



Wantage CE Primary School

Newbury Street, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 8DJ

Tel: 01235 762396



Learning for Life

'Life in abundance'

Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is flying by and it is hard to believe that we are already into October.

Attendance

Attendance is one of our highest priorities this year. You will have seen in the news how seriously the government is taking school attendance nationally, and we all know how important being in school is for our children.

Attendance to date

Year 1 94%
Year 2 92%
Year 3 97%
Year 4 97%
Year 5 97%
Year 6 97%
Total 95.8%



Whole school attendance to date is 95.8%. At this time of year, we really should be at or above our target of 96%. You will see from the figures that attendance in Years 3-6 is good. However, attendance in Year 2 and Year 1 is below our target, which is why the overall figure is also below where we would like it to be.

195 children have had 100% attendance this year so far and 210 children have achieved 96% or higher attendance. Well done! There is still plenty of time for everyone's attendance to catch up.

It is vital that everyone makes every effort to be in school every day. The only time a child might be at home from school is if they are too unwell to attend. Coughs and colds, whilst unpleasant, are very common, and usually not a reason to stay off school. If in doubt, please send your child to school. We will always phone you if a child becomes poorly and needs to go home.

National Poetry Day

Yesterday was National Poetry Day. The highlight for me was joining Year 6 in the hall who were taking part in the Guinness World Record attempt for the largest ever poetry lesson. Over 60,000 pupils were taking part around the world, and it was exciting to watch poet Laura Mucha co-write a poem 'What Counts' with all the young people taking part.

1JB read the poem 'Your Voice Counts' by Alina Brdar. They then wrote their own thinking about the things they could do with their voices and why they counted. Year 1 practised reading it aloud on the carpet at the end of the day and using their voices in interesting ways to perform.

My voice counts – Our class poem

Sometimes my voice is big and loud.
Other times it is quiet and whispering.
My voice is important to cheer up my frowning friends.
I can say silly jokes and make funny noises.
I can use it to sing a lullaby to my baby sister.
I can say no to bullies and stop I don't like it.
I can use it to keep us all safe and ask my teacher for help.
I can say I love you to my family.
My voice is important.



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Woodlands

Year 6 had a fabulous time at Woodlands last week. We were so impressed with how well Year 6 approached all the challenges in every activity that we did. Year 6 showed bucket loads of resilience; they were kind, encouraging and helpful to each other; and they were a credit to the school throughout the week. Every Year 6 came back from the trip walking taller, holding their heads up higher, and ready to take on everything that this year holds for them. I would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to the staff who looked after Year 6 so well for the week – especially those with increasingly less sleep as the week went on!

Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Scooters

Please can we ask that children leave their scooters in the bike sheds at the front of the school, and not against the fence by the cemetery gate. Thank you.



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Pastoral Team Coffee Morning

The Pastoral Team will be holding another Coffee Morning on Wednesday 23 October from 8.45 am in the Hall. You are very welcome to pop in for a drink and a chat after dropping your children off. The School Health Nurse will be joining us and she will be happy to answer questions and chat about sleep, diet, bedwetting, dental hygiene etc...



Open Mornings

We will be holding Open Mornings on Thursday 17th October and Tuesday 12th November. They are an opportunity for new families to have a look around our wonderful school before the deadline for applying for primary school places closes in January 2025.

If you know any families who have children who will be starting school in September 2025 – please encourage them to get in touch and to join us for one of our Open Mornings. We are really proud of our school and it is always a pleasure to show people around so that they can see the amazing things that we do here.

Learn • Inspire • Flourish • Enjoy

SEE OUR INSPIRATIONAL CURRICULUM IN ACTION

A visit is the best way to appreciate how special our school really is!

We can tell you about our achievements in the Arts and Culture, resulting in our Artsmark Gold Award - our dancers were finalists in the National Schools Dance Competition.

We can demonstrate our high quality teaching across the curriculum. This includes PE and competitive sports - encouraging lots of our pupils to engage in sporting opportunities, both in school and with local sports clubs.

We can talk about pupil leadership - but come and meet our pupils yourself when they proudly show you round and tell you about over 400 leadership opportunities open to everyone.

We look forward to seeing you!

Popular breakfast and after school clubs

Forest School

Focus on nurture and wellbeing

Well above national average results in Year 6 - 2nd year running!

Open Mornings
THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER
9:30-11:30AM
TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
9:30-11:30AM

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Nursery Open Evening

We are also holding an Open Evening in our Nursery class on Thursday 17 October from 4.30 – 5.30 pm. This is a drop-in session when parents and pre-school children can meet our staff and explore the classroom and garden.

We will be allocating our January places after the Open Evening, so if you have a younger child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 December and you have not registered them for our Nursery class, please call at the office for an application form.



Please note you can put your younger children on the Nursery waiting list as soon as they are born, just collect an application form from the office. We will then invite you to Open events at the appropriate time and let you know when we are able to offer a place.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend – it has been lovely to see the blue skies and sunshine at the end of this week.

Yours sincerely

Andy Browne
Headteacher



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Calendar

Monday 7— Friday 11 October		4PS swim every morning
Tuesday 8 October	1.00 —3.00 pm	Pupill Parliament visit Houses of Parliament
Tuesday 8 October	3.30—5.15 pm	Tag Rugby at Stockham School
Wednesday 9 October	9.15 am	Harvest Festival for F1 and KS1 in the Hall
Tuesday 15 October		Individual photos
Thursday 17 October	9.30—11.00 am	Open Morning
Thursday 17 October	2.00 pm	Year 3 Assembly for parents
Thursday 17 October	4.30—5.30 pm	Nursery Open Evening
Tuesday 22 October	3.20—6.30 pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 October	8.45 am	Pastoral Team Coffee Morning
Wednesday 23 October	3.20—5.30 pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 25 October	3.15 pm	End of Term 1
Tuesday 5 November		School reopens for Term 2
Friday 8 November		Y5 Cake Sale
Monday 11—Friday 15 November		4DG swim every morning
Tuesday 12 November	9.30—11.00 am	Open Morning
Tuesday 12 November	3.30—5.00 pm	Basketball at Charlton School
Tuesday 12 November		Friends' Meeting – time TBC
Monday 18—Friday 22 November		3TW swim every morning
Monday 25—Friday 29 November		3CP swim every morning
Tuesday 26 November	9.30— 11.15 am	Boccia at WCE
Thursday 28 November		Non-Uniform in exchange for Hamper donations
Friday 6 December		Dickensian Evening
Friday 13 December		Friends' Christmas Event
Wednesday 18 December		Christmas Dinner
Friday 20 December	12.15 pm	End of Term 2



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