



BENSON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Providing a rich,
stimulating & enjoyable
environment, where
children can begin their
learning journey &
prepare for adult life*



NEWSLETTER

9TH OCTOBER 2026

TERM 1 VALUE: UNDERSTANDING

SCHOOL INFORMATION

National Poetry Day

Last week, we had a poetry competition for National Poetry Day. Each class from Year 1 and 2 up wrote poems based on this year's theme of Wonder which was all about the natural world, climate science and looking closer at the everyday. There were brilliant entries in every class and it was incredibly hard for Mrs Launchbury-Rainey, the Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl to choose the winners, but we did manage to.

Congratulations to:

Eleanor and River-Reign in Chestnut

Indiana and Alfred in Maple

Jasper and Finley in Oak

Rogan and Lucas in Apple

Bella and Sophie in Cherry

Eliza and Lyla in Damson

Eva and Spencer in Ash

Eden and Arlen in Hawthorn

Jonah, Elodie and Noorullah in Sycamore

All of the winning poems will be in the next newsletter so make sure to look out for them!

Bag2School

Please note the date for donations has changed. Donations can now be dropped off at school Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th November.

Term Dates

Term dates for 2027-2028 have now been confirmed and are available on the school website. There may be an additional INSET day set by our academy, but we do not yet have confirmation of this.



Food Bank

Thank you for all the harvest donations of food. We delivered these to the Wallingford Food Bank this week. Well done to Rory & Freya for coming along to help and represent the school as Head Boy and Head Girl.

Police visit

This week Year 5 and 6 welcomed PC Dix into school. PC Dix spoke to the children about protective behaviours, risk awareness and anti-social behaviour. We were very impressed with the mature responses from the Year 5 and 6 children.

Winning House

Congratulations to Buzzards house for being awarded the most house points this term. Children in Buzzards may wear home clothes to school on Tuesday 13th October, if they would like to. They will also enjoy an extra break time together in the afternoon.

Safeguarding Spotlight – WhatsApp

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number. **The age rating is 13+**

Possible risks for you to be aware of if you are choosing for your child to use WhatsApp:

Unwanted contact

To contact someone on WhatsApp, all you need is their phone number.

Pressure to respond

As other users can see when your child is online, last active and if they have read a message, often they feel they must respond, even when they don't want to.

Live location

The live location feature means that your child could reveal their current location to others.

Inappropriate content

WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted which means that the content cannot be monitored. This means that your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content, such as unwanted images.

Friendship issues

Miscommunication by children on messages is common and can lead to upsets between friends. WhatsApp groups can be controlled by an 'admin', who can change settings. This can include the name of the group and who is allowed to send messages. They can also invite and remove people from the chat.

Oversharing

As with any social media platform or app, any information your child chooses to share can be screenshotted by others, so that even if they delete the message, there will be a permanent record.

Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, you can contact the school office to arrange to speak to one of the school Safeguarding Leads:

Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Pearce (Headteacher)

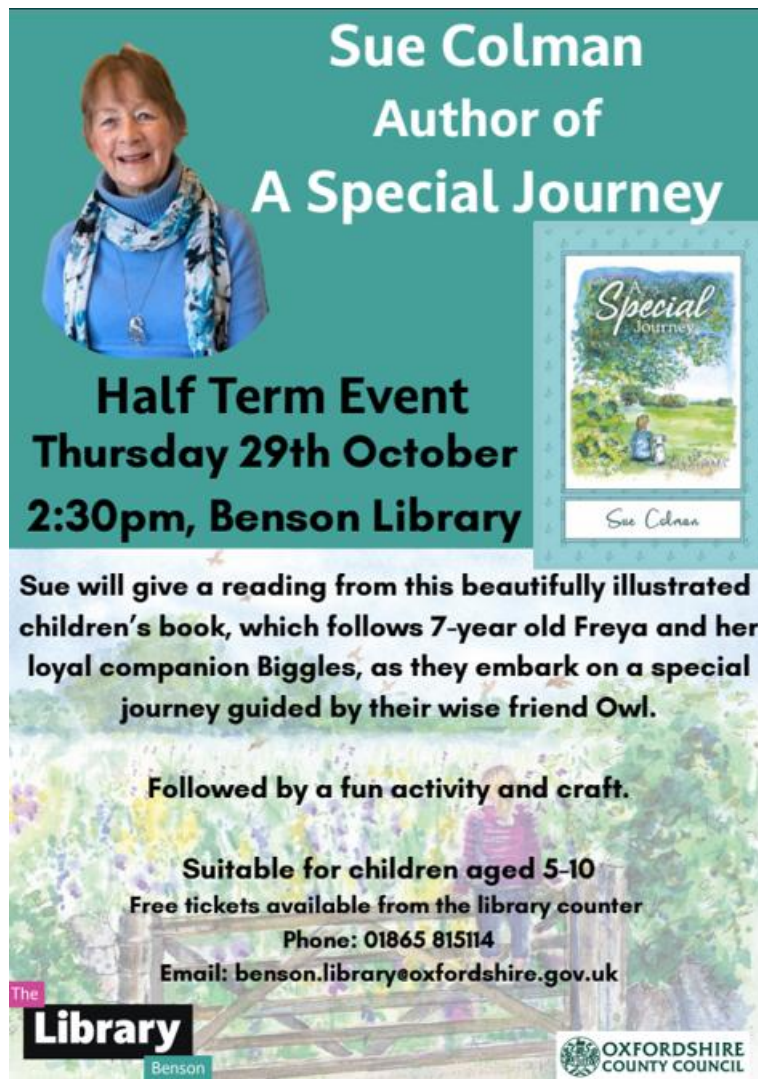
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Agudelo (SENCo) Mrs Fanstone (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Launchbury-Rainey (Assistant Headteacher)

For urgent concerns you can email the school safeguarding email

safeguarding@benson.oxon.sch.uk

Anyone can report a concern to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub). [Click here](#) for an online link or phone 01865 519800.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Sue Colman
Author of
A Special Journey

Half Term Event
Thursday 29th October
2:30pm, Benson Library

Sue will give a reading from this beautifully illustrated children's book, which follows 7-year old Freya and her loyal companion Biggles, as they embark on a special journey guided by their wise friend Owl.

Followed by a fun activity and craft.

Suitable for children aged 5-10
Free tickets available from the library counter
Phone: 01865 815114
Email: benson.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Library
Benson

OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Have Your Say

We, your local Neighbourhood Policing team, look forward to seeing you to discuss any issues you may have or chat about crime prevention measures at the next Have Your Say event.

PCSO Jones and PCSO Deacon will be in your area on:
Monday 12th October 2026 at Lidl, Wallingford between 1800-1900hrs

They will be offering advice, discussing local issues and answering any questions you may have.

Please come along and say hello.

DATES

October		
Sunday 11 th	Oxford Half Marathon	
Tuesday 13 th	Buzzards house home clothes	
Friday 16 th	Y5&6 Girls' football match	After school
Tuesday 20 th – Friday 23 rd	Year 6 PGL residential	
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of term	
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th	Half Term	
November		
Monday 2 nd	INSET day – school closed to children	
w/c Monday 2 nd	Open classrooms for parents – times and dates TBC	
Tuesday 3 rd	Start of term for all children	
Wednesday 4 th	Y5&6 netball tournament	After school
w/c Monday 9 th	Parents evenings for Reception to Year 6 – invitations to book will be sent in advance	
Monday 9 th	Y5&6 football match	After school
Monday 9 th – Wednesday 11 th	Bag2School donations can be dropped off	
Thursday 12 th	Reception nursery rhyme character dress up day	
Wednesday 25 th	Vision screening for Reception children – more information to follow	During school day
Thursday 12 th	Prospective families meeting	9.30am
Thursday 26 th	Y5&6 hockey tournament	After school
w/c Monday 30 th	Review meetings for parents of children on the SEN register – invitations to book will be sent in advance	

December		
Wednesday 2 nd	Nursery & Reception Christmas Production	9.30am
Thursday 3 rd	iRock Concert – parents/carers of children playing welcome	1.30pm
Tuesday 8 th	Damson class trombone/trumpet concert for parents/carers in the hall	2.15pm
Wednesday 9 th	Year 1&2 Christmas Production	9.30am
Thursday 10 th	Year 1&2 Christmas Production	1.30pm
Wednesday 16 th	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day	
Thursday 17 th	Christmas Church Services	TBC
Thursday 17 th	Last day of term	2pm

Key dates for 2026-2027 for parents can be found on the school website, [click here](#). Term dates can be found on the school website, [click here](#).