

As always there is much to look forward to this term:

WORLD BOOK DAY is next week on Thursday 6th March and we are inviting the children to dress up and wear a costume that reflects a character from a book or story they particularly enjoy. As always, there is no expectation for the children to dress-up. Some might prefer to bring a favourite book to school to share, or they might like to draw a character, setting or front cover of a book that they have particularly enjoyed and to bring this into school.

Schools across the country have also once again been given £1.00 Book Tokens to distribute to children. These book tokens can be swapped completely free for one of the World Book Day books or used to get £1.00 off any full price book. Tokens are valid up until Sunday 23rd March.

There are several other events also scheduled for the children, a **Music and IT Workshop**, a **Screen-Printing Workshop** and KS2 will also be involved in a **K'nex Workshop**. Our Easter Service is on Thursday 3rd April!

PHONICS AND READING PARENT OPEN MORNING - FRIDAY 7TH MARCH

From 9.00- 9.30am parents are invited to come into classes to join in with different phonics and reading activities. We hope that this will provide you with an insight in how phonics and reading are developed across the school and how we foster a love of reading with the children.

GIFTS TO STAFF

Following a recent audit from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) all schools are required to adopt a Gifts and Hospitality Policy to ensure compliance with OCC policies and procedures going forward.

Under this policy, generally gifts of nominal value to staff or governors such as small tokens of appreciation may be accepted, but if they are valued at over £50, they must be recorded on a Gifts and Hospitality Register.

Any monetary gifts, including gift vouchers of any amount, must be declined by staff or governors.

We ask that parents take this into account if they wish to give staff gifts from now on to avoid any embarrassment which might be caused. Thank you, Jane Samways (Chair of Governors)

WHOLE SCHOOL CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY & DEDICATION OF THE SCHOOL POND TO HELEN WILSON (former Teacher and Governor of our School)

Friday 14th March (2.30pm)

You may recall the great sadness that Helen Wilson our Vice Chair of Governors, suddenly died in July 2023.



Helen had been involved with our school for a great many years and had a deep affection for the school, its pupils, staff and Christian ethos.

She both taught at the school herself and her three boys were pupils here. She joined the governing body a number of years ago and brought with her an enormous amount of knowledge, wisdom and support which was hugely valued.

As Helen was such a huge part of our school community we have decided to dedicate the pond area in memory of Helen and we hope that as many of our parents and children are able to be present for a short gathering at the end of the school day. FoSS will be providing refreshments.

It is hard to sum up the impact Helen had on others during her life.

ANNUAL PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

At this time in the school year we often send out a questionnaire as we would like to hear your current views. We are constantly seeking to improve the school and your feedback is very important to us. We would be very grateful if you could complete the attached Parent Questionnaire and return it to Mrs Ashdown in the School Office by Friday, the 14th March. We have also sent a paper copy home today via the children's book-bags. The results will then be analysed and shared with you. Thank you.

Reminders - we would also appreciate your help and support with the following:

School Uniform

We often receive comments from visitors on how smart the children look, and we would like to thank you for ensuring the children arrive at school looking clean, tidy and wearing the correct uniform! However, we have noticed recently that some items are being worn which are not part of our school Uniform Policy. Please can I remind you that friendship bracelets, wristbands, necklaces, boots or trainers are not to be worn at school. Socks and hair accessories need to be either grey, black, blue or white in colour. Sweatshirts and cardigans need to be royal blue with the school logo. Long hair also needs to be tied back.

End of the School Day and After-School Club Collections

Please collect your child/ren promptly at the end of the school day or 4.15pm if they are attending an After-School Club. Staff have daily commitments and meetings after school which they need to attend. We appreciate that there may be occasional delays and ask parents to arrange for another parent to collect your child/ren in this instance.

Packed Lunches

Children opting for packed lunches are encouraged to bring in a 'healthy, balanced lunch'. Please note that sweets, chocolate are not allowed, and crisps and biscuits are discouraged.

We have pupils in the school who have potentially life-threatening allergy to nuts and peanuts.

For this reason, it is school policy that all snacks and all packed lunches DO NOT contain foods with nuts or nut ingredients e.g. Cereal bars. Thank you.

Driving into and out of Church Street

Please could all parents who have dropped their child/ren at the school, give way to those driving down Church Street to the school, in order for all children to arrive at school for **8.45am**. Thank you for your cooperation.



WEAR RED AND PINK DAY - £142.00

BINGO - £310.00

Thank you for supporting these recent events.

An updated list of diary dates for this term are included below. Further information on events will follow over the coming weeks.

With best wishes,

Judith R Terrell

DIARY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM:

SPRING TERM FOUR		
1	Monday 24 th February	Spring Term Four begins (School opens at 8.45am) Class 4: TA Sports Stars (pm) weekly
	Tuesday 25 th February	Class 1 and 2: Forest School
	Thursday 27 th February	Class 3: OCMS Strings Music Tuition begins (weekly)
		School Council Meeting FoSS: Events Meeting (7.45pm) – The Old Crown Coaching Inn, Faringdon
	Friday 28 th February (3.15 – 5.15pm)	FoSS: Film Club
2	Tuesday 4 th March	Class 3 and 4: Forest School
	Thursday 6 th March	Whole School Event: World Book Day
	Friday 7 th March (9.00 – 9.30am)	Whole School Event: Phonics and Reading Parents Open Morning
3	Tuesday 11 th March	Whole School Event: Bassistry Arts Music Workshop
	Wednesday 12 th March	Class 3 & 4: Bassistry Arts Music and IT Workshop
	Friday 14 th March (2.30 – 3.00pm)	Whole School Event: Celebration Assembly & Dedication of the School Pond to Helen Wilson (Vice Chair of the Governing Body)
4	Tuesday 18 th March	Class 1 and 2: Forest School
	Friday 21 st March	Class 3 & 4: K'nex Workshop
5	Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th March	*Last week of After-School Clubs
	Tuesday 25 th March	Class 3 and 4: Forest School
	Wednesday 26 th March	FoSS: General Meeting (6.30pm) – in Class 4
	Friday 28 th March	Whole School Event: Screen Printing Workshop
6	Monday 31 st March	Whole School Event: Screen Printing Workshop
	Wednesday 2 nd April	FoSS: Easter Bonnet Competition & Easter Stall
	Thursday 3 rd April (2.00pm)	Easter Service at St Faith's Church, Shellingford (led by Class 3)
	Friday 4 th April	End of Spring Term Four (School closes at 1.30pm for the Easter holidays)
	Friday 18 th April – Monday 21 st April	FoSS: Virtual Balloon Race