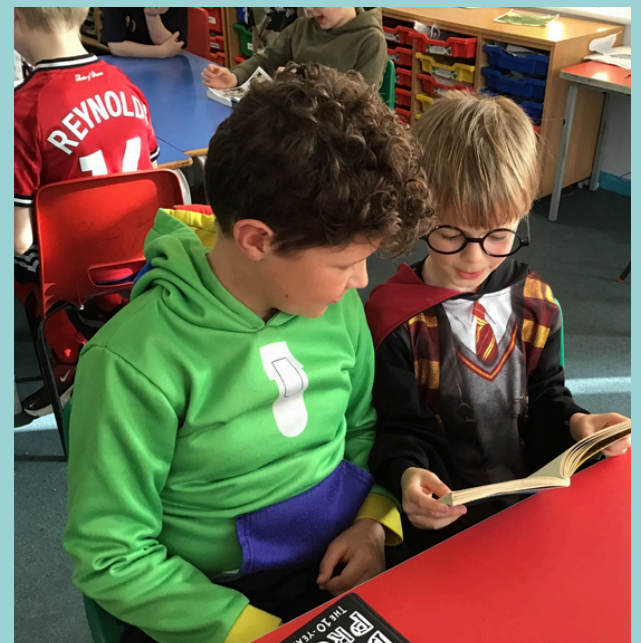


World Book Day



Everyone enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day with a wonderful range of creative costumes from staff and pupils!

The children could choose a story to listen to in the afternoon from a selection of different school staff, year 6 also partnered with year 2 children to read together.





Benefice Services for Holy Week and Easter



Maundy Thursday 2nd April: 6pm Holy Communion with a choir at North Aston

Good Friday 3rd April: 2pm An Hour at the Cross at Steeple Aston

Easter Day 5th April: North Aston 9.30am

Tackley 9.30am

Steeple Aston 11am



Playworker Vacancy: Night Owls

We are recruiting for a playworker to join our after school club team.

Please see the advert via the link here:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/144186/EDV-2026-DRCEPS-78994>

Applications close on Sunday 12th April:



Save the date! Steeple Aston Church Fete Sunday 12th July, 2pm - 4pm on the field at Robinson's Close and Village Hall.



Please book here for Adam Bradley Football in term 5:

<https://www.abfootballcoaching.co.uk/after-school-club-bookings>

Easter Service

Children from classes 2 - 6 went to the church on Wednesday for the Easter Service. The service was led by year 5 and we had so many positive comments about their excellent behaviour and the level of performance. The choir also sang beautifully, led by Mrs Payne. It was a very special occasion and we hope that you will pass on to your children how proud we were of them.

Gardening club Volunteers wanted!

If you would be willing to help with our new gardening club please could you contact the office?

Donations for Night Owls

Night Owls would be very glad of any outside toys such as scooters, balls and other sports equipment. They are also looking to increase the range of small world / role play toys available for the younger children and are very keen to acquire a play kitchen if anyone has one that has been outgrown!



Barry the tortoise visits Dr Rad's

Mrs Jury kindly brought Barry, her pet tortoise, to meet the Reception children this morning, as well as a number of drop-ins to the office as word of his arrival spread...



The children in class R were able to learn about the particular care a tortoise needs and to ask Mrs Jury many questions! As Barry is newly awake following his period of hibernation he was raring to go and very excited to see so many new faces.



Ru Rymell - Bowling for England!

Ru has been selected for the team to play an international game against Wales, in Camarthen, on 28th March. We wish the team every success!

Charlbury bowls club are always looking for new members and the junior team meet at the bowls club on Saturday mornings for coaching.



Fresh Start Parent Survey

Fresh Start Catering would like to invite parents to take a few moments to complete a short feedback survey about the school lunch service. As an independent provider, we take pride in preparing fresh meals on site each day using quality ingredients. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us continually review, enhance, and develop our service to ensure we are delivering the best possible experience for the children we cater for.

Please click the link below to take part:

[Dr Radcliffe - Your feedback on School Meals & Ordering - Fill out form](#)



Attendance



Every Day Counts!

We know mornings can be busy, but getting to school on time makes such a difference to your child's learning and wellbeing.

Our school gates open at 8:30am, giving children time to settle in, catch up with friends, and prepare for the day ahead. The school day starts promptly at 8:45am, so arriving by this time means your child won't miss those important first moments of learning.

Why does attendance matter?

Coming to school regularly helps children understand the link between good attendance and achievement and gives them a purpose to be in school each day. When children attend well, they:

Keep up with their learning and don't fall behind

Build strong friendships and feel part of our school community

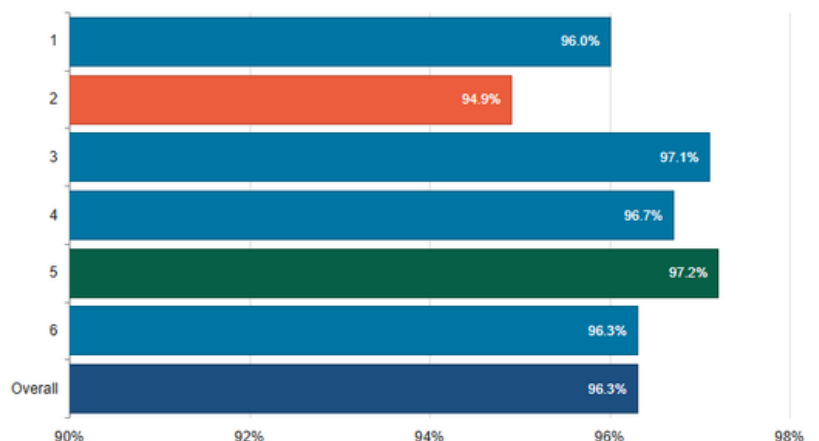
Develop good habits that will help them throughout their lives

Feel confident and settled in their routines

We place a high priority on improving attendance and punctuality across the whole school and we're here to support you if you're facing any challenges getting your child to school.



Our attendance is currently 96.6%



DID YOU KNOW? If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed a full 2 weeks of school in one year?