

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"
(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



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20th October 2023



*We thank you
for the gifts you have given
for all people to share.
We plant seeds of hope
and nurture them as we seek
a harvest of plenty for all.*

Dear Families,

We have celebrated the Harvest over the last couple of weeks. This has included a collection for CAFOD family fast and a collection for our local foodbank. Mary Benyon joined us in assembly on Thursday to discuss the work she did in setting up the foodbank and the children asked thoughtful and challenging questions. She wanted to share thanks with our community for the amazing collection. The collection will continue for one week after half term should you still want to donate. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

It has been such a busy term and everyone has leaned in to help build our school community. We have an enthusiastic PTA, families who like to join in events such as our new 'stay and play' and International Day. We have a team of dedicated governors. Our staff have worked hard over this half term to settle classes and build our excellent curriculum. The office and site staff have worked hard to ensure everything runs smoothly. It is such a pleasure to be part of the St Joseph's family.

Autumn has finally arrived and hopefully will be beautiful over half term for walks in the leaves! Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you again on the 1st November.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher



Tombola donations – after half term break

The PTA would be very grateful for donations of good quality/new gifts for the adult and child tombolas at the air. Please place in the donation buckets in the school office or by the entrance gates. If you would like to volunteer your time with the PTA please fill in this form <https://forms.office.com/e/ZJHVfQR9Zk>

Secondary School Applications Parents/Carers of Year 6 pupils

The deadline for applying to secondary school is approaching, the application needs to be received by the County Council by midnight on **Tuesday 31st October**.

If you haven't yet done your child's application, we strongly recommend you start thinking about it. Please don't leave it too late.

You have an option to apply for up to 4 schools. We would urge you to enter 4 schools on your application. Applying for more schools will not reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school. Our home/school link worker, Kate Stratford, is available to help and support parents with their applications if you would find this useful.

Autumn adventures in EYFS

Last week EYFS had a wonderful autumn adventure! They read the book 'Pumpkin Soup' before heading off to the polytunnel area to pick their own pumpkins. They then helped prepare the pumpkins by scooping out the seeds and cooked a delicious pumpkin soup! A true 'field-to-fork' experience!



Nut-Free School and Choking Guidance

Another reminder that we are a nut-free school. This includes the 'Nakd' brand fruit bars. Please check carefully before packing cereal-type bars in your child's lunchbox.

The Local Authority asks us to remind parents that depending on size, parents should halve or quarter cherry tomatoes, strawberries and grapes and raw carrots and cucumber must be cut into batons and not rounds.

Foodbank Collection and Guest Speaker



Jane Benyon from the foodbank came and spoke in assembly. The children asked searching and thoughtful questions which led to her telling the children about how the foodbank started (she was one of the founders!) She spoke about how it worked, where the idea for a foodbank came from and who was an inspiration for her. At the end, she gave a heartfelt thank you to our community and took the donations to the foodbank.

We will continue collecting for one more week after half term, in case anyone wants to send some more products in. Thank you for huge community generosity!

Flu Vaccines

These were given today. The School Nursing Team were very complimentary about the behaviour of our children. Thank you to all those families who got their paperwork done.

Oxford Half Marathon

On Sunday 15th October, some of our Year 6 students participated in the Oxford Half Marathon. They had prepared for the half marathon by running 12 miles in school in the run up to the event and the final mile was run from the Oxford Half Marathon starting line on Broad Street. The children then ran amazingly up and down St Giles' being cheered on by many parents and staff who had come to watch. They showed great resilience, sporting spirit and encouragement of each other. We should be very proud of them all!

Ms Fowler, Mrs Montes and Mr Dillon



First Holy Communion and Confirmation

On the 2nd October, we emailed families with children in Year 3 and/or Year 6 with leaflets about preparation for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. Enrolment on a preparation programme is through your parish and there may be deadlines for signing up. Please see the leaflet you were sent for more information.

Attendance and Punctuality

There are many of you who bring your children to school on time every day and as a result they have excellent attendance. Attendance and punctuality are important disciplines that help to structure our daily lives and must be taught to the children. Schools have a duty to prepare pupils for life in the 21st century as fully formed citizens and part of this journey is to teach them about the importance of these two disciplines.

The Government line on attendance is very clear:

Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

Every pupil must have an attendance of 96% in order for them to comply with the government regulation. When a child's absence falls below this figure it has a dramatic impact on their learning. The figures below state very clearly the affect absence has on your child's learning.

If your child misses....	That Equals...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling that is.....
10 minutes a Day	50 minutes a Week	1.5 Weeks per Year	Nearly <u>1/2 Year</u> of lost learning
20 minutes a Day	1 hour 40 minutes a Week	2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 Year</u> of lost learning
30 minutes a day	1/2 a Day a Week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 Years</u> of lost learning
1 hour a Day	1 day a Week	8 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>2.5 Years</u> of lost learning

FAMILY STAY AND PLAY

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

COME AND JOIN US!

WEDNESDAYS DURING TERM TIME

9AM - 10AM

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB ROOM

FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY


TODDLER TOYS AND GAMES

COLOURING AND CRAFT ACTIVITY

REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS

WHY PLAY WITH US?

- Meet and chat with other parents and carers from the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School community
- Activities to support your child's early learning
- Baby area
- Free drop-in session, no sign-up or cost.



Practical Help and Signposting

Sadly, things at the moment are difficult for many of our families. Bills all seem to be rising, and everything is getting more expensive. We want to make sure that all our families have support in place if it is needed. Even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help with uniform from our vast stock of good-quality second-hand items, we are able to refer to local Food Banks and signpost families to other sources of help, advice and support.

If you are struggling, please contact our home/school link worker, Mrs Kate Stratford. Her contact details are below. Mrs Stratford will be happy to talk to you in confidence to see what support we can offer.

If you need help towards paying for school trips, please contact the office to arrange a confidential conversation with Ms Tweedie.

Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357 Mobile: 07500 802732

Email: kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Friday 20 th October	All year groups	Flu vaccinations
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	All year groups	Half Term break
Monday 30 th October	All year groups	INSET (no pupils in school)
Tuesday 31 st October	All year groups	INSET (no pupils in school)
Monday 6 th November	6H	Junior Citizens
Tuesday 7 th November	6T	Junior Citizens
Tuesday 7 th November	All year groups	Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings with teachers
Tuesday 7 th – Tuesday 14 th November	All year groups	Bookfair in school
Thursday 9 th November	All year groups	Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings with teachers
Saturday 25 th November	All year groups	Christmas Fair
Thursday 7 th December	All year groups	Advent Service
Friday 8 th December	Year 4-6	Advent Penitential Service
Friday 15 th December	All year groups	End-of-term Mass
Wednesday 20 th December	All year groups	School finishes at 1:30pm

Flyers and Information

OXFORD UNITED
IN THE COMMUNITY

Girls Only Football Camp
October Half Term 2023



GIRLS ONLY 4-13 YEARS OLD
£99 FOR 5 DAYS
£30 PER DAY
23rd - 27th October 2023
9AM - 3PM

Venue: The Oxford Academy (indoor sports hall / dome)
Sandy Lane
Littlemore
Oxford OX4 6JZ

Book Now: <https://ouitc.org/course/holiday-courses/>

MOLA, EFL TRUST, and other logos are displayed.

ACTIVE ADVENTURE
School Holiday Multi-Activity Day Camps
Children aged 6-14! Ofsted

From £50 per day
*No extra costs

October Half Term
23rd Oct - 27th Oct

Join us this spooky season!



www.oxfordactive.co.uk

Next Thing education camps

Ofsted Registered

OCTOBER HALF TERM TECH CAMP
AT
ST EBBE'S SCHOOL, OX1 4NA
23RD - 27TH OCTOBER
CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

ROBOTS INVENTIONS
MINECRAFT + LEGO ENGINEERING
VR TECH FUN

AGES 5-11 | £49 PER DAY
9AM - 4PM DAILY
BOOK 5 DAYS ONLY PAY FOR 4

www.nextthing.education

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023
What's on?

Revolting Robotics, Vampiric Virtual Reality, Creepy Coding, Thrilling Tech Fun, Spell-binding Inventions

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities

23RD OCT - 27TH OCT LIMITED SPACES

A great environment!
"My kids loved it and we've rebooked for the next camps in October. The staff were also super helpful. Would 10/10 recommend!"
St Bernadette Primary School
★★★★★

SPECIAL OFFER
BOOK 5 DAYS ONLY PAY FOR 4

What to bring to camp
Packed Lunch and Snacks (NOT FREE), Water Bottle, Medication If Required, Halloween Costume (Friday Optional)

www.nextthing.education
E: info@nextthing.education
T: 01442873150



The Great Big Dinosaur Family Show with Simon Mole & Gecko

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Mon 23 & Tue 24 Oct

1.15pm & 3.30pm

Free but booking essential
at oumnh.ox.ac.uk

Ages
3-11



RUGBY CAMP OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

OXFORD QUINS RFC BOYS & GIRLS RUGBY CAMP

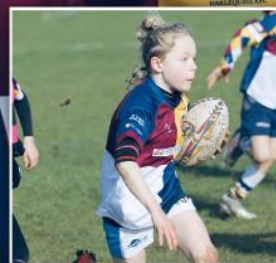
U8's-U13's
23RD-25TH OCTOBER
9:30AM-15:30PM

- ENJOY 3 ACTION PACKED DAYS OF RUGBY
- EXPERT COACHING FROM THE OXFORD QUINS COMMUNITY COACHING TEAM
LED BY FORMER PROFESSIONAL PLAYER TOM VARDELL
- COME ALONG TO OUR FANTASTIC TRAINING FACILITY AT
HORSRATH SPORTS GROUND

£30
PER DAY

£10 extra
for early dropoff
at 8:30am
& late pickup
17:00pm

**BRING
PACKED
LUNCH**
*NO NUTS



TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, PLEASE SCAN QR CODE OR EMAIL
COMMUNITY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG



shawgibbs
accountancy & business advisers



Enriching the Educational Experience of our Children!

ST. MICHAEL'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL INVITES
YOU OUR ANNUAL

FIREWORKS DISPLAY & BONFIRE

FRI 3RD NOVEMBER

Gates open 5.30pm
Fireworks Display: at 6.30pm
Enjoy delicious hot food and drinks

Tickets in advance/on the door

- Adult: £4/£4.50
- Child: £2/£2.50
- Group (2 adults, 2 children):
£10/£10.50
- Group (1 adult, 2 children):
£7/£7.50

Advance Tickets available via School Gateway or via the link:
<https://st-michael-ce-primary-school-oxford-pta.square.site>




PUMPKIN PARTY!

Wednesday
25
October
12 - 4pm

- Pumpkin competition - largest and most beautiful
- Pumpkin carving and cooking
- Crafts & games for all ages
- Bring a box for take-away food

Northway Community Centre
Dora Carr Close
Headington OX3 9RF

AUTUMN FAMILY FUN!

Oxfordshire Pumpkin Festival





October Holiday Clubs St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford

These clubs are open to children aged 3-11

Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.



Cost: £35 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

Timings: 8am-5pm

To find out more or to book visit
www.rattleandrollperformance.com
or call 07722 014301



Rumble Museum



**ENTER THE LABYRINTH
STALLS, ACTIVITIES, OWL
DISPLAYS, PERFORMERS,
REFRESHMENTS, TALKS**

www.rumblemuseum.org.uk



**Friday 20th October
3.45-5.30pm, Cheney School**

**LABYRINTH
FEST**