



Dr Radcliffe's School Newsletter



JANUARY 2025

Message from Mr O'Malley

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025

Thanks to the parents and families who attended our various school events at the end of 2024.

Thanks to all of you who have donated to our JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/page/dr-radcliffes-school £1,320.00 has been raised - thanks to all who have donated to date.

Any further donations for the Accelerated Reader program would be gratefully received. We have raised about half of the funds needed for the first year's subscription. Accelerated Reader | Renaissance Learning We have visited another school to view it in action and are excited about the opportunities it will give to the children to inform their reading (including appropriately levelled book choices, how much they read and how much they understand of what they read).

Part of setting up the system which we will be doing next term is labelling as many of the reading books in the school as possible with information including their level of challenge and related AR information. We will need parents or other helpers willing to come into school to help us do this. Please can you email the office in the next two weeks if you are willing to help with this as I am keen to get on with this as soon as possible? Any help will be gladly received.

I have met with Friends and look forward to a great calendar of events for 2025 - thanks to them for all they are doing. We now have new interactive whiteboards in 4 of our 7 classes thanks to their great work.

Sports events this month have included three indoor athletics sessions at the Warriner School - well done to all the Year 4, 5 and 6 children who have attended. Cherwell District Council Youth Activators are looking to run a Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) sports club after school on Mondays from 24th February. Letters will go out next week and any children who wish to attend but cannot this time will be put on a waiting list for any future provision CDC.

Updated Vision and Values

We have been working with the children on the school's new Vision and Values which have been introduced this year. It was felt that the school community found it hard to remember the large number of values which were in place formerly and it gave us the opportunity to update them and ensure their relevance to the school in current times. Thanks to those who worked on the Vision and Values.

Our Vision

At Dr Radcliffe's Church of England Primary School, we aim to create a community in which every individual can live 'Life in all its fullness' John 10 v10.

Our Values

Our Christian Values are Respect, Truth and Kindness. These are rooted in our ethos as a church school, recognising our Christian foundations, and can be seen throughout our attitudes and actions.

Respect

- We value others and their views, celebrating difference and diversity, building a welcoming, inclusive community where all can thrive.
- We value dialogue, listening to children, staff, families and the wider community, treating everybody with fairness and building positive relationships.
- From a foundation of respect and trust, pupils and adults build their skills in teamwork, collaborative thinking and leadership.

Truth

- Dr Radcliffe's is a school where everyone can be themselves.
- Pupils and adults thrive together, finding joy and curiosity in learning and exploring their hopes and aspirations.
- We celebrate the individuality of each person, encouraging them to flourish through developing academic, creative and physical skills. By delivering a broad and enriched curriculum and adapting teaching to each pupil, all are enabled to learn without limits.
- We aim to foster throughout our community personal spiritual growth, an inner strength and confidence, empowering all to contribute to a better, more caring, peaceful World.

Kindness

- Through kindness to themselves and to others, pupils are not afraid to make mistakes and learn from them, developing resilience and independence.
- We nurture each member of the community, caring for them holistically, supporting their physical and mental well-being.
- In thinking of others, both within and beyond the school community, kindness translates into positive actions. Pupils gain an understanding of inequalities in the wider World and are empowered to be agents of change for good.



Mental Health News

Mental health and well-being is something we all increasingly think about, talk about and seek to strengthen in ourselves and our children. We have two trained Senior Mental Health Leads at our school, Becky Roberts (Yr5 teacher) and Jane Rawson (SENCo). This year they have set up a mental health action group which includes teachers, governors and members of the church and community. The purpose of this group is to ensure a whole school approach to mental health - which is essential if we are to improve mental health in our school. Our intention is to ensure in-school strategies are embedded, that links to wider community and external services are established and that individual children and families are supported.

Specifically we are seeking to introduce a peer mentoring scheme within the school, improve signposting for both adults and children who have concerns about their own wellbeing and increase the strength of our school offer. We have created a page on our website with information about mental health and resources that can be accessed for parents to use. You may be aware that we have a play therapist at our school who works for half a day a week. We have two Teaching Assistants who are about to train to deliver an intervention called Drawing and Talking (a therapeutic nurturing intervention for low level emerging mental health concerns). We also have one Teaching Assistant who is training to become an ELSA. Two of our TAs have trained to become mental health first aiders. You can find more information about all of this on the website.

Please contact Jane Rawson through the school office if you would like to find out more.



Wear Your

SCARF

Day



Wear Your SCARF Day will be celebrated on February 7th during Children's Mental Health Week (3-9 February 2025). The theme for Children's Mental Health Week this year is - 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. There is no cost to you for the day - we just ask that your child wear a scarf of their choice to school on Friday 7th February. There will be an assembly about mental health that week, so be prepared to ask your child what they have learned.

Coram Life Education is the leading charity provider of relationships, health, wellbeing, and drugs education to children across the UK. Coram Life Education & SCARF offers a whole-school approach to wellbeing and Mental Health.



Notices


Please could we remind parents and carers of the 20mph speed limit, in particular when passing the school, and when driving between Steeple Aston and Middle Aston where the absence of pavement means that families walking to and from school are particularly at risk, thank you.



If you need to collect your child during the school day, please can we ask you to come to the office to do this and not to the classrooms as we will need to update the register. This is the same for returning children from appointments in the day, thank you.



A reminder that all children must have a change of footwear for lunchtimes. As the playground is muddy at this time of the year, we are asking all children to change their shoes before they go outside.



Please could we ask that parents don't leave their engines running whilst they're dropping off children outside school.

A reminder that parents evenings this term are:

Class R: Tuesday 11th February (13.40 - 18:00) and
Wednesday 12th February (15.30 - 19.00)

Class 3: Tuesday 4th February (15.50 - 18.00) and
Wednesday 5th February (15.30 - 19.00)

Classes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6: Tuesday 11th February (15.30 - 18:00) and
Wednesday 12th February (15.30 - 19.00)



Please look out for an email with a link to book your appointments.

Attendance



BeSpace will be taking place in school from 10 - 12th February this year. More information will follow but please visit their website if you would like to know more: <https://www.bespace.be/>

Please follow the link below for the latest

[Dates for your Diaries](#)

Please click to view the Primary Health Newsletter

[Primary School Health Nursing Newsletter January 2025](#)

Attendance by class:

Year R - 95%
Year 1 - 94%
Year 2 - 95.7%
Year 3 - 95.6%
Year 4 - 94.4%
Year 5 - 96.1%
Year 6 - 94.6%



Well done to Year 5 with an attendance rate of 96.1% and we look forward to an increase in attendance as the year goes on so more classes can reach the 96% target.



Dr Radcliffe's C of E Primary School, Steeple Aston

Fundraising for Dr Radcliffe's C of E School, Steeple Aston.

Fundraising for Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST)



Church Services

February 2nd-Holy Communion North Aston 9.30am, Steeple Aston 11.00am, Evensong-Tackley 5.30pm

February 9th Morning Prayer North Aston 9.30am, Family Worship -Steeple Aston 11.00am, Holy Communion -Tackley 5.30pm

SNOWDROP SUNDAY Steeple Aston- Tea and cake in the church 2.30-4.30pm

February 16th-Holy Communion North Aston 9.30am, Steeple Aston 11.00am, Evensong 5.30pm, Tackley

February 23rd-Morning Prayer North Aston 9.30am , Steeple Aston 11.00am, Family Communion -Tackley 9.30am

News from Years 2 and 3

Year 2 had a lovely time visiting the church. Their behaviour was impeccable, and they worked in groups with maturity. They listened well and were able to look around the church completing a worksheet with enthusiasm. We are very proud of you all.



Mrs Fane



Year 3 made cheese and onion pasties on Friday in their Food Technology session. They put all the ingredients together creating an amazing pasty that looked fabulous. The hall smelled fabulous! Thank you to Laurien for helping us and supporting us in our lesson. Well done everyone.

Mrs Fane



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported our charity events in the Autumn term.

The Christmas Jumpers Day for Save the Children raised £114.79

The Santa Fun Run in aid of Katharine House Hospice raised £134.00



A Christmas Round-up

The Christmas Carol Concert

The children who took part were fantastic, the choir children sang like angels, the ukulele children performed their pieces delightfully and the Year 4 children spoke clearly and learned their lines very carefully. A huge success and thankyou to all involved (including parents for helping children to learn lines and rehearse their songs or music.). Thanks must also go to Mrs Payne who taught the choir children the songs and helped to put the concert together. Oh and the office staff too, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of all of the performances and trips! Mrs Stansfeld, Class 4.



Reception and Key Stage 1 Pantomime

Reception and Key Stage 1 had a fabulous morning watching the pantomime Aladdin. It was such good fun, and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The two actors were engaging and brilliantly told the story of Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. There was plenty of audience participation, including getting up and helping cast a spell to make the magic carpet work. The children were unexpectedly sprayed with some water by the washerwomen as they thought a teacher would get sprayed instead. had a fabulous morning watching the pantomime Aladdin. It was such good fun, and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The two actors were engaging and brilliantly told the story of Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. There was plenty of audience participation, including getting up and helping cast a spell to make the magic carpet work. The children were unexpectedly sprayed with some water by the washerwomen as they thought a teacher would get sprayed instead!

Mrs Goldsworthy, Reception Class



Key Stage 2 Panto:

Key Stage 2 had a fantastic time watching Sleeping Beauty at the Oxford Playhouse. All the children clearly enjoyed the jokes and the performance and engaged with all the audience participation. The children are still singing HOTTOGO!! Thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who came along to support the children.

Robin And The Sherwood Hoodies:

Year 5 put on a fabulous performance of Robin and The Sherwood Hoodies. The children clearly demonstrated their acting skills and comic timing. The solos were fantastic and all the children sang and danced beautifully. The class were very keen to put on another performance of the show. The costumes and the props were great. Thank to everyone who helped the children learn their lines and enabled them to put on a remarkable show.





Steeple Aston News about the Blandford Fly

We have been asked to let you know of this story regarding potential local spraying of the larvae of the Blandford Fly. Views are being sought from local residents and you can see the link for further information and to put in your views at [News - Steeple Aston](#)

Notices



FARM & FOREST WINTER CAMP
@ WARRINER SCHOOL FARM, BLOXHAM

18TH-20TH FEBRUARY

February half-term fun for kids aged 8-12

FROM £20 PER CHILD

AM (9AM-12PM), PM (1-4PM) & FULL-DAY SESSIONS AVAILABLE

- Wildcrafts - Den building
- Campfire cookouts - Nature trails
- Meet the farm animals - Bug hunts
- Outdoor games - Mud kitchen
- Tree climbing - Rope swing - & more!

Email farm@warriner.oxon.sch.uk or call 01295 721471 to register

@WarrinerSchoolFarm

Warriner School Farm
Warriner School Farm, Bloxham Grove Road, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, OX15 4LJ

Please could we ask for donations of DVDs, puzzles and simple games for after school club, these can be left at the school office, thank you!



Adam Bradley Football Coaching is running a 2 day football course at The Windmill Centre during the February half term please [click here](#) for more information and to book:

