

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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26th April 2024



"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!" We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love." (Pope John Paul II, 1986)

Dear Families,

Can I wish a Happy Easter to those who celebrated it during the holidays and to those families who are preparing to celebrate Easter in the Orthodox Churches. 'Eid Mubarak' to our Muslim families as well! It was made even more special by spring bursting forth over the holidays and a glimmer of summer. Our School playground is beautiful at this time of year.

Two weeks has flown past. Year 5 had their trip to Wales which was, by all accounts, very successful. They went to a new venue this year – Woodlands is set in a breathtaking part of Wales. We have also decorated our Ox - who has been named Sunny Joe! Thank you to the staff, Governors and pupils who have played a part in this.

We are looking forward to a long and busy term ahead. The parent survey was very positive and we will be sharing this shortly. One of the actions from the survey results was to make the school upcoming events and calendar more visible. We have moved the diary dates to the start of this newsletter and on weeks when we do not send a newsletter, the diary dates will be sent as a stand-alone email. We are also trailing a contents section with links to make it easier to navigate the newsletter.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,
Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher

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Diary Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Tuesday 30th April	Year 3	Story Museum visit
Wednesday 1st May	All year groups	Mass for Feast of St Joseph the Worker
Monday 6th May	All year groups	May Bank Holiday – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 8th May – Thursday 9th May	Year 5	Additional Year 5 Bikeability
Thursday 9th May	All year groups	Feast of the Ascension
Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May	Year 6	KS2 tests administered
Thursday 16th May	Year 4	Science Oxford
Monday 20th May	Year 6	Retreat Day
Tuesday 21st – Friday 24th May	Year 6	Cycling Proficiency
Friday 24th May	All year groups	Non-uniform day (£1 donation to raise funds for Sobell House Hospice)
Friday 24th May	All year groups	Crowning of Holy Family
Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May	All year groups	May half term break – school closed to pupils
Monday 3rd June	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 4th June	Year 6	Story Museum visit
Monday 10th – Tuesday 11th June	Year 3	Camping residential at school
Monday 10th June	UKS2	M&M production of Alice in Wonderland
Thursday 20th June	All year groups	Class Group Photographs/ Leavers
Wednesday 26th June	All year groups	Whole school Mass for Saints Peter and Paul
Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th July	Year 6	Year 6 Production
Tuesday 16th July	Year 6	Legoland trip
Thursday 18th July	All year groups	Proposed Sports day (weather dependent)
Monday 22nd July	All year groups	Transition Day
Tuesday 23rd July	Year 6	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly
Wednesday 24th July	All year groups	Last day of summer term

Year 5 Trip to Woodlands

What a fantastic week Year 5 had at Woodlands, where we have been achieving in areas that most of us had never attempted before, such as caving. It was incredible to see so many follow the careful instruction of the staff at Woodlands to explore an ancient cave system and to be at one with nature. We also enjoyed canoeing greatly and acquired many new skills, seeing the canal close up and many of the inhabitants that live there, which included nesting swans to name a few. Walking up a mountain and taking in the view and getting up close to wild horses was also a particular high point. We feel blessed to have had such a rich experience and are grateful that our school has enable us all to do this. Thank you so much to the school staff and governor who accompanied the trip, their hard work and dedication make these enriching experiences possible.

Mrs Rashleigh

What do Year 5 pupils say about their Woodlands residential experience?

Sam - The canoeing was really good fun, it wasn't a one-person job, so someone needed to steer, both paddle and you had to all work together and if you didn't work as a team, it would all fall apart. I really liked the caving, the dark and damp because it made you think of a scary ride, like a roller coaster but you knew you were safe because you wouldn't be able to do it if it wasn't.

Kuba - I really liked the caving because I got to go through tunnels and water and it was challenging.

Gabriel Y - The caving was intense and I loved it.

Livvy - We went canoeing and I loved turning one of the canoes into a slide.

Elliott - The caving was really good and even though it was difficult, I still found it fun because there were lots of fun challenges that you had to complete.

Stella - I enjoyed the canoeing because my favourite part was sliding into the water, even though it was very cold.

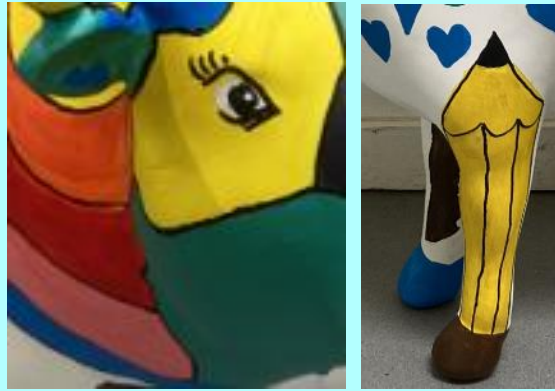
Marissa - The mountain walk was amazing because I saw wild ponies. I was so close to riding them!



Oxtrail Update

Following the submission of the childrens' design ideas for our ox, a small committee decided on the final artwork and began painting. The artwork incorporates ideas from a number of different designs and our Ox looks stunning! He has been named 'Sunny Joe' and whilst we have been asked by Sobell House fundraisers not to reveal the full design, below is a teaser of how he is looking... Sunny Joe will remain with us at school until the mini-herds 'go live' across the county on Friday 28th June.

Our fundraising efforts for Sobell House continue with a non-uniform day on Friday 24th May. Children may wear their own clothes to school in return for a £1 donation which must be handed to their teacher in the morning. Please ensure that clothes chosen are suitable for a busy and active day at school.



Governors

Thank you to our office staff and Finance Governors for developing our school budget. This takes time and energy. As you will know, it is a tough budgeting environment at the moment, but we are still balancing and in a solid position for the year ahead. On a separate note, I also want to say a huge thank you to John Sproat, one of our associate governors, who went on the Year 5 residential to Wales.

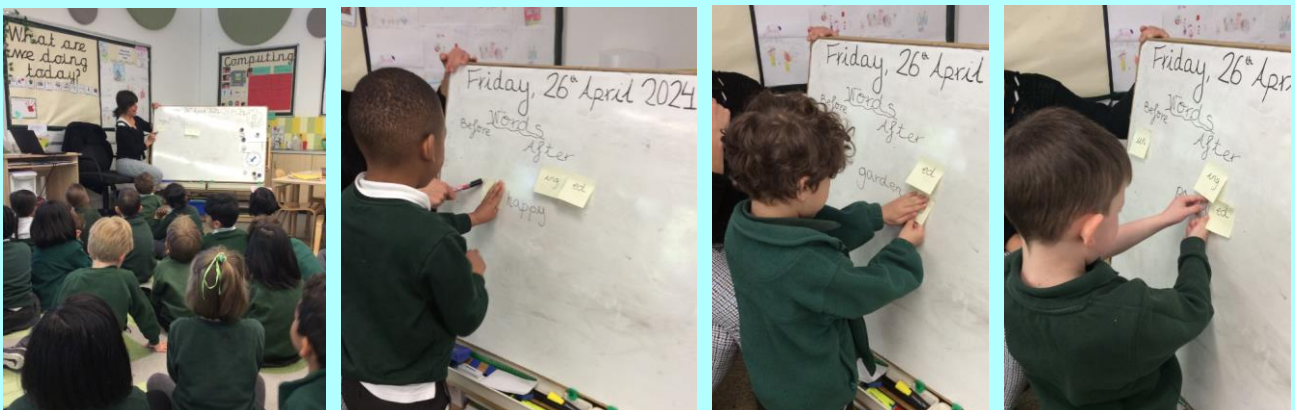
Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to fill in the parent survey. It was very positive and also gave food for thought. We have analysed the responses and will feed back to you by email.

Exciting writing in Year 1

This term, we started exploring new English skills as part of our broad curriculum in Year 1. This week, we have been learning how to change words by using prefixes (ing/ed) and suffixes (un). We all built funny words on whiteboards by using sticking notes. Then, we wrote long sentences linked to the story of 'Grandad's Island' using our new knowledge. We love seeing our children develop new vocabulary and composing detailed sentences about their reading.

Ms Garcia



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.

Playground and PE equipment

On the 17th April 'Sports and Playground Services' came to site to inspect and maintain our playground and PE equipment, including the large outdoor playframes. Repairs to these must be obviously be undertaken by suitably qualified staff, fortunately, no major remedial works were identified during the inspection. All the equipment is ready to go for the lovely spring and summer weather, which must be just around the corner.

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.

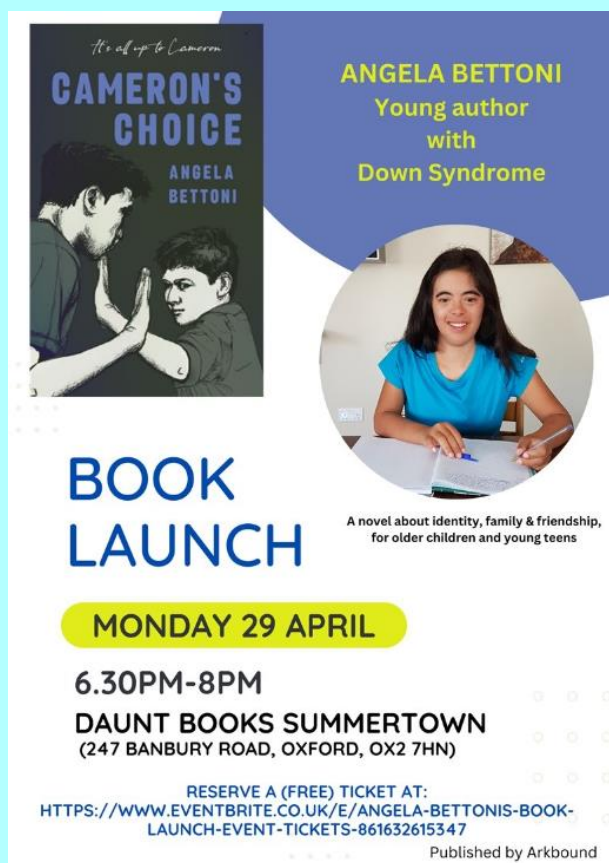
Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357 Mobile: 07500 802732


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Flyers and Information



It's all up to Cameron
CAMERON'S CHOICE
ANGELA BETTONI

ANGELA BETTONI
Young author
with
Down Syndrome



A novel about identity, family & friendship,
for older children and young teens

BOOK LAUNCH

MONDAY 29 APRIL

6.30PM-8PM

DAUNT BOOKS SUMMERTOWN
(247 BANBURY ROAD, OXFORD, OX2 7HN)

RESERVE A (FREE) TICKET AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/ANGELA-BETTONI-BOOK-LAUNCH-EVENT-TICKETS-861632615347](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/angela-bettoni-book-launch-event-tickets-861632615347)

Published by Arkbound



FREE ENTRY

OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE RESCUE

SPRING FAYRE 24

28TH April 2024 - Didcot Football Club

10am - 4pm Proudly sponsored by 

Fun Fair Rides | Ice Cream | Café

Bouncy Castles

Tombola | Live Music | Hot Food

Licensed Bar | Craft Stands | Cakes | Sweets



All proceeds are going towards the fundraiser for the build of the 'Oxfordshire wildlife hospital'

HUNSDON HOUSE PRESENTS

WILD CREATIONS



April
Sat Session 20th

May
Sat Sessions 11th, 18th and 25th

June
Sat Sessions 8th and 22nd

July
Sat Sessions 6th and 13th

2-5pm

DATES

AGES 4-10 YEARS

Meet new friends
Arts and Crafts
Play in the gardens

TO BOOK A PLACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE EMAIL:
naturesartclub@gmail.com

AT HUNSDON HOUSE GARDEN SCHOOL,
12 OSLER ROAD, HEADINGTON OX3 9BJ

Get Creative!

FACE
FAMILY ADVICE - COMMUNICATION - EDUCATION

May 2024
Newsletter

cpd
The CPD Development Office
CPD Training for Professionals

CPD training for anyone who works with children or teenagers.
National Standards CPD accredited sessions
All sessions booked & delivered online via facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Thursday 2 May 19:00 - 21:00 £24		Anxiety Explained Anxiety, especially in our young is rising. This session explains what it is, why it happens and how you can help.
Monday 13 May 19:00 - 21:00 £24		Autism: Improving Communication Small changes can lead to huge improvements with your ability to communicate with someone on the spectrum.
Monday 20 May 19:00 - 21:00 £24		Understanding the Teenage Brain Improve your understanding and communication with your teen. Why they think, feel and behave very differently from adults.
Tuesday 21 May 19:00 - 21:00 £24		Raising Self-Esteem How to support healthy self-esteem in your children and yourself. Easy to apply interventions shared.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Kidical Mass Oxford Cycle Ride – Sunday 28th April

🚲 Join us for our first free, fun and family friendly Kidical Mass cycle ride of 2024 to call for safer streets.

🕒 **2pm** | Riders leave from John Radcliffe opposite Manor Surgery, Flo's in the Park cafe, Oatlands play park, Botley Rd and Summertown Ferry Centre car park via volunteer led feeder rides.

🕒 **3pm** | Groups merge in Broad St outside the Weston Library (east end of Broad St) to ride a loop of the city centre. You're welcome to just join for the mass ride.

🕒 **4pm** | Return via marshalled rides back to starting points.

📝 Letting us know you're coming along by booking means we can share any changes to plans.

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 This is a family friendly cycle suitable for all ages and abilities. Everyone is welcome, regardless of whether or not you have or look after children.

🚗 There will be cars so we kindly ask that you are self-sufficient and responsible for yourselves and any children you bring along.

😊 Looking forward to seeing you there!