St Andrew's C of E Primary School 6th November

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





It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school this week. All the classes have got straight back into their learning and engaged in their new topics for the term.

You should be receiving a more detailed explanation of the learning planned for your child through the topic webs and letters which have also been sent out today.

On Thursday 26th November, 8.40 - 9.00am there is an opportunity to come into school so that your child can share some of their learning with you (our 'book look'). In addition, this term Year 5 parents/ carers are invited to a Friday celebration assembly to hear about their learning; every term a different year group will welcome their adults into school for a celebration assembly.

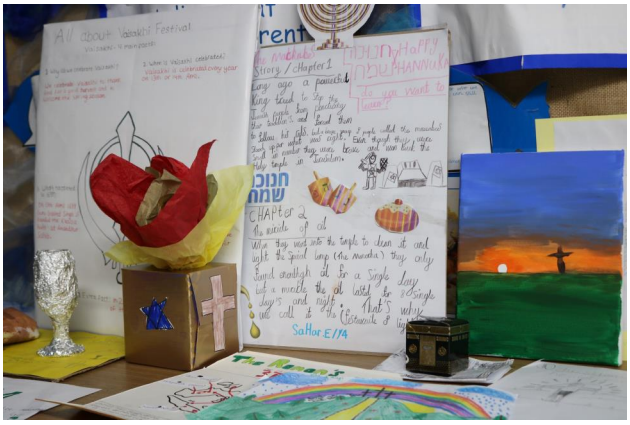
Towards the end of the term, Years R, 1 & 2 will share the nativity and Years 3 & 4 will entertain with a Christmas play for their parents/carers. And everyone has the Christmas Fair on the 4th December to look forward to.

Please see below for more key dates for this term. It promises to be an exciting term!

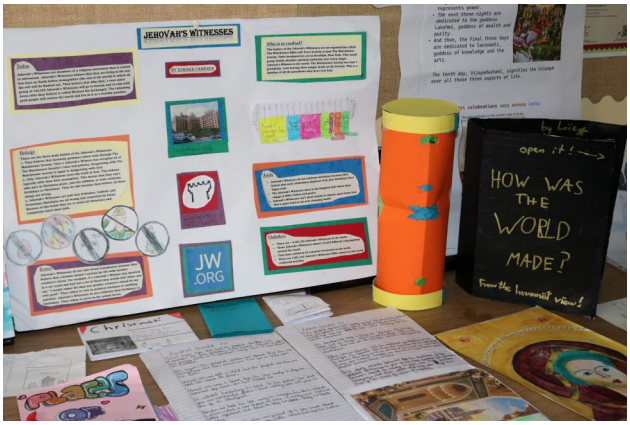
Festival of Faith



Today we are celebrating our Festival of Faith. The children have created some wonderful posters, models and pictures to show celebrations in religions that are important to them or that they wanted to find out more about. We are so fortunate to have such a diverse community and celebrate all of our differences which make us so special. It is an important time of learning about our neighbours and understanding more about the richness of life experiences.






JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
JW .ORG
open it!
HOW WAS THE WORLD MADE?
From the Jehovah's view!


Ismail (as)'s response
Love, Trust and Sacrifice
Happy Diwali
The sacrifice





Remembrance Day

In school, we will be having an assembly on Remembrance Day (November 11th) and holding a silence at 11.00am, as we do every year. Poppies are on sale from today until Wednesday 11th November. Children are allowed to bring in money to donate; some Year 6 children will bring around the poppies to each class daily in exchange for a donation. Suggested donations are: £2 for a poppy 'bracelet', £1 for a poppy keyring; 50p for a stick on poppy.



Anti-bullying Day



As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we will be holding an Anti-Bullying Day on Monday 16th November. The theme this year is "Break the Silence" (Anti-Bullying Week 2026: Break the Silence) and we are exploring being a bystander, and how we can make sure everyone feels confident to stand up for others.

The definition of bullying from the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) is "The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power." We simplify this to someone doing something unkind "Several Times On Purpose (STOP)".

On the day, children (and staff) are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate our differences and remind us that everyone is unique. We will have a whole-school assembly in the morning and each class will have an anti-bullying lesson adapted to be age-appropriate.

Children in Need Day



Having tried to carefully plan our **individual/sibling school photos (Friday 13th November)** to not clash with Children in Need day, we have failed!

St Andrew's will have our own 'Children in Need Day' on Friday 20th November (By the side of every child- BBC Children in Need**)**. The school council will let us know what they would like to happen on this day after their next meeting.

St Andrew's library Art competition

This Monday in assembly, Mrs Magill introduced the Art competition for the library. The library is looking for book-inspired art to decorate the library, updating the children's art currently on display (the last of these children have now left St Andrew's). Mrs Marsden has started the ball rolling with her piece of art inspired by The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis, a local author.





Parent workshops/ opportunities



1 - Please feel free to come to the Thursday coffee mornings (8.45 - 9.30am) with Suzanne Walker, our Home School Link Worker. This is an opportunity to meet other parents/ carers and discuss parenting. We have several special visitors lined up for this term.



2 - On Thursday 16th and Thursday 26th, there is a two-part workshop addressing Anxiety in Children, led by the Mental Health Support Team. Please see details in the poster below.

Health, Safety and safeguarding

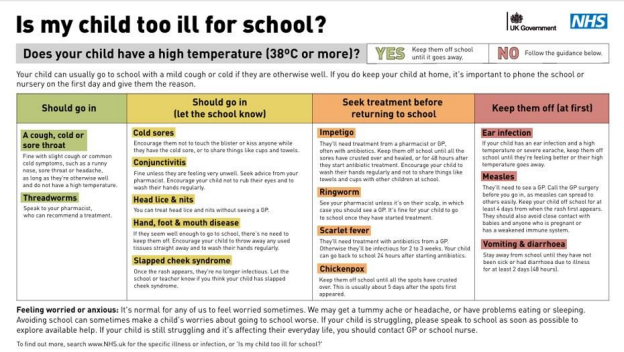


Attendance

Your child attending school is important to us - and it is important to them, both academically and socially. Friendships are built by regular interactions with peers and learning happens through a carefully planned curriculum which builds on prior knowledge to support learning.

The government has a helpful document about how to support your child's attendance: DfE external document template. The picture shows how attendance percentage relates to number of days missed of school. We know that children can be unwell (please check the picture 'is my child too ill for school?') and that there are some unavoidable exceptional reasons to miss school (a funeral or a passport / visa renewal for example); however, it is best to keep medical and dental appointments outside of school time whereever possible and ensure that holidays are taken in our school holidays.





Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

School health & safety

- **Please do not allow your children to play on the equipment** (including the sand pit) at the start and end of the day.
- **Please use the bike shed in the playground for children's bikes**; the bike rails at the front of the school are for staff only.



FACE

November Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Introduction to OCD	2 Nov 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	2 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	9 Nov 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 Nov 7pm
What is ACT?	10 Nov 10am
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	16 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 Nov 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	17 Nov 10am
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 7pm
FREE - Responding to Stress & Anxiety	19 Nov 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	23 Nov 10am
Facing Defiance	23 Nov 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
School Anxiety	24 Nov 7pm

Dates



Term dates for this academic year (2026-27) are available here.

Class letters and topic webs have been sent home which contain information about key dates specific to your child's class.

These are whole school events.

Monday 2nd November - *start of Autumn 2 term*

Friday 6th November - Festival of Faith (for children in school time)

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day (assembly in school time)

Friday 13th November - Individual and Sibling photos (for children in school time)

Monday 16th November - Anti-bullying day (for children in school time)

Friday 20th November - St Andrew's Children in Need day

Thursday 26th November, 8.40 - 9.00am - Parent/carer book look & non-uniform day for tombola

Friday 27th November - INSET day (no children in school)

Monday 30th November - St Andrew's Day (for children in school time)

Tuesday 1st December - Big Christmas Sing (for choir), 5.30pm concert

Friday 4th December, 3.30-5.30pm - Christmas Fair (for parents/carers & children)

Monday 7th December, 6.00 - 6.30pm - Years 1 & 2 Nativity at St Andrew's church (for parents/carers & Years 1 & 2 & orchestra)

Tuesday 8th December, 10.30am - Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church

Thursday 10th December, 6.00pm - Years 3 & 4 Christmas play (for parents/ carers & Years 3 & 4)

Tuesday 15th December - theatre trips in school day (Pegasus for Yrs R, 1 &2; Oxford Playhouse for Yrs 3 - 6)

Wednesday 16th December - Years R, 1 & 2 Christmas lunch (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 need packed lunch)

Thursday 17th December - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas lunch (Years R, 1 & 2 need packed lunch)

Friday 18th December, 1.15pm Year R/ 1.30pm Years 1 - 6 - *End of Autumn 2 term*

Key dates for the whole year

Monday 4th January - INSET (no children in school)

Tuesday 5th January - *start of Spring 1 term*

Wednesday 13th January, 3.30 - 5.00pm - Teacher meetings for children with SEND

Friday 15th January - mid-year short reports (Years R - 6)

Friday 22nd January - SASA Disco (TBC)

Friday 29th January , 8.40 - 9.00am - Parent/carer book look

Friday 12th February - *end of Spring 1 term*

Monday 22nd February - *start of Spring 2 term*

Tuesday 16th March , 10.30am - Easter Service at St Andrew's Church

Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th March, 3.30 - 6.00pm - Class teacher meetings

Thursday 25th March, 1.15pm Year R/ 1.30pm Years 1 - 6 - *end of Spring 2 term*

Monday 12th April - *start of Summer 1 term*

Monday 3rd May - *bank holiday - no school*

Wednesday 19th May - Class photos

Friday 21st May, 8.40 - 9.00am - Parent/carer book look

Sunday 16th May - SASA Fun Run (TBC)

Friday 28th May -*end of Summer 1 term*

Monday 7th June - *start of Summer 2 term*

Monday 28th June - *INSET - no children in school*

Wednesday 30th June , 3.30 - 5.00pm - Teacher meetings for children with SEND

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd July - Art Exhibition

Monday 5th July, 5.30pm - Summer music concert

Tuesday 6th July - Sports Day (during school day)

Friday 9th July, 3.30 - 5.00pm - Summer Fair

Friday 16th July - end of year reports (Years R - 6)

Tuesday 20th July, 10.30am - Leavers's service at St Andrew's church

Wednesday 21st July, 1.15pm Year R/ 1.30pm Years 1 - 6 - *end of Summer 2 term*

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Helpful information for parents/ carers

Parent/carer engagement:

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

Eggs

Don't forget that eggs from our very own chickens are on sale in the office. The children looking after the chickens are keen to get this money, as we need it to buy food for the chickens!

Information about local events




Pegasus
OXFORD LIGHT FESTIVAL
AT PEGASUS
THE BATTLE OF NIGHT AND DAY
Walking Tour
Puppet workshop
The Glow Gallery
Drop in Craft Workshop with Carmen Rodriguez Macias
FREE EVENTS
SOME NEED BOOKING
YOUTH OPEN MIC!
AT PEGASUS THEATRE
AN ARTISTIC FREE-FOR-ALL FOR PERFORMERS AGED 7+
SAT 14 NOV | 10AM - 9:00PM
Pegasus, Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE
pegasustheatre.org.uk
WhatNot
Wild Boor Ideas
OXFORD SCIENCE + IDEAS FESTIVAL


Diwali story time and crafts
Come and celebrate with us at
Headington Library
Friday 6th November
3:30pm - 4:30pm

HEADINGTON SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP : extended learning for all ages

05.11.26 ***term 2 – letter 1***

RISINGHURST AND SANDHILLS FAMILY FIREWORKS AND BONFIRE EVENT

Risinghurst Playing Field, off Grovelands Rd, OX3 8HZ

6.00pm Risinghurst playing field gates open **6.45pm Bonfire lit**

7.15pm traditional fireworks display by "Fantastic Fireworks" for 20 minutes

The fireworks are handled by professionals for your safety. Please support this event and discourage individual displays, which can be dangerous and frightening to others. You are asked to use glow-sticks (not sparklers) for children's safety.
cost: adults £3 children (5-16) £2 under 5's free cash or contactless payment is available
hot and cold range of refreshments and glow sticks will be provided with thanks to Headington Youth Football Club and Sandhills School PTA
Travel: NO on street parking. Please come on foot if you can. If you *must* drive, then for public safety reasons all parking is at Thornhill Park and Ride OX3 8DP.

https://risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk/mc-events/family-bonfire-and-fireworks-event/

RECONNECT, PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT NETWORK.

OXFORD BROOKES OPEN LECTURE : NAVIGATING SEND REFORM, TOGETHER
Wednesday 11 November 6:00pm ***Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP***

Bringing together SEND professionals, researchers and parent/carer advocates to discuss the current reforms and what they could mean for children and young people, families and schools. With more changes to SEND provision and support on the horizon, the discussion will offer an opportunity to hear different perspectives and consider what the reforms could mean in practice for education professionals, school leaders and the families they support.
FREE to attend free campus parking is available.
more information and register :

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/navigating-send-reform-together-tickets-1996070018157

OXFORD LIGHT FESTIVAL **Friday 13 – Sunday 15 November** ***https://www.oxlightfest.com/***

Friday : THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT BUS visits Wood Farm from 6.25, on to central Headington, Risinghurst and Barton, leaving at 7.55 The festive spectacle will feature the iconic City Sightseeing Oxford open-top bus, decked out in hundreds of twinkling lights. As the bus winds its way through Oxford, it creates a magical atmosphere, accompanied by a soundtrack of Christmas classics provided by the fabulous, **Get Radio**, Oxfordshire's local radio station.
The bus will stop at designated stopping locations to spread even more Christmas cheer and allow colleagues to distribute delicious treats to children and adults alike, including vegan and gluten-free options

---

WINTER LIGHTS Friday 13 November 5.00-8.00 ***Ark-T - The Venue, 242b Barns Road, OX4 3RQ***

Step into a magical winter celebration designed to bring the whole community together!
Discover a vibrant, seasonal atmosphere filled with light, warm music, delicious food, and hands-on creative activities for all ages. Whether you're stopping by for a bite to eat or crafting something special with family and friends, there's something for everyone to enjoy.
Ark-T Winter Lights is free and open to all—everyone is welcome to share in the magic!
The Venue has a dedicated quiet space available for visitors with sensory needs. Please note, during busy hours the main area might be difficult to navigate in a wheelchair. ***https://www.ark-t.org/***

LIGHT FESTIVAL AT PEGASUS ***Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE***
Saturday 14 November day time activities: 10.00 - 4.00 evening activity: youth open mic night: 7.00-9.00

Pegasus Theatre is offering a range of exciting, free and accessible activities around the theme of light. Bringing together science and the arts, you will find installations, crafts, workshops, music and, of course, performance! Just pop in so the whole family can enjoy exploring all fully-accessible corners of the theatre and a holistic sensory experience. There is something for everyone!
Pegasus has partnered with **Oxford Science and Ideas Festival, IF Oxford**, to bring you the **Glow Gallery *(drop-in),*** which explores the science of light using lasers, LEDs, and phosphorescent boards.
Get crafty **with Emma Boor and Euton Daley** in a silly, spooky, shadow puppet-making workshop ***(bookable)***, incorporating a short introduction with singing, then try bringing it to life in a show of your very own! All materials provided, just bring your imagination!
WhatNot Theatre brings you a brand-new, fun, interactive walking tour performance (***bookable)*** where Night and Day are battling for power and need your help!
Try your hand at light-inspired arts and crafts ***(drop-in),*** led by talented local artist, **Carmen Rodriguez Macias**, suitable for all ages and families.
For aspiring young musicians and spoken-word artists aged 14-18, come along in the evening to our gallery space, as Pegasus is hosting a low-key **open-mic night (*bookable for artists),*** providing a safe space for young people to have a go at performing to a live audience

---

MAKE YOUR OWN LANTERN inspired by Oxford street lights. ***MOX, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, OX1 1BX***
Saturday 14 November 11.00-12.30 and 13.30-15.00, starting promptly at the advertised time so please arrive a few minutes before so you can check in - **suitable for ages 5+.** Children must be supervised at all times.
Tickets cost **£2** per child and can be purchased online on the website or at the Museum Shop. Each child ticket includes free entry for one accompanying adult. This event ticket also includes access to the Galleries for one child and one adult.
Advance booking is recommended
Sales from tickets help support work to deliver fun and accessible family activities, community engagement projects, schools' workshops, exhibitions and special events for Oxford's people in the Museum

https://museumofoxford.org/event/christmas-lights-festival-at-mox/

More events at Cutteslowe Park – The Barn, Greater Leys – Rose Hill Community Centre

https://www.oxlightfest.com/

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT BUS returns at the weekends of 11-12, 18-19 December and you can vote for where it should visit ***https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/lightbus2026***

Friday,11th December 4:00 – 8:00 **Saturday, 12th Decembe 4:00 - 8:00**
Friday,18th December 4:00 - 8:00 **Saturday, 19th December 4:00 - 9:00**

You can help shape the magic! **Vote for your favourite route** using the website link, and you might just bring the sparkle of the Oxford Christmas Light Bus right to your doorstep! **Voting will end at 11:59 hours on Sunday 15th November.**
As last year, they will try to visit as many of you in Oxfordshire as they can, creating **FOUR** routes, based on your most popular answers for stopping locations!
The final routes will be announced on **Tuesday 1st Decembe** via the website and social media channels.

https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/lightbus2026

THE TUNNELS ARE CALLING - MYSTERY ARTEFACT TRAIL TO THE OREADS!

Saturday 14 November 2.30 – 5.00 ***Cheney School, Cheney Lane, OX3 7QH***

To celebrate Lorna Robinson's new novel**, Oread,** a classics-inspired detective/mystery tale set in the abandoned tunnels of the London Underground, travellers are invited to follow a mystery artefact trail through the Rumble Museum at Cheney School to reach the Iris Classics Centre.
You can arrive at any time during the afternoon to follow the mystery trail. In the Iris Classics Centre, there will be drinks, books, chat, and some classics-themed activities for all ages.
If you would like to attend, please email lro@cheneyschool.org

---

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***

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 : BRILLIANT BATS **Saturday 14 November 10.00, 12.30, 3.00**
for ages 5 – 9 ***https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/brilliant-bats-2/***

SCIENCE CLUB : TRICK OF THE LIGHT **Saturday 21 November 10.00, 12.30, 3.00**
for ages 5 - 9 ***https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/trick-of-the-light-2/***

HILL END OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE *Eynsham Road, OX2 9NJ*

WW1 TRENCHES TOUR *NOTE NEW DATE* : Saturday 14 November 10.00-12.00

Deep in Wytham Woods are genuine WW1 practice trenches dug by Oxfordshire Soldiers 100 years ago, before they were posted to the front lines. This Remembrance weekend, join this poignant guided tour – with many thanks to the University of Oxford for permitting Wytham Woods for access.
Please note that the walk from Hill End takes 20-25 minutes, and is up hill at times. Sturdy footwear is recommended.
booking essential £7 adult, £5 children ***https://hill-end.org/news/ww1_practice_trenches/***

IMAGINE LEWIS **Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 November** ***Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry, OX3 8NU***
A weekend of music, talks, poetry, worship, tours, children's activities to celebrate the life and legacy of Headington resident C.S.Lewis
www.hthq.uk/imagine-lewis-weekend/ ***bookings https://imagine-lewis-weekend.eventbrite.co.uk***

Lesley Williams **Headington Extended Schools Coordinator** ***07982 439 828***
lesley.williams@headingtonpartnership.co.uk