



NEWSLETTER

Summer 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this entry for our Summer 1 newsletter, the children are eagerly anticipating their Sports Afternoon on the field. The buzz around school is tangible!

It's been another positive term of hard work, lots of learning and enriching the children's learning experiences. I am always so proud of the way our staff facilitate learning everyday and help the children to be the best they can be. Supported by so many of our parents understanding and supporting the needs of their children.

I hope you will read the rest of this newsletter to find out more about our term and don't forget that we regularly post on social media too.

With one term to go before the end of the academic year, both children and parents anticipate classes for next year. These will be shared with you as we near the transition days in July. Miss Fellows and Miss Larkins are moving on at the end of the year and so we currently have two teacher vacancies. Once these are filled, we will know the staff structure for September. We understand the importance of transitions being done well and will continue to do our best for all children.

Mrs Bellett, our new school Principal from September, has been into school many times and we have started our transition work in earnest to ensure a smooth handover in leadership. I am sure she will be seen a lot more as we go into our final term.

After the half term holiday, we welcome Mrs Day and Miss Neale to our team at lunchtimes and at wraparound care.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Hipwell, one of our amazing Family Support Workers, at the end of the year. She has worked with so many of our children and families and will be greatly missed by all. Mrs Headland will lead the team and we are advertising for a two day role from September in due course.

We had two staff babies born in one week this term – we congratulate Mrs Gibbons and Mr Lythgoe who have both had baby boys. And Mr Giddings turned 80 this week! He is admired by us all and we thank him for all his hard work to make our school look so nice and run smoothly.

Summer 2 looks to be an exciting term. As always we have our Year 5/6 performance to look forward to – Mary Poppins. We have the Year 2 and Year 6 residential too.

I hope you will enjoy reading our school newsletter which hosts news from all across the school.

Thank you for your continued support for your school. I wish you all a very happy half term break and look forward to our summer term starting back on Monday 1st June.

Best wishes

Mrs Jo Griffin



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Any additional events, dates and times along with any changes will be communicated to you separately.



2025		
Friday 22nd May 2026	ALL	School closes to pupils-3.30pm
Monday 1st June 2026	ALL	School Reopens to Pupils –8.45am
Monday 1st June 2026	Y5 & Y6	PWS Y5 and Y6 Introduction
Thursday 4th June-5th June 2026	Y2	Fenland Adventure residential
Tuesday 9th June 2026	2026 EYFS	Group A Taster session
Wednesday 10th June 2026	2026 EYFS	Group B Taster session
Tuesday 16th June 2026	2026 EYFS	Group A Taster session
Wednesday 17th June 2026	2026 EYFS	Group B Taster session
Thursday 18th June 2026	Y2/3	Trip to Gurdwara
Wednesday 24th June 2026	Y6 & Hawking (to support)	Y6 Production—Mary Poppins
Thursday 25th June 2026	Y6 & Curie (to support)	Y6 Production—Mary Poppins
Monday 29th June—2nd July 2026	Y6	Caldecotte Xperience residential
Thursday 2nd July	Y5	Stem festival @ Oundle school—all day
Thursday 9th July 2026	ALL	Transition day 1 OPS & PWS
Friday 10th July 2026	ALL	Transition day 2 OPS & PWS
Tuesday 14th July 2026	Y6	Leavers Assembly at St Peters Church at 9.30am (Y6 Parents Invited)
Wednesday 15th July 2026	ALL	Thank you Assembly for Volunteers
Friday 17th July 2026	ALL	School closes to pupils-3.30pm
Tuesday 1st September 2026	ALL	INSET DAY
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	ALL	INSET DAY
Thursday 3rd September 2026	ALL	School opens to pupils—8.45am



Please follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages to find out about all of the exciting activities and events the children take part in at our school.

[Oundle CE Primary School | Facebook](#)

[oundlece | Instagram](#)

Attendance

We would like to share and celebrate the progress we have made in our attendance during the first Summer Term. Each month we celebrate with both the highest attendance levels and lowest number of lates, (as these do affect attendance). Figures are displayed on classroom doors each week.

Summer 1 26	Attendance	Lates
Pre-School	96.3%	2
Donaldson	93.9%	1
Jeffers	96.6%	2
Webber	97.1%	1
Windsor	92.7%	2
Henry	97.9%	2
Pankhurst	97.3%	7
Simmonds	96.4%	4
Darwin	95.4%	5
Jemison	97.0%	7
Curie	95.8%	0
Hawking	93.8%	2
Attenborough	96.4%	1
Maathai	94.9%	10

	Above 96%	96-90%	Below 90%
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Whilst we do appreciate absence cannot be avoided if children are unwell, we do ask parents not to book holidays in term time. If you need any support around your child's attendance please speak to our Family Support Workers.

We review individual pupil attendance at the end of each term and notify parents/carers of their child's statistics and information. This is a requirement of the DoFE.

Mrs Hipwell and Mrs Headland

Citizens Advice



Citizens Advice is an independent organisation specialising in confidential information and advice to assist people with legal , debt , consumer , housing, and other problems.

You may be interested to know that a Worker from Citizens Advice is based at Oundle Foodbank on a Tuesday afternoon . You do not have to be accessing the Foodbank to be able to make an appointment with them.

We are all aware of the cost-of-living increases and the added pressure on family finances.

If you need support with food, School is an issuing partner for the Oundle Foodbank. We can process an E-Voucher which you will be able to exchange for a food parcel. If this is something, you would find helpful please contact Mrs Hipwell (Family Support Worker) who can organise this.

As the cost of living continues to increase Oundle Foodbank has received funding from Trussell to provide income maximisation advice via North Northants Citizens Advice. We have a dedicated fully trained advisor who is available to give advice and help to people in the local area.

Please either contact Mrs Hipwell or Mrs Headland at school or call Oundle Foodbank on 07570 583799- all contact will be treated in strictest confidence.

Dance Spotlight

On Monday 18th 9 year 4 girls attended a dance performance at the Stamford Corn Exchange Theatre. They named themselves the 9spies and after weeks of practice with Miss King they were ready for the show. Dancing to 4 minutes to save the world, the girls did an amazing job. They were on times, brought all their energy to the performance and most importantly had fun!



Roman Day

On Wednesday 20th May Year 2/ 3 took part in a Roman day, they fully emersed themselves in what it might have been like to be a Roman (minus all the horrible bits!)

"I didn't know that they would have played knucklebones using real sheep knuckles!" Erica

"We looked at real Roman artifacts including pots, animals bones and wax pads for writing on." Matthew

"We played knucklebones together, that was a game the Romans played." Chayse

"I learnt some of the Roman Army formations, one of them was called the Tortoise." Ciara



Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who attended Sports Day. Your support is always greatly appreciated and the children truly enjoy seeing you there cheering them on. It was fantastic to see all of the children participating with such enthusiasm and having so much fun throughout the day.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr Britten for providing and setting up the sound system. His support was incredibly helpful and contributed greatly to the smooth running and success of the event. In addition, thank you to Mr Holben for marking out the field lines and assisting with the morning set-up.

It was wonderful to see the entire school gathered together on the field, enjoying the sporting activities and taking part in such a positive and energetic day.



Pre-School News!

This past term we have been very busy learning all about 'The Great Outdoors'. We have been bug hunting, bird watching, designing our own spider webs and decorating ladybirds. Planting cress and sunflowers was great fun and we can't wait to watch them grow– whose sunflower will grow the tallest?

We have loved exploring the outdoor environment of our school and have enjoyed, looking closely looking closely at daisies, dandelions and buttercups. We discovered that we have a garden with a pond which has tadpoles in it. We are watching them grow and hoping they turn into frogs!

Through our forest school days, we have learnt how to use a bow saw safely and made our own ladybirds and bees out of wood. The highlight, of course, was our end of session treat of hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows!

We are continuing to practise our sounds and rhyming words and have had a play in the reception classroom getting the children ready.



Foundation Stage News!

As signs of summer begin to appear and the days grow warmer, we cannot believe we are already approaching the final term of the school year. This term has been filled with exciting learning and lots of fun as we explored our topic, *Travel and Transport*. The children have enjoyed learning about different types of transport and discovering how travel has changed over time.

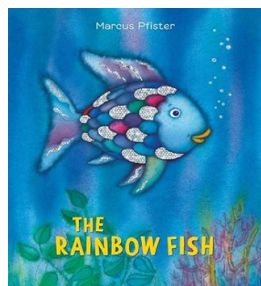
In English, we have really enjoyed reading *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children had great fun creating their own lift-the-flap pictures and have produced some fantastic sentence writing. With the warmer weather arriving, the children have also been making the most of our garden area, enjoying outdoor play, exploration and collaborative games with their friends.

Forest School sessions continue to be a real highlight of the week. The children have shown fantastic creativity and teamwork, particularly when designing and making their own vehicles using natural materials.

We were also incredibly proud to showcase our Year Group Assembly, where the children confidently shared everything they have been learning with their families and carers. We are sure you will agree that it was a wonderful success.



Year 1 News!



In Writing lessons this term, we have enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Rainbow fish' by Marcus Pfister. We have used our prediction skills to work out what might happen after the Rainbow fish spoke to the Blue fish.

'I think the Blue fish is sad and will swim away.'

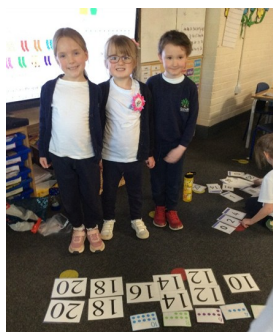
'I predict that the Blue fish will tell his friends and swim back to his friends.'

We have also considered how the Rainbow fish felt when he gave away all of his scales but one. We used some wow words to describe his feelings – **happy, overjoyed, generous**.

In Maths lessons we have been learning about doubling and halving quantities.

Look at our amazing halving using ladybirds and counters as spots. We have learnt how to share counters equally and how to find out how many counters altogether. Great halving everyone!

We have also been learning how to count in 2's, 5's and 10's up to 50 and beyond. Great counting everyone!



In our DT lessons, we have been making fruit kebabs with Mrs Fitton. We have tasted fruit, planned our design and have finally made (and tasted!) our creations. All children loved this and – we hope – have a new found love for fruit!

One thing we have spent time preparing for is our Phonics Screening Check, coming up in June. We have been working hard at reading, recapping sounds and practising chunking up words. Please continue to practise over the next few weeks!



Have a lovely half term,

Year 1 Team.

Year 2/3 News!

Summer 1 has been another busy term for the children in Year 2 and 3. We have had our Roman day, been involved in sports day, competed in an Athletic event and completed two experiments in Science.

RE

In RE we have been learning more about Holy Week, the class acted out parts of the story. Can you tell from the pictures which part of Holy week was being performed?



PE

During PE this term we have had a cricket coach teaching us cricket on a Tuesday. They have learnt how to bat, bowl and different ways to catch the ball. The children have loved playing games and seeing how far they can hit the ball.

Year 3 Athletics afternoon

On Friday 15th May, the whole of Year 3 walked to Oundle Sports Centre to take part in a sporting event hosted by Oundle School. The children were fantastic throughout the day, giving their full energy and demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. They took part in a variety of events, including the long jump, relay races, javelin, and the 100m sprint. It was a proud moment to see so many of our Year 3 children achieve success in their events and receive certificates for their efforts. Well done to everyone who took part — you represented the school brilliantly.

Year 2 and 3 team

Year 4 News!

York Residential Trip

Our residential trip to York was a tremendous success and a truly memorable experience for all involved. The children were outstanding ambassadors for the school throughout the visit, consistently demonstrating our school values of kindness, joy and resilience. In an impressive achievement, all children slept soundly on both nights—something almost unheard of on residential trips!

Day one began with an exciting coach journey to York. After enjoying lunch at Stableside, the children headed into the city for a fascinating tour of York Minster. They were captivated by its breathtaking architecture and rich history before continuing their exploration along the historic York City Walls. Along the way, they uncovered intriguing facts about the city's past while taking in the incredible views of this historic setting.

Day two transported the children back in time to the Viking age at Murton Park, where they fully embraced life as Viking settlers. Dressed in authentic costume, they took part in a wide range of hands-on experiences, including making tallow lamps, learning how to use a spear and shield and competing in traditional Viking games. They also baked bread and even managed to scare off an Anglo-Saxon! The day concluded in the atmospheric Viking long-house, bringing history vividly and excitingly to life.

Day three brought the adventure to a close with visits to the Jorvik Viking Centre and DIG. Here, the children deepened their understanding of York's fascinating archaeological history through immersive, interactive experiences before beginning their journey home.

The trip was an enriching and unforgettable experience, filled with discovery, laughter and lasting memories that the children will treasure for years to come.



Pentecost

The Year 4 pupils attended a Pentecost service at St. Peter's Church. In the weeks beforehand, they learned about the story of Pentecost, decorated a flame, and worked together to create a poster showing how the good news of Jesus' love can be shared at home, in school, and within the wider community. Prior to the service, the children enjoyed a drink and a biscuit.

All the participating schools played a special role in the service. Some welcomed everyone in different languages, others performed a drama retelling the story of Pentecost, and the Year 4 pupils from Oundle Primary School read a prayer focused on kindness and inclusivity.

Throughout the service, the children sang beautifully, listened carefully to the clergy, and took part fully in the worship. At the end, we were pleased to receive a special Pentecost candle, which will be used during Collective Worship across the year.

Forest School

The children thoroughly enjoyed their second Forest School session of the year. This time, their learning focused on the theme of habitats, linking closely with our current Science unit.

The session began with a lively game of 'Eagle Eye' before the children worked collaboratively in groups to create habitats for a mole, badger, mouse, and hedgehog using natural materials found in the Forest School area. This encouraged teamwork, creativity, and careful observation of natural resources.

Following this, the children explored a range of independent activities. With adult supervision, they used tools safely to create wooden animals and design suitable habitats for them. Others enjoyed imaginative play in the mud kitchen, preparing 'carrot and oat' recipes inspired by our Anglo-Saxon History unit. Additional activities included den building, digging in the mud pit, and collaborative group play, all of which supported problem-solving and communication skills.

It was a rich, hands-on learning experience that allowed the children to connect their classroom learning with the natural environment in an engaging and memorable way.



Year 5 News!

Forest School.

This term in Forest School, the children have been exploring the theme of “changing states” through a range of hands-on, outdoor activities. They had the exciting opportunity to learn how to create fire using flint and steel, developing their understanding of safety, patience and perseverance. The children also experimented with making their own natural paints using flowers and water, discovering how materials can be transformed and used creatively. Alongside this, they enjoyed building dens, working collaboratively to design and construct shelters, and had lots of fun in the mud kitchen, where imagination and teamwork were in full flow. To finish the session, the children gathered around the fire to enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows, reflecting on their experiences and celebrating a fantastic day of outdoor learning.



D.T

In Design and Technology, Year 5 have been building their sewing skills by making drawstring bags from calico. They carefully measured, cut and assembled their materials, learning how accuracy is important when creating a final product. The children practised key techniques such as running stitch and backstitch, showing determination and resilience as they improved their control and precision. Many pupils enjoyed personalising their bags with unique designs, demonstrating creativity alongside practical skills. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they progressed through each stage and produced a useful, high-quality item they can be proud of.



Science

In Science, the class has been learning about the life cycles of both animals and plants, developing a deeper understanding of how living things grow and change. They explored the stages of a frog's development, from egg to tadpole and then to adult, and compared this with plant life cycles, including germination, growth and reproduction. Through observation, discussion and questioning, pupils have been able to identify similarities and differences between species. They have shown great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and making connections in their learning, which has helped to strengthen their overall understanding of how living things develop and survive in their environments.

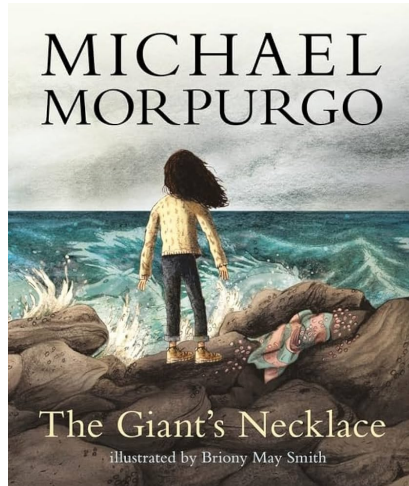
Year 5 team

Year 6 News!

It has been a fantastic Summer Term 1! We have learnt many interesting things.

The big news is that it was SATs. They were difficult, but we did our best and think we have done Well. Plus, we got to have biscuits and juice when they were done, so it was alright!

In English, we have been learning about suspense writing and how we can build atmosphere through descriptive skills such as personification. Our class story we have used to help us is "The Giant's Necklace" by Michael Morpurgo. We won't spoil it, but there's a big twist ending.



In Maths, we have been learning about angles and shapes. We have been enjoying these topics all-round. Do you know how to work out the angles of any shape? We do.

In PE we have been working on our cricket skills. We have developed our batting, field and catching skills and we've been lucky to have a coach from Chance2Shine cricket help us develop as cricketers!

In Science we have been learning about Evolution and Charles Darwin's journey to the Galapagos Islands. This is where he came up with the idea of Evolution after looking at how birds had changed. We have looked at the differences between us and our friends and the adaptations seen in humans and animals.

Here's us celebrating SATs being finished!



Even though we have our last half-term coming up, we are really looking forward to it!



Providing Music Lessons in partnership with your school

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust have been delivering music lessons across the county for over fifty years. Our County Ensembles are some of the best in the country, and we have a national reputation for excellence.



If you are interested in your child having music lessons at school, with an NMPAT teacher, email us at lessonsdirect@nmpat.co.uk, with the subject 'want to learn', providing the following information:

- the name of your child
- the school they attend
- the instrument they would like to learn

...and we will send you all the information you need to register.

Scan the QR or use the link to find out more about our teaching teams... www.nmpat.co.uk/lessons
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children
aged
Reception -
School Year 11

SCAN ME



**MANOR DRIVE
ACADEMY**

26TH + 27TH MAY

9-3PM

**HAMPTON
GARDENS**

26, 27 + 28TH MAY

9-3PM

FOURFIELDS

26TH + 27TH MAY

9-3PM

**ALDERMAN
JACOBS**

28 + 29TH MAY

9-3PM

Contact Us

07583 688413

luke.kennedy@youthdreamsproject.co.uk

www.youthdreamsproject.co.uk

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National Children's Gardening Week 23rd - 31st May 2026

at Bosworth's Garden Centre

Pop in and join us for a week of garden fun!

Bring the little ones along for a week of hands-on outdoor activities, learning and discovery in the garden

What's on:

- Treasure hunts around the garden centre
- Seed planting & growing activities
- Fun gardening "how to's"
- Learning activities for curious minds
- Inspiring content & tips shared on our social media

At our Elton centre, activities will also take place in our beautiful Kitchen Garden—the perfect place to explore, learn and get hands-on with nature!

**No need to book—
just pop in and join the fun!**

We can't wait to see you there!

**Bosworth's Elton- Elton Walled Garden ,Elton,
PE8 6SH**

**Bosworth's Burton Latimer - 110 Finedon Road,
Burton Latimer NN15 5QA**

Bosworth's Garden Centre



Did you know that our school is a community space too?

We are very lucky to have several on-going lettings that support the school financially but also ensure our facilities are used to benefit others in the community.

We currently share our building and grounds with the Oundle Rusty Players, Slingspace Choir, NMPAT Saturday Morning Music School, Oundle Baptist Church and Oundle Town Football Club.

Reminders from the Office

Please remember that any change of details, e.g. address, email or phone number can be updated through your Arbor profile

Please email: office@oundle.pdet.org.uk

Child Absence

It is important that if your child is absent for any reason, please record this information on your child's Arbor profile before morning registration.

If your child is attending a medical appointment, please email a copy of the appointment to the office.

School Meals

Reminder - Please remember to order your lunches for the new term through Kingswood Catering.

The new menu is now live.

School Opening Times

Kiss and drop: 8:45 - 9:00

Registration: 9:00

End of the School day: 3:30

Glaphorn Road Gate Locked: 3:45

Office hours: 8:15 - 4:00

Please phone 01832 272392

Email office@oundle.pdet.org.uk



All school uniform is available to purchase online via a link on our school website www.oundleceprimary.org or by visiting our supplier's shop where your child may try the uniform on for size. Our school uniform supplier is:

Total Clothing, part of F R Monkhouse Ltd No 9 Botolph Trading Estate, Oundle Road, Peterborough. PE2 9QP.

Tel: 01733 394758. www.totalclothing.co.uk customerservices@totalclothing.co.uk

School Uniform List

Item	FS , Y1 & Y2	Y3 - 6
Polo shirt	Red	White
Sweatshirt or cardigan (with logo)	Navy	Navy
Trousers or shorts	Navy	Navy
Skirt, pinafore dress or trousers	Navy	Navy
Gingham dress / playsuit – optional (April to October)	Navy	Navy
Tights	Red or navy	Red or navy
Socks	Dark colours White with dresses and skirts only	Dark colours White with dresses and skirts only
Shoes (no canvas or trainers)	Black or navy	Black or navy
PE kit – shorts or cycling shorts	Navy	Navy
PE kit – short sleeved t-shirt, plain, round neck	White	White
PE kit – trainers	Any colour	Any colour
PE kit – joggers, school sweatshirt or plain sweatshirt (no hoodies)	Navy	Navy
Coats / jackets	Any colour	Any colour
Appropriate small hair decorations eg. headbands, bobble or scrunchies	Navy or red	Navy or red