



Dr Radcliffe's School Newsletter

OCTOBER 2024

Welcome from Mr O'Malley

Welcome to all to the
academic year 2024/2025.

A particular welcome to
the parents new to the
school, including those
with Reception class
children as well as children
who have joined us in
other year groups. We also
welcome staff new to the
school. We still have places
in school including in Years
4 and 6 if you know
anybody looking for a
school place.

We have had a good start to
the year and look forward to
all that is coming up. For
further details, please see
the diary dates.

Please follow the link
below for the latest

Dates for your Diaries

Harvest Festival

Year 4 will lead our Harvest
Festival in Church on Tuesday,
15th October from 11.00am.
Children from Year 2 to Year 6 will
attend and parents are welcome.
It will be good to see you there if
you can make it.

We would welcome any donations
of non-perishable items please.

**A reminder that all Y1-Y6
children must have a pair of
outdoor shoes and a set of
waterproofs so they can take
full advantage of OPAL
Lunchtimes even in wet
weather, thank you!**

'STEM' Day

Thanks to all of our parents who kindly volunteered their time for our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Day recently.

The children had a great time with each class working with parents from a wide range of work including thermal engineering, power cells, theatre and film lighting, solar energy, rockets and computer software. It is great for the children to see some of what they learn applied – it can bring real purpose to their learning as well as being inspiring and fun.

Thanks to all the parents for putting so much effort into the planning and delivery, as well as such extensive efforts to gather and prepare resources. We look forward to seeing you and others next year at our next STEM Day.

Whole School Award

School Games Gold Award 23/24

Well done to the children and staff, including PE/Sports Lead, Tom Fane, for gaining the School Games Gold Award for 2023/2024.

We are pleased to get this award with the highest number of North Oxfordshire primary school pupil participations in the NOSSP events with 294. Thanks to you also for getting the children ready for events and returning those forms...



Fundraising for 2023/2024

Thanks to those of you who attended the Friends AGM recently. It is great to see the continuity in the Friends as well as getting new officers involved. I am glad to say that the Friends have agreed to continue to contribute towards new whole class interactive whiteboards which are necessary for the children's learning.

The Friends paid for 3.5 boards last year which was a magnificent effort at just over £2,000 per board. We are looking to purchase the remaining 3.5 boards this year.

We will soon have a school JustGiving page to give families and friends a useful means of contributing towards provision for children in school. The ODST has set up a page and we are awaiting their approval on the projects we wish to raise for. Once we have it, we will be in touch. The first project will be to raise funds along with Friends to replace those remaining whiteboards. Thanks in advance for any help you can give on this necessary appeal.

Entering and Leaving School

We have one gate for entering school (the tiered pathway) and another for leaving (to the left of the bike sheds as you leave). Please can you observe this if possible?

The entry gets blocked if we have two-way traffic (including with bicycles and prams who enter that way) and we are keen to get children off the narrow pavement in front of the school as quickly as possible. If in doubt, you can ask one of the staff members out at the beginning of the day.

Year R and Year 1 Parents

Please come through the green gates to arrive and then leave by the path along the hedge and out onto the zebra crossing.

Please come through the green gate at pick-up so that staff can see you are there to pick up your child.

Attendance

There has been new government guidance on attendance over the summer. [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). As a result, we will be having a new ODST Trust Attendance Policy which we will circulate once approved. Two results are that we will no longer be able to authorise holidays in term time and we will provide parents more information on attendance.

In line with the policy, our target for attendance for 2024/25 is 96.0%.

Our attendance rate last academic year was 95.1% (against a national primary schools' 94.5%), following a school figure of 95.3% the year before.

We had 18 children who were persistently absent (less than 90% attendance) last year – a figure of 9.4% of our children against national primary schools' 15.2%).

We will be in touch with more information on the new provisions in due course.

Our attendance rate to date for this year is 94.94%. This lower figure is largely due to some illness in some classes earlier in the term.



Attendance by class:

Year R - 94.30%
Year 1 - 93.62%
Year 2 - 93.84%
Year 3 - 95.13%
Year 4 - 96.49%
Year 5 - 96.98%
Year 6 - 94.56%

Well done to Year 5 who have the highest attendance rate so far this year. Almost 97%!

vacancies

Teaching Assistant

Our school needs a highly motivated, talented and inspirational teaching assistant to start as soon as possible.

Term-time only

8.30 am – 3.15 pm – Monday to Friday

Pay Grade 4 - £23,114 FTE (pro rated)

Cleaner

Term-time only 10 hours per week. Two hours per day - Monday to Friday (times to be agreed) £11.59 per hour.

We may be able to offer some flexibility with hours for the right candidate.

Church Services in Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley Everyone welcome!

Sunday 6th October - Holy Communion at North Aston (9.30am) and Steeple Aston (11am), Evensong at Tackley (5.30pm)

Sunday 13th October - Harvest Festival Service - North Aston(10am), Steeple Aston (5.30pm), followed by Harvest Supper in Village Hall, Holy Communion at Tackley, 5.30pm

Sunday 20th October - Holy Communion - North Aston (9.30am), Steeple Ason (11am), Harvest Festival at Tackley (5.30pm)

ECO

Eco Council

The Eco-Committee children would like to mark upcoming Recycling Week by creating a piece of collaborative artwork, using recycled lids.

The Eco-Committee are asking if everyone can save any plastic lids (any colour or size), clean them and **bring them into school on Friday 20th October.**



A reminder that parents evenings this term are:

Wednesday 23rd October from 3.30 – 6pm

&

Thursday 24th October from 3.30 – 7pm

Please watch out for the booking email to book your appointments with the teachers.