

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

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



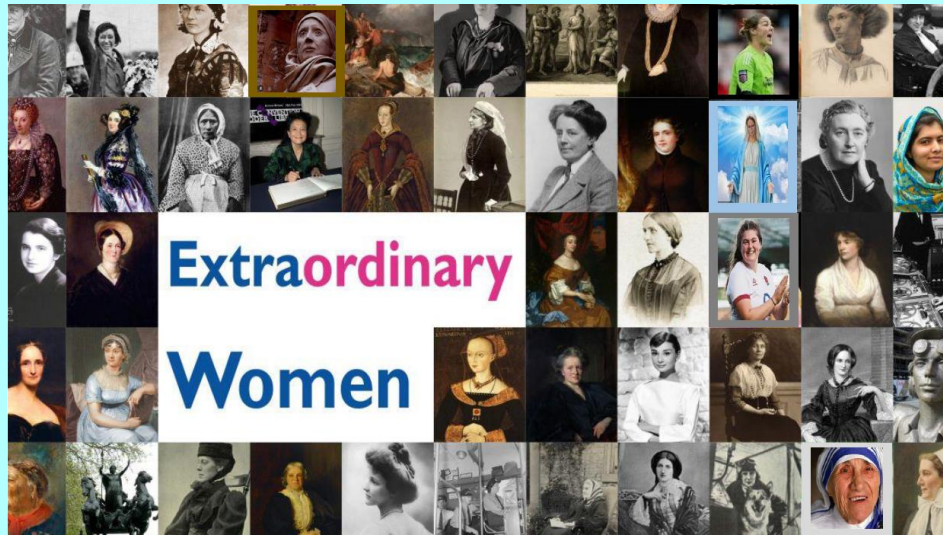
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8th March 2024



Gracious God, we pray for women throughout the world who are building up their own communities. As we love you, may we love our neighbour, and support one another to reflect your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Dear Families,

With International Women's Day today and Mothering Sunday on the 10th March, we have a wonderful opportunity to thank and celebrate women who have made a difference in our communities. Happy Mother's Day to all those in our school community.

This week has also marked World Book Day as well as a successful local authority visit to look at our English curriculum. There was a real celebration of reading in the school. We shared all the new books we have purchased for our library (many of which were purchased as a result of the money raised by the book fair). Thank you to Sister Marie Ann for organising this again this year.

In addition, Year 3 went on a trip to Cirencester, some lucky children were invited to Oxford City to meet the team and our football teams had energetic matches both home and away.

Finally, our Year 6's got told about their secondary placements. If you need any support with this, please see information further in the newsletter.

Enjoy the spring flowers.
Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher

CAFOD Big Lent Walk 2024

Lent is a special time for us to prepare for Easter. It is a time when we try and give up some things and maybe do something extra. As a school family, we have undertaken CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. Each class is attempting to walk or run 200km throughout the 40 days of Lent.

The children have been excited about this but our aim is to raise as much money for CAFOD's appeal. We ask you to give whatever you can to sponsor your child's achievements in aid of raising funds for people in need around the world. Every gift, no matter how small, is a step towards our goal.

You can make your donation through our school donation page using the following link:

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school-oxford>



Below is a link which gives more information about the Big Lent Walk:

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>

Following the Family Fast Day in October 2023, we paid **£425.93** to CAFOD to their emergency humanitarian appeals helping poor and vulnerable people around the world, thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Mr Dillon

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

In a wonderful celebration of reading for pleasure, the school was abuzz yesterday with literary enthusiasm!

- Throughout the day the whole school wrote a story together, Year 6 started things off before passing the story onto Year 5 and so on. The stories took some amazing twists and turns, with some classes definitely enjoying leaving the story on a cliff-hanger before handing it on!
- Our new school books were displayed in the ICT suite for pupils to browse, these will be in the main school library and class libraries very soon. These books were purchased with the funds for school raised by the Book Fair we held earlier in the academic year, thank you so much for your generous support.
- Paired reading activities took place, with children from Year 6 reading to Year 1 pupils (and being read to!) Year 5 enjoyed their time with Reception pupils.



Year 5/6 Boys Football Match v Our Lady's – Match Report

Our boys recently played in an away football match against Our Lady's School. Picture this – no warm-up, a pitch the size of a secondary school and goals that could probably fit a giraffe! Despite these curveballs, our boys showcased unmatched determination and commitment.

Throughout the match, the team played with an energy that could power a rocket, demonstrating resilience that would make superheroes proud. They didn't just play; they gave it their all until the very last whistle.

Now, the final score might have leaned towards a 3-1 loss, but our boys were beaming with pride as they represented our school. From the first kick to the final moments, their enthusiasm and good sportsmanship lit up the field.

A massive shout out to the parents who chauffeured our boys to and from the venue, turning into the ultimate cheer squad! Win or lose, their support added an extra layer of encouragement for our team. Win or lose, our boys showcased a collective effort and positive spirit that makes them extraordinary ambassadors for our school.

Mrs Montes

Year 6 Girls Football Match v St Nicholas' – Match Report

Yesterday, our girls' football team embarked on an exciting football match against St Nicholas School! The first half had its fair share of twists and turns, conceding three goals that kept us on the edge of our seats. At halftime, our dynamic girls huddled up for a quick pep talk, and guess what? They emerged with a burst of energy, ready to conquer the pitch! Talk about halftime magic! Back on the field, our girls displayed fantastic teamwork, solid defence moves and a barrage of goal attempts that left the opposition scratching their heads. A shout out to our goalkeeper for some jaw-dropping saves. Now, we'd be lying if we said the opposing school didn't sneak in another goal before the final whistle. But did our girls let that dampen their spirits? Absolutely not! They played brilliantly, heads held high and kept pushing until the very last second.

A gigantic THANK YOU to Ref Mr. Ingram for keeping the game fair and thrilling. Hats off to our amazing parents and school staff for turning up the volume and cheering on our fabulous team! And let's not forget the unsung hero, the incredible washing machine of the Pullin household, ensuring our team looks as fresh as daisies! Next match coming soon...

Mrs Montes

Year 3 Visit to Corinium

Our Year 3 classes recently embarked on an exciting trip to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, and oh boy, was it a blast! Picture this: mosaics, ancient pottery, Roman dress-up, and mind-boggling games straight out of our class book, "Escape from Pompeii." Our Roman workshop allowed us to travel back in time as Romans. First, was mosaics where we got our hands dirty, crafting vibrant patterns and designs – talk about becoming mini mosaic maestros!

Next up, we discovered the Roman dinner table secrets. Brace yourselves – the Romans ate some bizarre things (and skipped others). We couldn't help but giggle at the thought of their unique culinary choices. Then, it was puzzle time! We pieced together ancient Roman pottery from 2000 years ago, unleashing our inner archaeologists. It was like solving a jigsaw puzzle, and we nailed it! But hold on, the excitement didn't stop there. We transformed into bona fide Romans, strutting our stuff in tunics and stolas. Trust us; we looked Roman-tastic! We delved into the world of Roman entertainment, playing knuckle bones – a classic from our class book. And did we mention the museum had incredible Roman mosaics? We got up close and personal, even touching these ancient wonders. We stepped back in time to the Stone Age, exploring a roundhouse and imagining what life was like. Curious about our adventure? Ask us, Year 3's, for all the juicy details!

The best part? Our voices were heard loud and clear. Listen up as we share snippets of our Roman trip from the children:

"Making mosaics was like being a Roman artist!"

"My favourite part of the day was dressing up as a Roman and felt like I stepped back in time!"

"The knuckle bones game was so cool – Romans knew how to have fun!"

"We enjoyed learning and playing the Roman game Calculi!"

"Inside the roundhouse was surprisingly cosy!"

"I learnt that the Romans liked to build square houses."

"I have never seen a mammoth task before- it was huge!"

"I discovered that the Romans were great artists creating many wonderful mosaics."

"I found out that the colour purple was a rare colour in Roman times because they could only get this colour from sea snails and the rich could only afford it."

"I saw a Stone Age roundhouse and I went inside it!"



Year 4 Visit to Ashmolean

Year 4 pupils visited the Ashmolean Museum on Monday 26th February to enhance their learning about the Anglo-Saxon period.

Year 4 pupils said: *'When we went to the Ashmolean, the guide gave us activities to do about the Anglo-Saxons. We also did a scavenger hunt and drew objects that interested us in our Art books. It was amazing to see the Alfred Jewell!'*



Secondary School Allocations

A reminder to all Year 6 families that you need to respond to the county by Wednesday 13th March with whether or not you are going to accept your child's place at the secondary school they have been offered.

Please do not forget to do this by the deadline.

If you are not happy with the school you have been offered, please contact Kate Stratford (details in the yellow box at the end of the newsletter) for help and support, before the deadline of 13th March.

Health and Safety at St Joseph's

It was suggested by Governors at the Health & Safety committee that we share a bit about the work they monitor.

Swimming procedures and protocols

In February, Oxfordshire County Council released new guidance on school swimming. The PE and Educational Visit Coordinators have met to review our policies and procedures in line with this new guidance. The updated documents and enhanced risk assessments were reviewed thoroughly by our School Business Manager and link Governor for the Health and Safety, before being shared with the Full Governing Body on Monday 4th March.

Headteacher talk – online Thursday 14th March at 4.30pm

During the recent parent/carer meetings, Ms Tweedie gave a presentation to parents/carers about our school, our curriculum and recent changes. She is offering this meeting online on Thursday 14th March at 4:30pm. There is still time for you to sign up to attend the meeting online using the attached form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=be9L1fK-g0amptD7GgmHz4MMhZuqrLpFie1smkVCLVtUQlkxR1VaNDhDWVIHQ0RHMDBFUVY0UjBCVy4u>

The link to the meeting will be emailed to those families who have signed up.

Music Lessons

There are spaces for recorder and flute lessons! Lessons will start after Easter. Recorder lessons are available from Year 1 and flute from Year 3. Lessons start from £6.40 per lesson (payable to Oxfordshire County Music Service) and are free for families in receipt of certain income-based benefits. For more information please contact music teacher Lucy Carr lucy.carr@oxfordshire.gov.uk

More Sporting Excitement

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news that recently unfolded at St Joseph's. A group from Oxford City Football Club and Ignite Sports, including one player from the Oxford City first team, paid our school a special visit.

During their assembly to KS2, they shared valuable lessons on the significance of fair play and teamwork, emphasising how these principles align perfectly with our school values. The children were not only inspired by their words but also had the incredible opportunity to meet and ask questions to one of the first team players, Zac McEachran, up close!

To add to the excitement, the players brought along their well-deserved trophy, celebrating their victory and promotion to the National League. It was an unforgettable experience for our students, connecting them to the enjoyment of sports and the values we hold dear at St. Joseph's.

Thank you to Ignite and Oxford City FC for taking the time to inspire and engage our young minds. We're looking forward to more exciting events and opportunities like these that contribute to our school community!

Mrs Montes



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

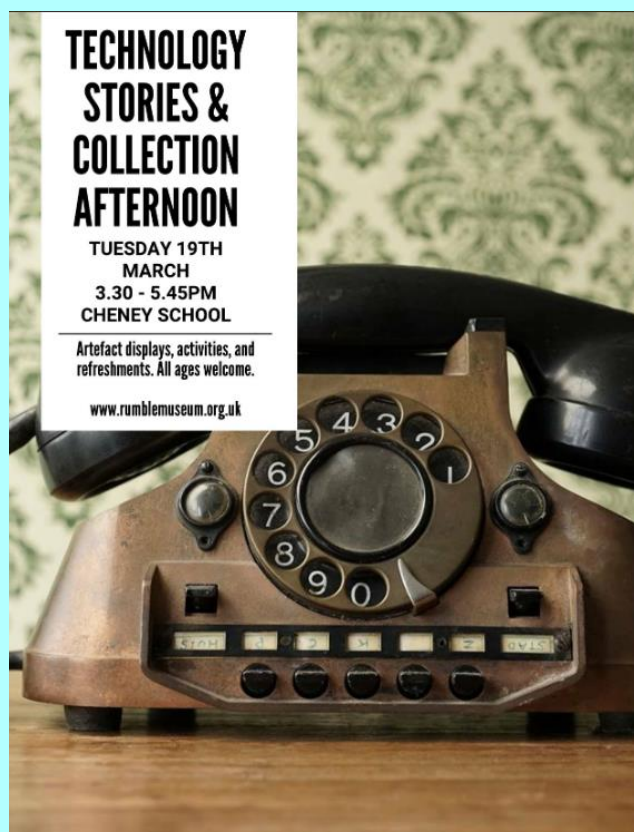
Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Monday 11 th March	Year 4-6	Lent Penitential Service
w/c Monday 11 th March and w/c Monday 18 th March	Year 5	Cycling Proficiency for some pupils
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 4	Play performance 3:30pm
Wednesday 13 th March	Year 4	Play performance 9:15am
Thursday 14 th March	All year groups	Headteacher online presentation
Tuesday 19 th March	All year groups	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 3	Poetry performance
Friday 22 nd March		iRock performance to parents

Monday 25 th March	All year groups	End of term Mass in school
Monday 25 th March		Family Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 27 th March	All year groups	School finishes for Easter break at 3:10pm (ASC running as usual)
Thursday 28 th March	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April	All year groups	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 16 th – Friday 19 th April	Year 5	Woodlands residential
Thursday 18 th May	EYFS	Vision screening
Monday 10 th -Tuesday 11 th June	Year 3	Camping residential
Tuesday 30 th April	Year 3	Story Museum visit
Monday 6 th May	All year groups	May Bank Holiday – school closed to pupils
Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6	KS2 tests administered
Monday 20 th May	Year 6	Retreat Day
Tuesday 21 st – Friday 24 th May	Year 6	Cycling Proficiency
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May	All year groups	May half term break – school closed to pupils
Monday 3 rd June	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 6	Story Museum visit
Wednesday 24 th July	All year groups	Last day of summer term

Flyers and Information

Oxford RFC touch rugby Spring 2024

Has your child been inspired by the 6 Nations? Oxford RFC is running touch rugby sessions throughout the sprint term, to allow primary aged boys and girls to experience rugby in a safe and fun environment. Sessions are held every Tuesday from 6:30pm - 7:30pm at Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey, OX2 0NA. Sessions are £3 per week with the first 2 sessions free. We welcome children of all abilities to join us. For more information please contact David on enquiries@oxfordrfc.com.



OXFORD UNITED
IN THE COMMUNITY



**Girls Only Football Camp
Easter Holidays 2024**



GIRLS ONLY 5-13 YEARS OLD

WEEK 1 £85 FOR 4 DAYS

WEEKS 2 £99 FOR 5 DAYS

£30 PER DAY

Week 1 - 2nd to 5th April 2024

Week 2 - 8th to 12th April 2024

8:45AM - 3PM

Venue:

The Oxford Academy (Indoor sports hall / dome)
Sandy Lane
Littlemore
Oxford OX4 6JZ

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






Free places
for children in
receipt of benefit
related free
school meals

Easter Holiday Clubs

St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford

These clubs are open to children aged 3-11

Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April

Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April

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



NEXT THING EDUCATION CAMPS PRESENTS

Easter 2024

Coding

Learning

Inventing

TECH

HOLIDAY CAMP

EASTER CAMPS 2024
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 5 -11
25TH MARCH -12TH APRIL 2024
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE

www.nextthing.education

Ofsted Registered

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

Scan me

RUGBY CAMP
EASTER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

OXFORD QUINS RFC
DEVELOPMENT
RUGBY CAMP

AGES 9-15
JOIN US THIS EASTER
AT OXFORD QUINS

£35 PER DAY

BRING PACKED LUNCH
*NO NUTS

4TH-5TH APRIL
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

11TH-12TH APRIL

TOM VARDELL
LEAD COACH
FORMER PREMIERSHIP RUGBY PLAYER
OXFORD HARLEQUINS HEAD OF COMMUNITY

OPEN TO NON OXFORD QUINS MEMBERS

DAILY TIMINGS
9:30AM TO 3:00PM

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

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

OXFORD HARLEQUINS RFC
HORSFATH SPORTS GROUND
OXFORD ROAD
OXFORD
OX4 2RR