St Andrew's C of E Primary School 20th November

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

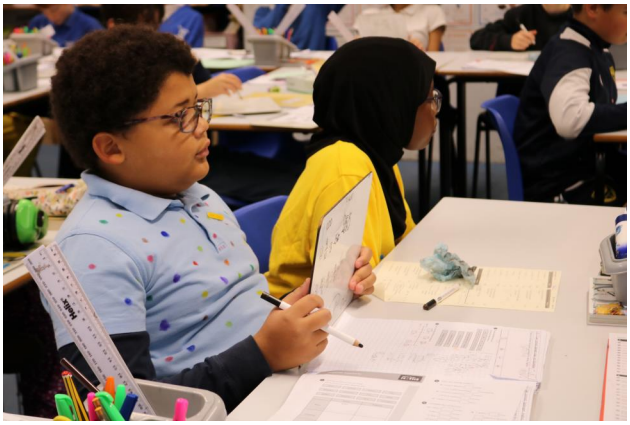




Today is St Andrew's 'Children in Need Day' (By the side of every child- BBC Children in Need).
It is lovely to see lots of children in spots, supporting the work of Children in Need.

Don't forget about the bake sale at the end of the day!

We are also looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 parent/carers to our celebration assembly today at 2.30pm.




HOBBIT




cuboid
ea
a-b





MCS Oxfordshire Book Awards

A group of Year 6 children attended the Oxfordshire Book Awards at MCS last week. Everyone enjoyed listening to the winning authors talk about their work; we were very excited to meet writers Struan Murray and Helen Rutter, and to have them sign our books. The cupcakes were great too – but the best bit was winning the quiz! We took home our prize of a load of new books for the library.




The event was . . .
Oxfordshire Book Awards 2026
Celebrating Literary Excellence Across Oxfordshire
I am inspired to...
Entertaining
Exciting
I liked Helen Rhodes
Draw


DRAGONBORN
TRUAN MURRAY
DRAGONBORN
STRUAN MURRAY


Junior Novel
WINNER
THE BOY WITH BIG DECISIONS

Anti-bullying Day - Monday 16th November

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we held an Anti-Bullying Day on Monday 16th November. We explored being a bystander and how we can make sure everyone feels confident to stand up for others in this year's theme "Break the Silence" (Anti-Bullying Week 2026: Break the Silence)

Children came wearing odd socks to celebrate our differences and remind us that everyone is unique. We had a whole-school assembly in the morning, with each class then learning a bit more about what bullying is and how we can 'break the silence'.





Headington School Maths Challenge

On Thursday 19th November, a group of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went to Headington School for a Maths challenge. Working in pairs, there were a series of different challenges (all including a fair amont of movement, running backwards and forwards across the hall with the answers!), applying mathematical skills and knowledge. All eight of St Andrew's children represented the school brilliantly, being enjoyable company for the adults who accompanied them. One pair, Sam and Samar (Year 5) were placed 3rd overall! Another amazing success for St Andrew's pupils!

Fire engine visit

There was much excitement across Reception and Year 1 on Thursday morning - a fire engine came to school! The fire-fighters talked to the children about fire safety, showed their fire protective equipment and all of the features on the fire engine. The children then had a turn of helping to hold the hose and spray the water!

Reception class carried on being fire-fighters in their learning through play.






OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE




OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE







Woodland Play

The final detail of the Woodland Play area happened last week - a fence was put up to ensure it was safe. Reception class and children in the Nest have begun to have their Woodland Play

sessions - and love it! One child declared "I had a lovely day today" and when asked why, explained "Because it was Woodland Play"! We are excited to finally have this area in use. Thank you for all the donations last year which made this possible.





St Andrew's Library Art competition



Parent workshops/ opportunities



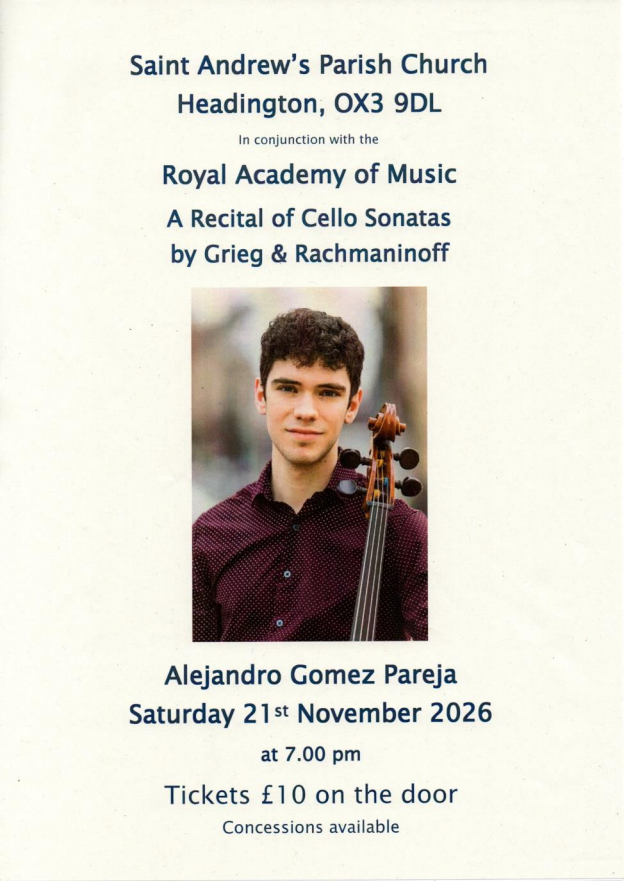
1 - Please feel free to come to the Thursday coffee mornings (8.45 - 9.30am) with Suzanne Walker, our Home School Link Worker. This is an opportunity to meet other parents/ carers and discuss parenting. We have several special visitors lined up for this term.



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.

Concert opportunities





Health, Safety and safeguarding



School Nurse Health Newsletter

Autumn Term (2): Primary SHN Newsletter November 2026

Empowering Parents in a Digital World: A free webinar and toolkit for schools and community settings, (LGfL)Wednesday, 9th December 2026

LGfL has released a free Parent Online Safety Toolkit to help schools start safeguarding conversations with parents and carers. It covers generative AI, social media and gaming, and includes a ready-made presentation that staff can deliver to parents. It is free to schools and community settings.

To help settings get the most from it, LGfL is running a free webinar for DSLs and online safety leads on Wednesday 9 December at 3.45pm. It will cover how to personalise a parent event, activities to lead discussions, and resources on emerging risks, screen time, safety settings and wellbeing. SLT, governors and anyone with online safety responsibility are also welcome.

Download the toolkit: parentonlinesafety.lgfl.net

Book the webinar: lgfl.bookinglive.com



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.

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 29th January - SASA Disco - confirmed

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


Schwarzman
CENTRE FOR THE HUMANITIES
Northern Ballet
4Pi
A Northern Ballet, 4Pi Productions, and Schwarzman Centre Production
Clara & The Nutcracker
Immersive Experience
10 – 24 Dec 2026
A beloved Christmas story brought to life all around you in a magical, 360° film experience.
Book now at schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk


MAKE HOLIDAY PLANS EASY, BOOK AHEAD NOW!
WOW CAMPS
THE TECH CAMP SUPERCHARGED!
MINECRAFT REDSTONE
LEGO ENGINEERING
VIRTUAL REALITY
Tyndale Community School, OX4 2JX
21ST - 31ST DECEMBER
30TH MARCH - 2ND APRIL
26TH JULY - 6TH AUGUST
BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!
HALF TERM WEEK
9AM 1PM
AGES 5-12
SAFE & SECURE
SPECIALIST PRESENTERS
TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED
www.nextthing.education
CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2026
DISCOVER NEW ACTIVITIES EACH SEASON!
The activities below are for this Christmas - we refresh activities every holiday so there's always something new to experience!
ACTIVITIES THIS SEASON
ROBLOX CREATION STUDIO
ELECTRIC INVENTIONS
LEGO MACHINES
DRIVING ROBOTS
MINECRAFT REDSTONE
CREATIVE CIRCUITS
SPARK
SCAN HERE
Simply scan the QR to see schedule of this camp
Activities vary by venue. Please check our website for the exact schedule at your chosen camp.
EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS 2027
We're also at this location next Easter and Summer with even more exciting activities, fun and challenges!
EASTER CAMPS
Enjoy fresh activities, outdoor fun and exciting new challenges.
SUMMER CAMPS
More activities, bigger challenges and unforgettable camp experiences.
£25 PER DAY
10% OFF MULTI-DAY DISCOUNT
BOOK NOW!
RAVE REVIEWS...
"This was easily the best camp my son has been to. The camp clearly keeps them engaged and entertained, as my son never wanted to go home. Totally recommend them!"
www.nextthing.education
01442 873150
info@nextthing.education

MORE
LEISURE

JOIN FOR £1

and pay nothing on swimming lessons until January!

Use promo code WINTERSWIM

Our swimming lessons are designed to help you, or your child, learn to swim and become confident in the water.

SCAN ME TO BOOK!



Barton Leisure Centre,
Waynflete Road, Oxford OX3 8GA Tel: **0330 109 8770**

Ferry Leisure Centre,
Diamond Pl, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7DP Tel: **0330 109 8771**

Leys Pools & Leisure Centre,
Pegasus Road, Oxford OX4 6JL Tel: **0330 109 8773**

moreleisure.com

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

MORE for every body

T&C's apply, see website for details. Offer available in centre 00.00 1st November - 23.59 31st December 2026.
Offer available online 1st - 22nd November and 1st - 22nd December 2026. Available to new customers only on all swimming lessons.

HEADINGTON SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP : extended learning for all ages

19.11.26 *term 2 – letter 3*

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. at the church where he worshipped for over thirty years!
Some events bookable with a charge; some free and drop in

Children's Narnia activities	**Saturday**	**10.00-12.00**	***Coach House***
Art and worship workshop with Mandy Patterson	**Saturday**	**10.00-12.00**	***Church***
Malcolm Guite talk and reading: 'Lewis and Logres'	**Saturday**	**2.00-3.30**	***Church & live streamed***
WIND live in concert	**Saturday**	**7.00-9.00**	***Church***
C.S. Lewis Tour 1 hr	**Saturday, Sunday**	**4.00-5.00**	***Church & church yard***
Worship services	**Sunday**	**10.00, 6.00**	***Church***

www.hthq.uk/imagine-lewis-weekend/ ***bookings https://imagine-lewis-weekend.eventbrite.co.uk***

CHRISTMAS MARKET & REINDEER HUNT ***Waterperry Gardens, near Wheatley. OX33 1JZ***

Saturday and Sunday 21 & 22 November, 5 & 6 December 10.00-4.00
Get into the Christmas spirit at **Waterperry Gardens** by visiting the Christmas markets
Christmas shopping galore: art and craft stalls with gorgeous handmade gift ideas, festive food and drink, all nestled in the undercover plant area.
A brass band will be playing throughout the weekend to bring that extra festive feel to this ever-popular event.
The **prizewinning teashop** will be selling their homemade produce, including Christmas cakes, Christmas puddings, mince pies and so much more. View their price list ***https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/tea-shop/***
The annual **Reindeer Hunt** is in the gardens to keep the children busy **£4.75 per child** with a prize guaranteed
https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/event/find-santas-reindeer/
and you really won't want to miss the **real Reindeer** only for this weekend, **11.30-2.30**
https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/event/real-reindeer/
The **Barn Gallery** has a new free selling exhibition : Winter Glimmers
So wrap up warm and have a browse at what's on offer!
https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/event/november-christmas-market/

STICK MAN TRAIL ***Westgate, Queen Street, OX1 1PE***

Westqate does some pretty amazing trails and activities! Julia Donaldson's Stickman has landed for Christmas.
Pick up a free activity booklet from the Guest Experience desk (by Uniqlo, upper ground floor) and collect 10 stamps as you travel around the interactive trail (including a chimney slide!) telling the story of Stick Man travelling through the seasons to find his way back home to the Family Tree – where children can write a letter to Father Christmas usinq the postcard from their trail booklet. Part of a huge raft of goinqs on at the Westgate this Christmas including story telling
in place until 3 January 2027 FREE – no booking needed
Guest services open Monday-Friday 10.00-8.00 Saturday 9.00-8.00 Sunday 11.00-5.00 .
https://www.westgateoxford.co.uk/en/stick-man-trail-2026

HEADINGTON ACTION : CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON ***Headington Carfax***

Saturday 5 December 4.30-5.30 Look out for a special visitor!
4.30 choir – seasonal refreshemtns **4.55** countdown to switch on by the Lord Mayor of Oxford
5.05 community singing round the tree

Saturday 5 December 9.00-2.00 special Christmas Market
Saturday 19 December Christmas pre-orders can be picked up at the last market of 2025

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
Last family day of the year is Saturday 19 December ***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 ***£5 for extra adults***
book now - they sell out quickly! ***https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on***

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/***

SCIENCE CLUB : TOY FACTORY **Saturday 12 December 10.00, 12.30, 3.00**
for ages 5-9 ***https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/toy-factory-2/***

This is the last STEM club of the year – back on Saturday 30 January

---

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

OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST 2026 AWARDS ***- congratulations!***
WINNER in the Community impact section for the Hill End Roundhouse – an inspiring new teaching space for outdoor learning, created sustainably by volunteers using local materials and topped with recycled reed donated by a local thatcher

CHRISTMAS PAST, CHRISTMAS PRESENT **Monday 21 December 10.00-2.00**
A very special Hill End family day event with a festive sprinkle of history! To complete its 100th birthday celebration year, Hill End is hosting a natural, homespun Family Day with a range of fun activities inspired by Christmas on the Home Front. Explore outdoors: visit the WW2 bomb crater and Anderson shelter.- have a qo at collectinq your wartime rations! Christmas crafts: make your own model aeroplanes, create simple decorations, try traditional willow craft and whittling. Toast crumpets and marshmallows around the campfire.
Whether you're crafting, exploring, playing or simply enjoying the warmth of the campfire, it's the perfect opportunity to slow down, embrace the fresh air and enjoy a little outdoor magic together before the festivities later in the week.
£9 adults £7 children aged 3-16 You can then choose to add on a hot lunch or bring your own picnic.
Hot /cold drinks & cakes also available to purchase on the day (cash or card) ***https://hill-end.org/news/wild_christmas/***

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT BUS returns for the weekends of 11-12, 18-19 December
Voting has closed for where it should visit. 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 requests for stopping locations.The final routes will be announced on **Tuesday 1st Decembe** via the website and social media channels.

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**

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

FURTHER OUT OF OXFORD

THE TREE BARN ***Greenfield Farm, Christmas Common, OX49 5HG***
open 9.00-5.30 with some later 7.30 closi ng ***https://www.thetreebarn.co.uk***

APPLETON CHRISTMAS BARN ***Eaton Road, Appleton, OX13 5JJ***
open 10.00-6.00 daily with some later 8.00 closing ***https://www.appletonchristmasbarn.com/***

ILLUMINATE OXFORD Milletts light trail ***Millets Farm Centre, Kingston Rd, Frilford, OX13 5HB***
open daily 4.00-7.45 tickets from £18.15 adults, £14.85 children, free for U3 booking essential – and some sessions sold out already ***https://www.illuminateoxfordshire.co.uk/***

FAMILY TRAIL: POTIONS AND POISONS ***Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX***
daily until Wednesday 2 December 10.00-4.00 last entry 3.00
Pick up the trail sheet £2 + adult Arboretum entry fee £9 – U16s free
Find out about some of the poisonous plants and the plants that have magical powers in the Arboretum. Solve the puzzle and claim your prize. Enjoy the end of the autumn colours and the new ninja-warrior style play area
https://www.obga.ox.ac.uk/event/family-trail-potions-and-poisons

---

COURTSIDE @ BURY KNOWLE ***Bury Knowle Park, OX3 9JJ***
access from Chestnut Avenue, London Road or Old High Street, through North Place

OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST 2026 AWARDS ***- congratulations!***
Nominated by Headington Action : Highly Commended in the Community Impact section
"The judges commended the transformation of this historic park into a place where every member of the community is welcome." ***https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/opt-awards/courtside-bury-knowle***

Look beyond Christmas : booking for Spring courses is now open - tennis for children and adults – walking and back to netball – yoga – health walks
Have you played shuffleboard yet? ***https://courtside.uk/bury-knowle***

QUIZ Sunday 13 December 1.00-3.00
Get into the Christmas spirit with the Courtside festive quiz! Gather your friends or family into a team of up to 4 people and join us for a friendly afternoon competition
£4 per team entry, so you only need to book for one quizzer. The booking form is a generic one so it asks for your health condition and playing ability! ***https://courtside.uk/bury-knowle/activities/book/programme/14354***
Food and drinks will of course be available throughout, with a pizza deal of any 2 pizzas for £12. There's also a winning prize to play for! ***https://courtside.uk/bury-knowle/activities?a[]=18***

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

UK SCHOOLS CHARITY TRIATHLON

You're invited!

To: ENGLAND SOUTH - HENLEY TRIATHLON

Where: Henley Leisure Centre and Gillotts School, Oxfordshire, RG9 1PS

Who: For ages 5 to 17 years **When:** Saturday 5th June 2027

A Fun charity triathlon for all abilities with FREE Registration

Simply choose your event, pay for your entry or sign up for a free charity place, and start fundraising for your school or charity.

EVENT	AGE GUIDE	SWIM	CYCLE	RUN
TIN	5 - 7 yrs	10m	1000m	500m
ZINC	6 - 9 yrs	25m	1000m	500m
STEEL	8 - 11 yrs	50m	2000m	1000m
BRONZE	10 - 13 yrs	50m	3000m	1500m
SILVER	12 - 15 yrs	100m	4000m	2000m
GOLD	14 - 17 yrs	150m	4000m	2500m

CHECK OUT THE VIDEO AT CHARITYTRIATHLON.ORG



WHAT'S INCLUDED

Official Finishers Medal
Achievement certificate for all finishers
Your own fundraising page & link to share
Free Les Mills Born to Move exercise videos

DON'T MISS OUT ONLY 1000 PLACES SECURE YOURS TODAY

UK Charity Triathlon is a non-profit charity dedicated to hosting fun-filled events, designed to boost children's physical and mental well-being, regardless of age, background, or ability. Children can swim, cycle, and run in our safe, professionally managed venues to build confidence and raise funds for your school/charity.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT CHARITYTRIATHLON.ORG

CANCER RESEARCH UK · MS-UK Supporting your MS journey · Ronald McDonald House Charities United Kingdom · NSPCC · Marie Curie · Railway children No child lost to the streets

OXFORD RFC

MINIS AND JUNIORS

Free taster sessions available for children aged 5-12

Every Sunday, 10:30 - 12:00



enquiries@oxfordrfc.com

Oxford RFC, North Hinksey Village, OX2 0NA

NATIONAL BADMINTON

Free Junior Badminton Roadshow!

Dive into a sport that's fast, friendly, and full of joy



Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre
Saturday 28th November
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Ages 6 - 17

Limited spaces, register now

bookwhen.com/nb-roadshows

NEXT GEN