



St Andrew's C of E Primary School



Everyone is different. Everyone is special. Everyone is our neighbour.

Welcome back to the start of our new school year – and a special welcome to our new families joining St Andrew's this year.

The children have quickly settled into their new classes and routines this week and staff have wasted no time in getting straight into the exciting learning planned for this term. Today you will be receiving a topic web and letter from your child's class teacher, explaining about the learning planned for the term and any special dates or events specific to your child's class. Dates relevant for more than one class are found below in this whole school newsletter.

A whole school newsletter is sent out each week, with information about upcoming events in the school life and in the community, as well as sharing about special events which have taken place in the school. This week, the newsletter is in a different format due to technical issues!

Dates for this term

Friday 18th September – SASA International Evening – a chance to share food and fun together with the school community

Wednesday 30th September – Flu vaccines

Tuesday 6th October, 10.30am – Harvest Service at St Andrew's Church

Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th October, 3.30 – 6.00pm – Class teacher meetings

Friday 16th October – Years 3 – 6 British History Day

Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd October – Deep learning week – a shared learning experience for the whole school

Friday 23rd October – INSET – no children in school

Music at St Andrew's

[St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Oxford - Music at St Andrew's](#)

The start of term is a good time to think about learning an instrument. Individual music lessons are available to book through Oxfordshire County Council. [Learning an instrument | Oxfordshire County Council](#). There is also orchestra (by invitation) and choir at school. Orchestra have several services in the school calendar when they perform: Harvest service, Christmas service (including the Year 1 & 2 Nativity the evening before), Easter service, Summer concert and Leavers' service.

If you'd like some inspiration, take a look at the Prom concert which is on television (BBC2) on Saturday 5th September at 5.30 (and then on iPlayer). It's music from well known Disney shows, and you'll be able to see a whole symphony orchestra, with lots of extra instruments, as well as singers. Listen out for the beautiful solos on instruments like the oboe, violin and horn, and see what instruments are playing your favourite tunes! Remember, everyone on the stage, whether singing, dancing, conducting, or playing in the orchestra was once a child at primary school, starting at the very beginning of learning, then practising every day, and now they're on the stage! You can also hear the audience (mostly) clapping on beats 2 and 4 like we practise in assembly!

Sport at St Andrew's

[St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Oxford - Sport at St Andrew's](#)

At St Andrew's we believe physical education is really important. In addition to two hours of Physical Education as part of the curriculum within the school week (including swimming teaching in Year 4 as part of the National Curriculum), there are many opportunities for being active and developing sporting skills:

- Lunch times have sports set up (hockey, basketball, tennis, football, badminton) by our PE Assistant. Andy Masters.
- Year 5s begin their year with Sports Leader training so that they can run clubs during lunch times and support multi-skill events for the younger children.
- There are after school activities, such as judo, football and tennis, which will run for 5 weeks this term and 5 weeks next term for their 10-week block.
- Our PE lead, Mrs Becki Halcrow, finds opportunities for festivals and competitions outside of school.

Health, Safety and safeguarding

Please help us keep children safe by the following:



Pushing bikes / scooters on school grounds (not riding them).



Park safely with respect to our neighbours, before walking your child to their allocated drop off point, if you are driving to school.



Keeping phones away on the school site – we respectfully ask parents/carers to model the expectations we have for our Year 5 & 6 students.



Enabling attendance - working with the school to support excellent attendance. [St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Oxford – Attendance](#)



Communicating concerns promptly– talking to your child's class teacher in the first instance, if you have any concerns around your child's safety or learning.

How to get involved and support school

At St Andrew's, we would love for every parent/carer to feel that they can engage with the school at the level at which they feel comfortable. For some this might mean becoming a governor; for others this might mean helping out at an event or being able to contribute financially.

SASA (St Andrew's School Association) is the parent/carer group of which every adult with a child in the school is automatically a part.

Fundraising:

As a school, we are extremely grateful to our parent body / SASA who look for ways to raise money for the school, through events such as the fun run, disco, film night etc - this all supports the wider learning opportunities, such as keeping our lovely library well-stocked, updating our play equipment, developing our music provision. In addition, as a school, we seek out opportunities for grants and free events/ trips, to enable all of our pupils to have a rich learning experience during their time at St Andrew's.

Sometimes families are unable to attend the fund-raising events but would still like to contribute to the school. For this reason, we have set up the following options:

1. A **QR code** found on our [website](#).
2. An **Amazon 'wish list'**: <https://amzn.eu/2DAkpvb>
3. **Cashback from Sainsburys and Argos** – signing up to the MySchoolFund. When someone signs up using our school code, the individual gets 2% cashback on spend in Sainsburys and Argos and the school gets 1% in eGift vouchers. Link to our school (use postcode OX3 9ED) on the My School Fund website. If this could work for you, please do sign up. Sign up today at www.myschoolfund.org Our school registration number : 29600

HEADINGTON SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP : extended learning for all ages



03.09.26

term 1 – letter 1

OX3 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WEEK Saturday 5 – Sunday 13 September

Discover new adventures on your doorstep!

From 5-13 September 2026, OX3 Community Activities Week is throwing open the doors to the huge range of groups, activities and opportunities already happening across our neighbourhoods. Whether you've been meaning to get more active, try something creative, meet new people, find something for the family, volunteer locally or simply discover something you never knew was happening around the corner, this is a week to give it a go. The programme brings together more than **120 activities across OX3**, with opportunities for all ages, interests and abilities. Many are **completely free**, and lots of groups are offering taster sessions, special welcomes for newcomers or a friendly buddy to help take the awkwardness out of turning up somewhere new for the first time.

The full programme is live now, so take a look, find something that catches your eye and make Community Activities Week your excuse to try it.

Explore the programme here : <https://www.headingtonaction.org/community-activities-week.html>

Community Activities Week is a Headington Action initiative, bringing together local organisations and activity providers across Barton, Headington, Marston, Northway, Risinghurst, Sandhills, Wood Farm and the wider OX3 community.

NATIONAL CINEMA WEEKEND Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 September <https://cinemaweekender.com/cinemas>

National Cinema Weekend is the cinema event we've all been waiting for! On 5th and 6th September, all cinema tickets across participating cinemas nationwide are £4. Browse participating cinemas, find film showtimes, and book tickets directly via cinema websites. £4*. Any format, any seat, any film.

In Oxford, it's the Phoenix Picture House, Walton Street, Jericho and Vue, Greater Leys

IRIS PROJECT – RUMBLE MUSEUM

Cheney School, Cheney Lane, OX3 7QH

ODYSSEY-THEMED CLASSICS & CREATIVE WRITING CAFÉ St Alban's Church, Charles Street, OX4 3AH

Saturday 5 September 10.00 - 12.00

Themed on the Sirens episode from Homer's Odyssey, the cafe is a friendly and relaxed opportunity to have a go at writing using a classical prompt.

ages 14+ to adult. More information and booking

<https://apolloandartemisblog.wordpress.com/2024/12/31/new-classics-creative-writing-cafe/>

OVID-INSPIRED POSTCARD AND STORY DROP-IN

St Alban's Church, Charles Street, OX4 3AU

Saturday 12 September 10.00-1.00

Magical realist novel *The Birder* imagines an alternate Oxford where people transform into birds, and features linocuts of birds in Oxford locations. It was inspired by the poem *Metamorphoses* written by the ancient Roman poet Ovid.

Make your own postcard imagining a transformed bird in Oxford, and write a little story about your bird in our group storybook!

This activity is part of the **OXFORD OPEN DOORS PROGRAMME**. It is free and aimed at all ages.

There is more information here

<https://apolloandartemisblog.wordpress.com/2026/08/20/ovid-inspired-story-and-postcard-making-drop-in/>

VICTORIAN FESTIVAL

Rumble Museum, Cheney School, OX3 7QH

Thursday 22 October 3.30 - 5.30

The Rumble Museum at Cheney School is delighted to announce their Victorian Festival!

The festival will include a wide range of performances, stalls, activities and workshops themed on the Victorian era, and aimed at all ages. Highlights include a blacksmith forge, walking forest suffragettes, pennyfarthing cycles and Victorian magic shows. There will be displays from a number of local museums and organisations, as well as creative activities and stalls run by Cheney's Museum Council students.

There will be three repeated Victorian magic shows at 3.05, 4.00, and 5.00.

The event is free and aimed at all ages. To book places, please use the on line form [please fill in this form](#).

please email iro@cheneyschool.org with any questions.

<https://rumblemuseum.org.uk/index.php/what-s-on>

BARTON LIVE Barton's own festival!

Underhill Circus,

Saturday 12 September 1.00-5.00 with Oxford Contemporary Music

includes Rocco (World beatbox champion) – The Weekend Warriors – The Noble Trio – Inspire Sounds – Natalia Kalarkina - Barton Park School Big Singers – zumba and fitness funk - karaoke – open mic

FREE live music – refreshments – activities for kids

to take part : contact Steve@ocmevents.org

OXFORD OPEN DOORS

Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 September

<https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/open-doors>

Oxford Preservation Trust makes Open Doors possible. It's a small, independent charity, dedicated to protecting and celebrating the landscapes, buildings and stories that make Oxford so special. It cares for 1000 acres of publicly accessible green space in and around the city, looking after historic buildings, getting involved in community history and campaigning for thoughtful planning.

Every September, it brings the city together for a weekend when Oxford's special places open their doors to everyone, for free. With support from local organisations and individuals, it's a chance to enjoy and explore parts of the city you might not normally see, from live performances and hands-on activities to peaceful gardens and guided walks. Some must be pre-booked (and several are sold out already); most are drop in

The printed programme is available in event flyer racks – try Bury Knowe Library – and is downloadable – but there's also a searchable facility on the website. Page 15 of the brochure gives you family ideas

SCIENCE OXFORD

The Science Oxford Centre, Stansfeld Park, Quarry Road, OX3 8SB

FAMILY DAYS every Saturday – two hours in the Exploration Zone 10.00-12.00, 12.30-2.30, 3.00-5.00

the outdoor water lab and all day access to the woodlands best for ages 3+ but all are welcome

£8.50 per person which includes the Eventbrite fee - free for Under 3s

You are advised to book in advance

<https://scienceoxford.com/events/family-days-every-saturday>

SENSORY FRIENDLY FAMILY DAY Saturday 3 October

includes the Planetarium show 'Life elsewhere' <https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/sensory-friendly-family-days/> booking essential

STEM THEMED SATURDAY CLUBS

10.00-11.30, 12.30-2.00, 3.00-4.30

£15 per child – accompanying adult(s) free <https://scienceoxford.com/centre/science-oxford-centre-events/>

helping you and your child to learn from each other and work together while trying out new things

book now - they sell out quickly!

<https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on>

NATURE CLUB : TREE SEEDS

Saturday 12 September 10.00, 12.30, 3.00

for ages 5-9

<https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/tree-seeds/>

SCIENCE CLUB : GERM BUSTERS

Saturday 26 September 10:00, 12:30, 3:00

for ages 5-9

<https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/germ-busters/>

NATURE CLUB : THE WOODLOUSE EXPERIMENT

Saturday 10 October 10.00, 12.30, 3.00

for ages 5-9

<https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/the-woodlouse-experiment-3/>

TINY IDEAS FESTIVAL Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 September

<https://tinyideasoxford.com/>

Making dreams come true.....celebrating creativity by and for children, toddlers and babies!

Bookable events at Pegasus Theatre, North Wall Arts Centre, Capet bookshop, UPP cinema, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, The Story Museum

(ignore the button that says 'Festival schedule coming soon' – it's all there!)

IF – SCIENCE AND IDEAS FESTIVAL not until October but booking is already open and many of the

workshops/shows/experiences are VERY popular! I

The 2026 science and ideas Festival is ready for you again, with exciting, intriguing and unexpected events and activities for adults, children and teenagers across dozens of venues in and around the city, and beyond.

Browse the full programme now: www.if-oxford.com and plan your festival

This year marks the 35th science and ideas Festival in Oxford, with most events still offered on the **Pay What You Decide (PWYD)** system, with no questions asked.

HILL END OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Eynsham Road, OX2 9NJ

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF OUTDOOR LEARNING : MEMORIES OF HILL END BLOG

HILL END STORIES – a blog celebrating 100 years of outdoor learning. Please add any stories you have, however recent or short or vague or silly and include photos if you have them. It is hoped that 100 memories will be collected and it's half way there.....

<https://hill-end.org/about/stories>

<https://hill-end.org/news/memory-bank/>

FAMILY BUSHCRAFT Saturday 19 September 10.00-12.00

<https://hill-end.org/news/bushcraft-saturday/>

Learn how to survive and thrive at Hill End! These fun, skills based sessions change with the seasons

£12 adults £8 children

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES already bookable!

<https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events/>

Wild days for 7-12 year olds + Woodland Spookyacular family days

Events in the community

Children's Gospel Choir



YEARS 3 - 6
Thursdays
4-5pm
(Term Time)

AT-HEADINGTON
BAPTIST CHURCH

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED, FOR ALL FAITHS AND NONE,
COME FOR THE JOY OF SINGING!

with Lydia Stone, singing teacher & choir director - learn about gospel music, good singing technique and have fun

For more info: gospelchoir@hbc-oxford.org.uk or to register



FREE Oral Health Training

With Oxfordshire's Oral Health Improvement Team

Become an Oral Health Champion!



Support a growing community across Oxfordshire dedicated to supporting and promoting better oral health.

Champion Oral Health Training, EYFS Best Practice, Parent Engagement & Supporting SEN (90 minutes)

Suitable for those who would like to do general training and/or the Smile 360 accreditation

Topics include:

- Importance of Oral Health • Dental Neglect • Key Messages & Supporting Reluctant Brushers • Supporting Children to Have a Healthy Lunch
- Dental Appointments • Parent Engagement • Supporting Children with SEN

Select your preferred date to sign up

Friday 25th September
11.00am-12.30pm

Tuesday 20th October
3.30pm-5.00pm

Wednesday 11th November
18.00-19.30pm



Copyright OCDS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust