



BENSON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



16TH OCTOBER 2026

TERM 1 VALUE: UNDERSTANDING

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Parents' Evenings

For all children in Reception to Year 6, parents' evenings will take place after school on Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th November. We will be using a new system for bookings. To book, you will need to have followed the instructions in the email sent to you asking you to create a password. When the bookings are made available on Wednesday 21st October, you will receive a message asking you to login and book a slot. If you have not yet set your password, please check back through your emails to find the information. If you have any issues with this, please email the office.

Open Classrooms

Parents/carers of Reception to Year 6 are welcome into classrooms to see children's work during week commencing 2nd November:

Reception (including staying to watch a phonics lesson) Wednesday 4th November 8.40am

Year 1&2 classes Wednesday 4th November 2.50pm – 3.15pm

Year 3&4 classes Thursday 5th November 8.40am – 9.00am

Year 5&6 classes Thursday 5th November 2.50pm – 3.15pm

Lost Property

We have a growing pile of un-named items in the office foyer, including jumpers and coats. Please check through if your child is missing any items.

Buddies

We are delighted to confirm we have employed a new member of staff to join our After School Club team. Mrs Pinkowska will start on Monday 19th October. If your child has not been attending Buddies breakfast or after school club this term but you would like them to attend after half-term, please email the office to confirm what sessions you are interested in. [Click here](#) for more information about the provision.

Phonics Information Session

Thank you to the Reception parents/carers who joined us for the phonics information session in school this week. We hope you found it helpful. The PowerPoint used during the session will be added to the school website soon.

Can you help?

At the end of last school year, myself and the Reading Mentors began our refresh of the school library following a very generous donation from FOBs. We visited Wallingford Book Shop to buy new books, had a big clear out and bought new furniture and decorations. We're now preparing to give the walls a lick of paint to brighten up the library and make it a more welcoming place. If you have any paint which you would like to donate to us, especially white, blue or pink, we would be incredibly grateful. Please drop off any donations in the plastic box in the foyer outside the office by Friday 23rd October. Thank you in advance!

Mrs L-R and the Reading Mentors

Allergy Policy

Our updated Allergy Safety Policy can be found on our [school website policy page](#). Thank you for keeping us informed about children's allergies and any changes that occur.

CAMHS

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service offers support and advice for parents/carers. They are offering some workshops soon including emotional school-based avoidance and neurodevelopment needs and self-harm. For more information, [click here](#).

OXFORD HALF MARATHON, SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE

Last Sunday, an early start saw 38 of our children gather in Oxford to complete the final mile of their half marathon prior to the thousands of runners competing in the grown-up race! The atmosphere was once again electric with excitement and enthusiasm, as they fought for their PBs against hundreds of children from other schools, cheered on by family and friends and the general public. The medals are heavy, good quality and the pride of all who won them! Big thank you to the staff and parents who helped make this a safe and amazing experience for everyone, and to parents and friends for their vocal support along the route. Well done everyone- only a year until the next one!

Y5/6 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

What an incredible competition this was last night! Our two teams, with a range of experience and ability, were amazing, united by energy, enthusiasm, team spirit, courage and resilience. Our MKM team proved to be tough opposition throughout, winning their semi final on penalties. The final against Crowmarsh was nail biting from start to finish. After a dramatic draw from the penalty shoot out, Crowmarsh managed to finally get past us in the final minute as a draw was about to be declared, winning with the golden goal. Special mention goes to Flo, who survived a ball in the face to continue in goal, and scored the winning penalty of the semi final. Great sportsmanship, and well done to all the girls for their efforts! We are proud of you. Thanks to parents for getting us there and cheering from the side, and to Miss Glyde for assisting .

ODST GIRLS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

As you read this, the girls will be competing again, this time against other schools in the ODST Academy – watch this space!.....

Tania Hadfield

National Poetry Day winners

My Tree

My tree is strong,
Its leaves are green,
The bark feels hard,
My tree is special.

By River-Reign

My tree is strong and majestic,
The tree is home to others,
My branches were strong and wise,
Branches reaching out like fingers,
Leaves dance in the breeze,
I love my tree so much.

By Jasper

My Tree

My tree is calm,
It has long, wavy branches,
Dangling branches dangle over you,
A home for squirrels and hidden conkers,
Woken by morning sunlight,
In spring it booms and blossoms,
Blankets of leaves on warm, sunny days,
It has long roots reaching down.

By Indiana

Tall, proud leaves,
My tree stands tall and proud,
My tree has crispy leaves,
My tree grows rainbow leaves,
I love my tree.

By Alfred

My Tree

My tree is blossomy and green,
The roots are twisty,
I am tall and I am a trunk,
I grow blossom and some turns into fruit,
I am a home for birds and bees,
I am good for growing apples.

By Ellie

My tree is tall and healthy,
Bright green leaves dangling down
from the branches above,
Fat brown branches reaching far
across,
It is a home for squirrels and bugs,
Twisted roots going round like
spirals,
My tree protects always.

By Finley



When nobody is watching,
The tree quietly waves from under its sleep,
A bird tip toes out of her home and tilts her head in pleasure,
A ladybird twirls and says hello and white clouds slowly go by,
Under the rocks earth worms survive and the emerald giants watch us go by,
The foggy river not a chuckle of smoke,
The on to the winter the river broke.

By Bella

When nobody is watching,
The birds and insects listen to the humans,
Trees and flowers dance together,
Trees whisper to the leaves,
Bees make honey for the queen bee,
Insects talk to the birds,
The ants march happily to the food.

By Rogan

When nobody is watching,
The trees stretch and wiggle their arms,
Crashing waves splashing,
When it is sleeping it is calm
Sleeping softly under the night sky
Rocks whispering to each other.

By Sophie

When nobody is watching,
The world comes alive,
In the world, we only have time to play,
But we don't realise our nature that is around us,
As the tree wakes in its whispery song,
The fox digs its burrow and makes its family home,
The robins fight over a juicy berry,
As the stream flies by,
The flowers say hello to the sun,
The squirrels race and chase along the branch.

By Lyla



When nobody is watching,
The flowers are waving and happy like always,
The clouds watch the world from up above,
The river laughs and plays with stones, will it ever stop?
I hope it stays laughing.
Birds sing and dance beautifully in the sun,
Petals dance, daisies smile and bluebells nod perfectly,
The grass waves in the hot sun,
Having a party like always,
The sun wakes the flowers when it's the morning.
The moon comes after the sun goes down,
The light, beautiful moon shines in the dark night,
The conkers drop from trees like space rocks coming down from up
above,
Leaves drop from high in the sky,
In the autumn, leaves fall and become crunchy.

By Lucas

When nobody is watching,
The forest comes alive,
The flowers wave their pollen in the air,
The rain shivers down to the ground,
The fox wanders out for a little stroll,
The sunshine warms the world,
The insects buzz with a chattering laugh,
The wind makes the world wave,
The leaves race to see who's fastest.

By Eliza



Neverending crunchy leaves tunnel,
Leaves floating down,
Kids running and leaves crunching,
Echoes through the orange and gold,
Peaceful forest as the bright yellow sun rises up into the blue void.

By Eden

It is Halloween and pumpkins glow,
As crows fly from prickly trees,
Which stood like mountains of hell,
While silhouettes of people,
Who knocked on doors that,
Were dressed in hell,
As people,
Gave them,
Sweets.



By Arlen

Waking up and finding to eat,
He leaves his den strong and bolted,
The beaver go his supplies,
To build his dam up high,
Sticks and mud he brings,
To catch his fish,
For his dins,
The beaver,
Swims.

By Spencer

The wolves wake up for another day,
Licking their lips at their breakfast,
They hunt the prey away
And they played in the snow,
Most still hungry though,
They ran through trees,
Ran through leaves,
No prey
Left.

By Eva



Forever Forest

The clever beetle scuttles round,
Scuttles round on the ground,
As the water flows the boatman rows,
On the amazing forest of Earth.

The clouds move as he leaves groove,
When a gust of wind blows past,
In the month of June, the birds sing the tune,
As summer is about to start.

As the gloom disappears, very soon
The beautiful flowers start to bloom,
A little deer with spots so bright,
Lives in the forest day and night.

The crazy squirrel cheeks are full of fruity acorn sweets,
Running on his tiny feet,
Twitching tail goes swish and sway,
Bliss playing all long day.

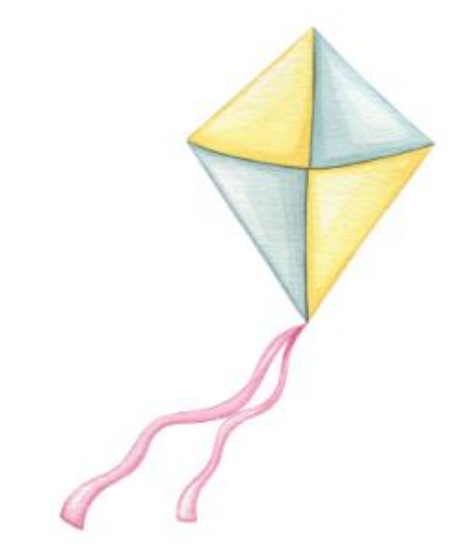
By Jonah and Elodie

A summer's day,
The sun breaks through,
The clouds above,
The skies are blue.

I close my eyes,
The birds I hear,
A beautiful sound,
My favourite time of year.

The trees are doing a gentle dance,
A kite swoops down to take its chance,
A butterfly flaps its wings,
As the children in the park all sing.

By Noorullah



Safeguarding Spotlight – TikTok

What is TikTok?

A video-sharing app that's very popular with children and teenagers. Users can gain followers and watch other people's short-form video content or slideshows. Anyone can make and upload their own videos, which often include:

Dance routines

Lip-syncing to music

Comedy sketches

There are also videos of news and world events – such as live footage of sports events, protests, natural disasters and world crises.

The age recommendation is **13 and above**, but it's easy for younger children to sign up too.

What are the main things to watch out for?

Some of TikTok's popularity comes from videos of 'viral' challenges (i.e. when 1 person attempts a particular skill and then others make their own videos copying it). Most of these challenges are harmless (for example, copying dance moves or bottle flipping) but some can be dangerous.

Other concerns include

Seeing inappropriate content: Parents have expressed concerns about the inappropriate language and message of some of the videos posted which may make this less suitable for younger children.

Contact from strangers: Predators seeking to connect with children is another privacy and security risk on TikTok.

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

ELITE CAMPS OCTOBER

ACTIVE. CREATIVE. CHILDCARE.

BOOK 5 DAYS 20% OFF!
THAT'S LIKE GETTING A DAY FREE!

30+ ACTIVITIES THIS OCTOBER
Sports, games, creative activities and new experiences

FANCY DRESS & HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES ON FRIDAY!

EVERYTHING PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- ✓ Ages 4-13
- ✓ Full days & extended days
- ✓ Childcare Vouchers accepted
- ✓ Tax-Free Childcare accepted
- ✓ Flexible booking by day or week
- ✓ Ofsted Registered

GREAT CAMPS, RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP

WALLINGFORD
Wallingford School, OX10 8HH

+ more locations all over Oxfordshire & West Berkshire

PEACE OF MIND FOR PARENTS

- OFSTED REGISTERED**
High standards you can trust
- EXPERIENCED STAFF**
Trained, qualified & DBS checked
- PAYMENTS MADE SIMPLE**
Childcare Vouchers & Tax-Free Childcare
- SAFE & SUPPORTIVE**
A welcoming environment for every child

JOIN US THIS OCTOBER
SPACES FILL FAST!

BOOK NOW!

eliteyouthsports.co.uk

ELITE

Have Your Say - Benson Library

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:

Saturday 17th October 2026 at Benson Library from 930am

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

Please come along and say hello.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Benson Library 1:1 Children's Reading



We are offering 1:1 reading sessions for primary school aged children who would like some extra reading practice.

Sessions are free of charge and are on an appointment basis.

If you are interested, please contact Kirsty or Carolyn at Benson Library to book a place.

The
Library

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



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DATES

October		
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	
Tuesday 3 rd	Start of term for all children	
Wednesday 4 th	Reception open classrooms	8.40am
Wednesday 4 th	Y1&2 open classrooms	2.50pm – 3.15pm
Wednesday 4 th	Y5&6 netball tournament	After school
Thursday 5 th	Y3&4 open classrooms	8.40am – 9.00am
Thursday 5 th	Y5&6 open classrooms	2.50pm – 3.15pm
Monday 9 th	Parents evenings for Reception to Year 6	After School
Monday 9 th	Y5&6 football match	After school
Monday 9 th – Wednesday 11 th	Bag2School donations can be dropped off	
Wednesday 11 th	Parents evenings for Reception to Year 6	After School
Thursday 12 th	Reception nursery rhyme character dress up day	
Wednesday 25 th	Vision screening for Reception children	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](#).