

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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19th January 2024



The Pope preached last week that Jesus wants us to be joyful with Him at the table, but also to be prepared to balance that with abstaining and fasting at times of suffering, for example, as Christians do during Lent. ([Vatican News](#))

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and, after a lovely long holiday, we are all ready for learning, fun and action again!

Food is an integral part of our identity and plays a role in celebrations as well as bringing our family and communities together. As the Pope noted in his address (referenced above) sharing food is a time to be joyful, but it is important to have balance as well. Balance at a global level in food security and also in our diet and well being.

In our assemblies (and social teaching), we often talk about those who do not have enough food, and what action we can take. We had a successful collection for the Oxford Food Bank and invited the founder in to talk about the work she does. Children are encouraged to ask questions and reflect. In school, we have sensible restrictions around food and drink to support focus and learning, but also around developing a healthy and balanced diet. We sent you a letter which has been uploaded onto the website ([Click here](#)). We look forward to working with families on this important issue.

So much has already happened this term. Over these last two weeks, school volunteers have been out in force! Last Sunday, families volunteered to drive children to a chess tournament (well done our Girls A and B team for a tremendous effort). On Monday evening a PTA meeting was held with volunteers to arrange the school discos (see later in the newsletter). In addition, we have held three Governor meetings in the space of a week including our Catholic Life meeting, a Premises and Safety meeting and a Finance and Personnel meeting. I want to say a huge thank you, on behalf of our community, to our PTA, our parents and Governors who volunteer their time and experience to help develop the school and offer breadth to our curriculum.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher

OxTrail – Sobell House Hospice

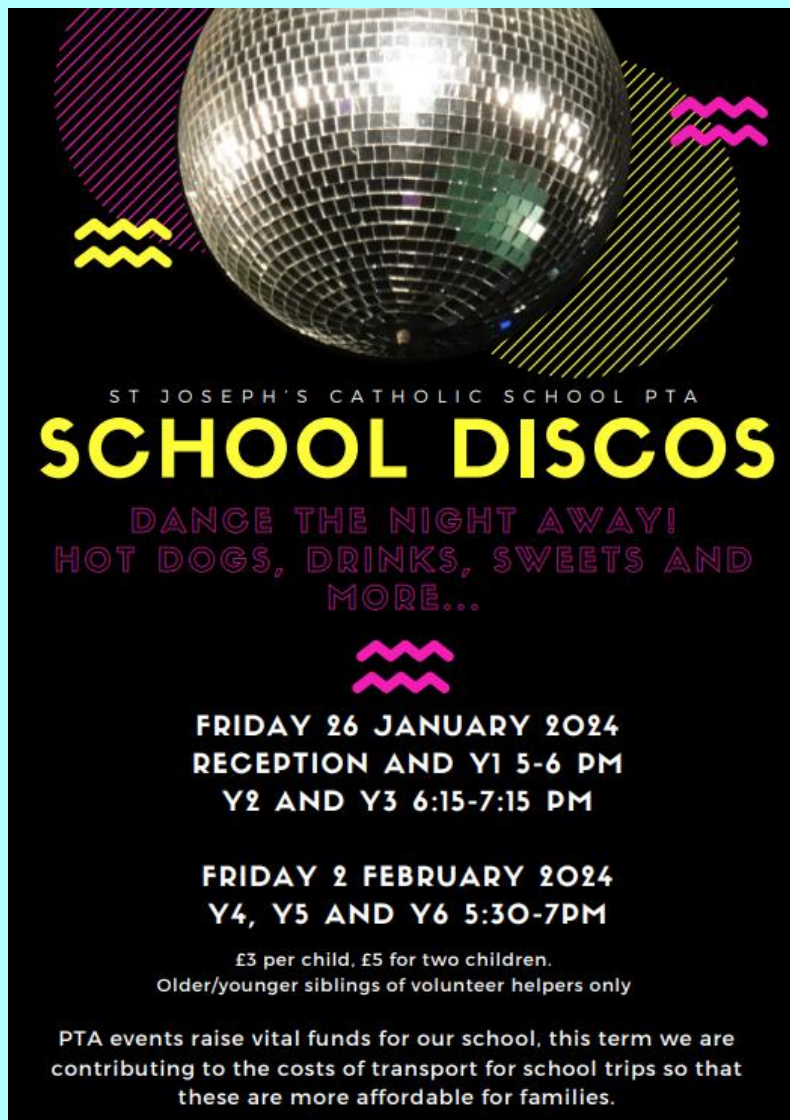
OxTrail is an exciting event coming to Oxford this summer, a herd of life-sized and miniature oxen will be grazing across the county, each ox sculpture will be individually designed by artists and by local schools, including St Joseph's, making the herd truly unique. We will be fundraising for our ox, further details coming soon... The money raised will support Sobell House Hospice, who provide expert and compassionate care to people at the end of life, and support to their family and friends.

Year 3 visit from Story Teller (Story Museum)

This week, Isy Mead, one of the Storytellers from the Story Museum in Oxford visited Year 3. The children are taking part in story telling workshops this term. This week they listened to Isy telling them an exciting story from Romania about a man how a man made his dreams come true. The children engaged in discussions about the story and they made freeze frames of their favourite part of the story. Here are some photos of the children making their freeze frames.



PTA School Disco



A poster for the PTA School Disco. It features a large, shiny disco ball in the center. To the left of the ball are three yellow wavy lines, and to the right are three pink wavy lines. The background is black with some diagonal lines. The text is in yellow and pink.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PTA

SCHOOL DISCOS

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!
HOT DOGS, DRINKS, SWEETS AND
MORE...

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024
RECEPTION AND Y1 5-6 PM
Y2 AND Y3 6:15-7:15 PM

FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2024
Y4, Y5 AND Y6 5:30-7PM

£3 per child, £5 for two children.
Older/younger siblings of volunteer helpers only

PTA events raise vital funds for our school, this term we are contributing to the costs of transport for school trips so that these are more affordable for families.

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. We will start today!

Fire Drills

Every term we have a fire drill to ensure we can evacuate the pupils, staff and visitors safely. We successfully held one at the end of last term. We practice this as a whole school and after the drill we collect ideas of how to improve what we do and ensure the safety of our community.

Road Safety

Road safety and traffic continues to be a concern for us. We held a successful Road Safety Week last term and we will revisit this next week (revisiting is an important part of embedding learning!) – sharing the winner of the road sign competition. Can we please remind families of the importance of not parking on the double yellow lines in front of the school. This keeps the roads moving and ensures cars can see people on the pavements.

SchoolComms School Gateway App

As you will know, to streamline the systems we use in school, we will be moving all payments and communications from ParentPay to SchoolComms from 31 March 2024. SchoolComms runs an app called School Gateway which many of you will already be used to using for booking wrap-around care. Access to this app is already available for all parents/carers. Getting started with School Gateway is very straightforward, click on the link below for step-by-step instructions

<https://schoolgateway.co.uk/get-started/>

Please ensure you can access the School Gateway (either website or app) by 31 January 2024 in preparation for the switch-over. If you have any difficulty, please contact the school office. We will be running drop-in sessions 09:15-10:15am on Tuesday 23rd January and 2:15-3:10pm on Thursday 25th January if you need any support.

2024 ECF English Schools Girls Championship Semi Final Under 11

On Sunday, our Girls Chess teams – went all the way to Guildford to take part in a huge competition with 55 teams in total. Our A team came 19th which was excellent. Perhaps the more important outcome was the chance to learn to compete (and it was very formal!) and seeing our teams grow in confidence, resilience and build interest and friendships. Well done to all participants and a huge thank you Dr Varney and to the parents who helped with transport and supervision.



Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings – February 2024

Please check your email for details of the upcoming parent/carers consultation meetings. These meetings are an important opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher about their progress. Please complete the online form to request an appointment slot – the deadline to sign up is midday Wednesday 31st January. We take parental preference into account wherever possible when allocating appointments.

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

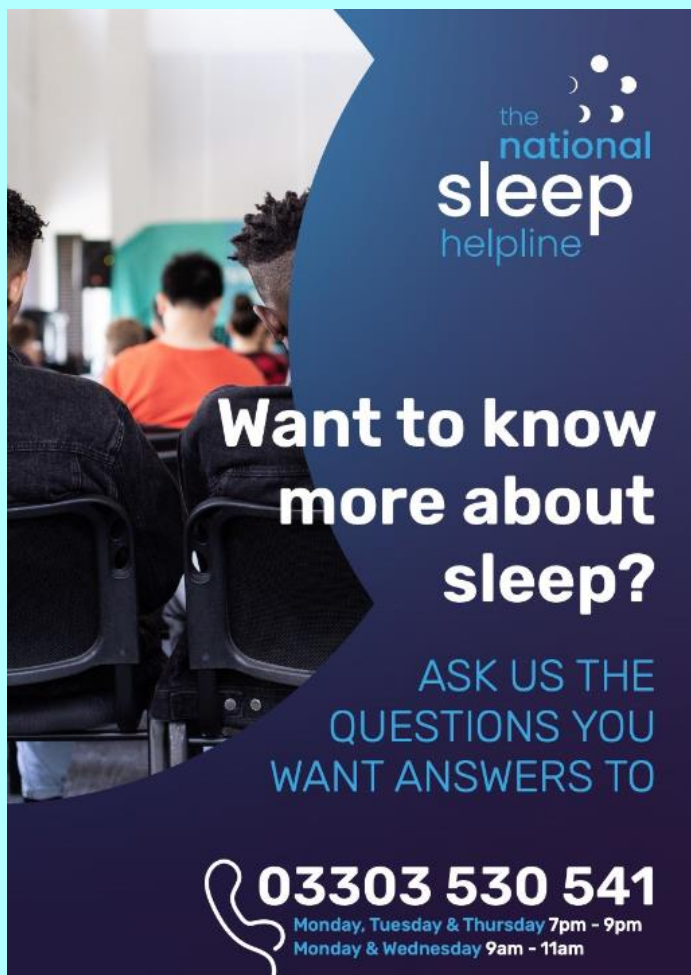
Tel: 01865 763357 Mobile: 07500 802732

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

Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Thursday 25 th January	Year 5	Oxford Synagogue
Friday 26 th January	YR – Y3	PTA School Discos YR and Y1 5pm-6pm Y2 and Y3 6:15-7:15pm
w/c Monday 29 th Jan	1M	Parent/carers consultation meetings
Friday 2 nd February	Y4 – Y6	PTA School Discos Y4, Y5 and Y6 5:30-7pm
w/c Monday 5 th February	1M	Parent/carers consultation meetings
Tuesday 6 th February	Reception	Natural History Museum trip
Thursday 8 th February	Reception	Natural History Museum trip
Thursday 8 th February	Year 1	Science Oxford trip
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February	All year groups	February half term break – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 20 th February	YR, 1CJ, Y2, Y3, 4R, Y5, Y6	Parent/carers consultation meetings
Wednesday 21 st February	4HR	Parent/carers consultation meetings
Thursday 22 nd February	YR, 1CJ, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Parent/carers consultation meetings
Monday 26 th February	Year 4	Ashmolean Museum trip
Tuesday 5 th March	Year 3	Corinum Museum, Cirencester
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 3	Poetry performance
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
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 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



The flyer features a background image of a classroom with children sitting at desks. A large dark blue circular graphic on the right contains the text. The logo 'the national sleep helpline' is at the top right. The main text asks if the reader wants to know more about sleep and encourages them to ask questions. The phone number 03303 530 541 is prominently displayed at the bottom, along with the helpline's operating hours.

the national sleep helpline

Want to know more about sleep?

ASK US THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERS TO

03303 530 541
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

Our free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.



The flyer has a bright, colorful design with a sun and abstract shapes. It promotes a parent webinar organized by NHS Oxford Health and CAMHS. The text emphasizes the importance of parents in their children's lives and lists topics like teen anxiety and self-harm. A QR code is provided for registration, and the website URL is at the bottom.

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT WEBINAR

Parents are the most important part of young people's lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us, help you, to help them.

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD



WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS



The flyer is a collage of photos showing children playing tennis and smiling. A green banner at the top right invites people to join action-packed holiday camps. The text describes the camps as fun, action-packed weeks with great venues in Oxford. It mentions that the camps are run by enthusiastic, LTA accredited coaches and are open to everyone aged 5 to 15. Childcare vouchers are accepted. The camps run over Easter, Summer, and half-term holidays. A booking link and phone number are provided at the bottom, along with logos for 'Fresh Air Fun', 'Fitness with Friends', 'Skills for Life', and 'Premier Tennis'.

Join us at our action packed holiday camps

Premier Tennis holiday camps are fun filled, action packed tennis weeks using great venues in Oxford (with indoor back-up just in case).

Our enthusiastic, LTA accredited tennis coaches ensure each camp delivers a fantastic blend of fun, activity, skills development as well as plenty of opportunities to make new friends.

For everyone aged 5 to 15 (players organised into smaller groups by age each day).

Childcare vouchers accepted.

Camps run over Easter, Summer and half term holidays through the year at various venues across Oxford.

Book now at [TennisOxfordshire.com](https://www.tennisoxfordshire.com) or call 01865 689754

FRESH AIR FUN **FITNESS WITH FRIENDS** **SKILLS FOR LIFE**

premier TENNIS
improving lives through tennis

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

12TH - 16TH FEBRUARY 2024



ELITE CAMPS

ELITE ACTIVITIES

- Bubble Football
- Crazy Golf | Nerf Wars
- Soft Archery | Laser Tag
- Glow-In-Dark Dodgeball
- Seasonal themed arts & crafts and so much more...

for the full list of activities please visit the camp locations page on our website. Age restrictions apply

BOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
In Botley, OX2 9JZ

call us
01235 415 846
www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk

ELITE
YOUTH SPORTS LTD

Find Us On

HOW TO BOOK...!

Special offer!

Boys & Girls | Ages 5 to 13
Timing : 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

SAVE 10%..
with our **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** off February half term with code... **"FAB10"**
Expiry 01.02.2024

Extended hours 08:30 - 17:00 are also available for an extra £5 per day.

Half day sessions available for children age four years old.
All sessions can be booked online via our website or by calling the office






We accept childcare vouchers

BOOKING OPTIONS
via www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk
email us: info@eliteyouthsports.co.uk

call us
01235 415 846
www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk

Find Us On

Northway & Marston Kitchen

"Where Good Food Grows.."




Would YOU like to join us
in cooking hot meals for your local community?
If so - Come Dine With Us!
We invite you to come to cook, eat, share and grow.

Bring your recipes and plastic boxes

Northway Community Centre
Dora Carr Close
Headington OX3 9RF

Every Wednesday
Cooking: 11am-1.00pm
Serving: 1pm - 4pm

NORTHWAY Together...

Marston Community Gardening

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE BAZAAR BEYOND

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY! MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

Saturday 3 February 2024

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am - 4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, shows, competitions and cafe



BOOK TICKETS

www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

@obuengagement #BrookesBazaar24
 @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch
 @oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Clerici Building, Headington Campus, Gypsy Lane, Headington, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

JOIN THE CALL FOR **ROAD SAFETY** **IN BARTON PARK NOW**

**COME TO OUR PUBLIC MEETING
WITH COUNTY OFFICIALS**

**26 JANUARY AT 6 PM
BARTON PARK SCHOOL**

WE NEED NUMBERS TO FORCE CHANGE

**CUT
THE
SPEED**

**BARRIERS
SIGNAGE
CAMERAS**

There will be a public meeting on the 26th of January to discuss the safety issues of the A40 crossing and main road through Barton Park and Councillor Barbara Coyne would like to ensure that any parents who might wish attend are informed.

***Please come along, bring your kids,
tell your stories, make them listen!***

Just turning up and sharing your voice will make it clear how many of us are concerned and affected by the dangerous road & crossing situation here in Barton Park.

**Friday, 26 January
6 pm
at Barton Park School**

**SCAN THE QR CODE >>
TO SIGN THE PETITION**

