

Roots that Strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that Flourishes.

## Autumn 1 Newsletter

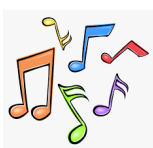


Dear Parents



It often takes inspirational moments or events that children are involved in which kick-starts them finding greater enjoyment in school and helps them to flourish. We have provided some of that inspiration this term!

The River Walk started our academic year as we meant to go on in all areas of school life: setting a challenging goal that required stamina, resilience and independence and providing support, encouragement and fun to achieve success.



Most children from Year 1 to Year 6 are now learning a musical instrument once a week. Who cannot be inspired by Miss Morton, Miss Bridgeman or Mr Grey having a little rift with their ukulele, cornet or clarinet in the middle of their music lesson?!

Once a week all the children are having a PE lesson led by a professional cricket, tennis, dance, gymnastic or karate coach. I am sure there will be some children who will find themselves inspired to join a local club and develop a passion for a sport.



The Parent v Teacher netball match was organised to have some fun and a giggle within our school community. It was also aimed at inspiring the children to have a go at a game, regardless of experience or skill, and discover the joy and camaraderie that comes from team sports and the benefits of physical activity.

Our elected School Council has already started to bring about change within the school. Maybe there are other children hesitant to step forward this year or who do not believe they can effect change, who will be inspired by this year's School Council to stand next year and make a difference.



I Wonder  
Wednesday

Our weekly Wonder Wednesday assemblies generate great discussion amongst the children about local, national and international matters. There will be children who take inspiration from Martin Luther King or Rosa Parks who showed tremendous courage in fighting for life to be fair for all. Maybe there will be others who remember something in our assembly on mental health that inspired them to help themselves or with a 'hidden illness'.

Perhaps it won't be now but in years to come when your child sees an advert for an adventure expedition abroad; a second-hand musical instrument in the shop window; a flier to join a local sports club; or an organisation that requires elected candidates to help bring about change. Maybe it's at that moment that your child remembers how inspired they were during a lesson or activity at Standlake Primary School and decides that now is the time to give it a go!

Have a lovely half term break

Andrew Denham



Our Values: **Courage** **Love** **Forgiveness** **Compassion** **Tolerance** **Thankfulness** **Honesty**

## River Walk

Our annual River Walk Challenge was a great way to start the year as we mean to go on; being bold, brave and courageous! We are grateful to Sharon and Richard at the Maybush Pub who allowed 110 children to have their packed lunches in their garden. A special mention to the very young children in Year 1 and 2 who did the two and a half hours walking to cover 5 miles and the fantastic support and encouragement the older children gave them. Go Team Standlake!



## Music at Standlake

We are delighted to be able to offer most children from Years 1-6 weekly musical instrument lessons. With the arrival of Miss Morton and Miss Bridgeman to our staff team, along with our regular Mr Gray from Oxford County Music, the children now have the opportunity to play Ukulele (Y1&2), Cor-nets (Y3&4) and Clarinets (Y5&6). We are looking forward to our first concert!



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## PE at Standlake

We have enhanced our PE curriculum so that once a week, the children are taught by a professional sports coach who is closely linked to a local club. The aim is threefold:

- Ensure high quality sports coaching for the children
- Provide continual professional development for the teachers who work alongside the coaches
- Create an easy pathway for the children to join the local club the coach works for

Our aspiration is that this enhanced approach will ensure a legacy of enjoyment and skills for children (and staff) in a wide variety of sports, leading to happier, healthier and active lives.



## Wonder Wednesday

Our weekly Wonder Wednesday assemblies are designed to ask a 'Big Question' about local, national or international topical events that are taking place. This term's themes have covered a wide range of areas:

How do we keep you happy and safe in school?



What is Democracy?



What is Black History Month?



What is the Shoebox Appeal?



What is Mental Health Day?



## It's Friday!

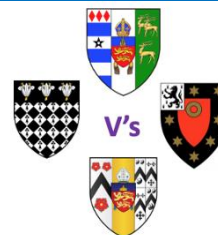
We finished the term with this new and exciting whole day event. The first part of the day saw all the children complete **Learning Quizzes** about the learning they have done this term. This helps the teachers identify how much the children have learnt and if there is anything individuals, groups or the whole class need to revisit next term. Next the children completed one or two of the **50 Things To Do Before You Leave Standlake Primary School** activities. The final part of the day was an **Inter-House Competition**. This term it had a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) theme where the children had to complete various building challenges with some fun competitive games mixed in.



Learning Quizzes



50 Things Activities



Inter-House Competition











World landmarks
Eiffel Tower
Great Wall of China
Kremlin
Leaning Tower of Pisa
Pyramid of Giza
Sydney Opera House
Statue of Liberty
Taj Mahal
Easter Island Moai
Machu Picchu



Kings and Queens
William I – William the Conqueror 1066-87
Richard I – Richard the Lionheart 1189-99
Edward I – 1272-1307
Henry V – 1413-22
Henry VIII – 1509-47
Elizabeth I – 1558-1603
Charles II – 1660-85
Victoria – 1837-1901
George V – 1910-36
Elizabeth II – 1952-2022



### House Points This Term

			
454	503	398	502
Brasenose	Lincoln	Magdalen	St John's
			

Who will be The Chosen One...? 

### House Points

Congratulations to St John's team for earning the most house points this term and were awarded with donuts! Also, a special mention to **Thomas Brangwin, Rupert Broadhurst, Arlowe Cudd, Breanna Knight, Jessica Jackson** who were The Chosen Ones! These children were chosen from other teams because they had particularly impressed their class teacher with their work ethic and living out our school values.

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## Harvest Service

This was the first time in three years that we have been able to have a Harvest Service in the church with the children and families all invited. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents join us to watch the children perform songs and poems and share some artwork. Peter and John shared the story of The Parable of Sower in their own unique style but still managed to ensure that all the children and parents came away knowing why our school vision is **Roots that Strengthen. Branches that Reach. Fruit that Flourishes!**



## Why the Roots, Branches and Fruit?

Our school vision derives from The Parable of the Sower (*Matthew: 13:1-23*) and a farmer who sowed some seeds on the ground.

Some seed fell on the hard path, some on rocky soil, some in weeds and thorns and some on good, fertile soil.

In the bible the different surfaces represent peoples' different responses to the Good News and Jesus teachings: no understanding (hard path), initial enthusiasm but giving up when things become tough (rocky soil), enthusiasm that is not sustained because of the distractions and worries of the world (weeds and thorns) or understanding the messages, living out the values and helping others to do the same (the good soil).

We have likened the parable to how the children might respond to the teaching and learning they do in school, aspiring for them to have success and enjoyment in all they do so they flourish, just like a good crop on good soil!

Enjoying

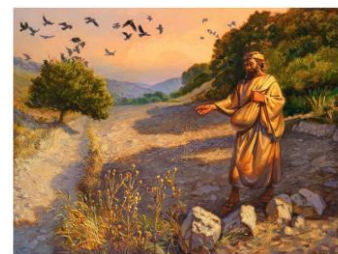
Succeeding

Trying

Striving

Learning

Knowing



Some seed fell on good soil and produced a great crop.

Matthew 13:8



Hear. Do. Help others.



Hear but ignore



Hear but worry



Hear but give up



We want to be like the seed that fell on good soil!

Our Values: **Courage** **Love** **Forgiveness** **Compassion** **Tolerance** **Thankfulness** **Honesty**

### Community Conker Challenge

OK, so the availability and size of the conkers may have been lacking a little this year but that didn't stop some of the children getting stuck into a good old traditional conker fight on the playground after school. Some of the older children were happy to play the controversial 'stampsies' rule! Congratulations to this year's joint champions who both had three-ers!



### School Council

Congratulations to the children who have been elected to our School Council this year. They will be focusing on developing our links with the Romanian school we send our Christmas shoeboxes to, helping to protect and restore nature in our local area and managing Friday Tuck shop and budget so that, hopefully, they can use some profit for playtime equipment and charitable donations.



PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE



## Shoe Box Appeal

We will be running our Shoe Box appeal again this year. Attached to this newsletter is the flier for the boxes. We have lots of spare, pre-wrapped shoe boxes families can take. Please ask at the School Office if you would like one.



## Climbing Wall

The children have been enjoying the new climbing wall that was installed this term. It is part of our ongoing project to provide apparatus around The Track to keeping the children active and engaged with exercise at break and lunchtimes.

## Parent v Staff Netball Match

What fun! It was great to have so many parents sign up for this community game after school. The aim was to bring staff and parents together for a bit of fun and hopefully inspire the children to take up an active team sport!



## Girls U11 Football Tournament

Well done to our girls who took part in the Eynsham Partnership Academy tournament. They were an inspiration to us all for the way they showed great resilience and positivity no matter what the score line was at the end of each match! We were very proud of them.

## FOSS Halloween Disco

Thank you to FOSS for once again running our school disco. There wasn't a lot of dancing (more running around and eating sweets!), but the children had lots of fun.



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Mrs Pullin writes: **Murphy Class** have had an amazing first term! Children have been learning about people who help us in the community. We were so fortunate to have Mr Brangwin in with PC Ben to tell us how police officers help in the community, and we completed an investigation which resulted in Mr Denham in handcuffs. Children have also been enjoying developing their vocabulary while playing in the fire station and doctor's surgery.

In forest school, children have become little explorers! Den making was one of the highlights where Mrs Pullin's team and Mrs Kinchin's team raced against each other to make the best den. Mr Bassey came in and taught us all about gymnastics, practicing to balance, move safely and link movements together. This term has been all about fine motor skills and exploring colour when completing art. We have been practicing using scissors safely and have done this when making crowns and masks, just like what 'Supertato' wears, who is in our class text. Children in reception have made a strong start in their phonics, learning about 20 sounds, and beginning to blend simple words with confidence. Children have been learning how to match and sort materials and we have been exploring numbers up to 5.



Miss Morton writes: **Donaldson class** have had a fantastic first term, from skip counting, to learning about the United Kingdom in Geography. We've enjoyed practising our phonics each day and applying our knowledge to make exciting sentences.

For our Science learning, we explored the use of our senses. We went on a walk around the school and described what we could smell, hear, touch, feel (even taste!).

Donaldson Class has particularly enjoyed Art lessons this term where they have been learning about Portraits. Inspired by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Vincent Van Gogh, the children have created detailed and abstract portraits.



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Mrs Fleet and Mrs Conroy write: **Dahl Class's** exciting topic this term was Planet Earth. We have learned about imaginary lines that we use to divide the earth and to help us to locate places on atlases and maps. We learned how to calculate time differences around the world – it's strange to think that Mrs Fleet's cousin in Melbourne, Australia is getting ready for bed when we are on our way to school in the morning! We have learned about art from countries from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres – Australian Aboriginal inspired art and Japanese cherry blossom paintings.

In Science we have been developing our investigation skills when learning about forces and magnets, including making our magnets and compasses.

We all enjoyed creating creatures out of clay when we were preparing to write character descriptions, linked with our class text: Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo. We showed great teamwork skills when creating our own story maps for our diary entries.

In Maths, we have made great progress with our understanding of place value, money and addition/subtraction. We have enjoyed using the Maths equipment and problem-solving activities.



Miss Bridgeman writes: **Morpurgo class** have had a wonderful start to the year! In English this term, we have been looking at Michael Morpurgo's Beowulf. We have written a character description of our hero (Beowulf) and then a diary entry from the perspective of Grendel.

The class have been particularly enthusiastic about their learning in science this term and have been investigating forces and magnets. The children have made their own compasses using their knowledge of magnets and have conducted an experiment with parachutes to investigate the impact of surface area on air resistance.

Our topic work this term has been focused on our understanding of the Earth. We have looked at different maps, using line of longitude and latitude to find countries using atlases, as well using four figure grid references to locate local landmarks. The children have calculated time zones across the globe and learnt about the water cycle.

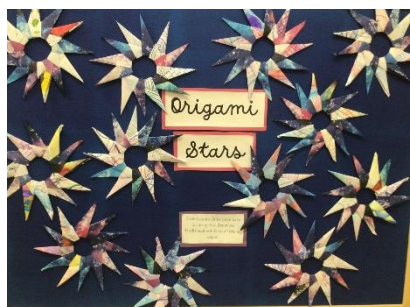
Art has been a particular highlight for many children this term and the children have loved getting to explore art from around the world. They have created their own Vietnamese silk paintings, Tinga Tinga art and have even designed and created their own alebrijes (brightly coloured Mexican folk sculptures of mythical creatures!).

Our Values: **Courage Love Forgiveness Compassion Tolerance Thankfulness Honesty**

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Mr Brown writes: **Shakespeare Class** have enjoyed learning about Space this term. Inspired by our class text, *Cosmic*, we have analysed and written newspaper reports, formal letters and an alternative version of the story, trying to include various high-level grammatical features as we have done so.

Our Topic work has enabled us to consider the 'Space Race' during the Cold War between USA and USSR, whilst we have also debated the merits and disadvantages of sending animals to space. We finished by asking 'What next?' in terms of space travel, sharing our personal opinions about what should be the next journey of discovery into the 'final frontier'. Our space theme continued in our science learning too. We created our own mnemonics to remember the order of the planets; learnt about how the earth and moon move; and explained how the earth's rotation causes night and day.

Our RE learning centred on the biblical story of creation and whether science and faith can be complementary. Meanwhile, Mrs. Abraham has inspired our space-themed artwork using a variety of mediums this term. We used chalk, pastel and tissue paper to create pieces of art based on Kandinsky's 'Several Circles'. We have also decorated paper and used it to make our own origami stars and have made our own sundials.

We have also managed to fit in weekly tennis lessons, beginning to learn to play the clarinet and the Year 6's enjoyed the interactive scenarios (including fire safety, water safety and road safety) at the Junior Citizens programme.



### Reading Achievements

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you will go."  
-Dr Seuss



These children have read at least **25 times** since the start of term...

**MURPHY:** Estelle, Felix, Florence, Molly, Seren, Sophie & Thomas,

**DONALDSON:** George, River, Martha, Seb, Arthur, William, Erges, Lottie, Ezra, Mari & Axel

**DAHL:** Arlowe, Reggie, Finley, Lena, Arthur, Nancy, Miley, Kaleb

**MORPURGO:** Ezra, Elleni, Luis, Annie, Sienna, Emilee, Alexander, Scout, Ferris, Finn, Rhys, Oscar, Kyrah, Archie, Aaron & Ciara

**SHAKESPEARE:** Freddie F, Grace, Annabella, Lucy & Rosie

**Help us to help your child, by encouraging them to read every day.**

*Record it in their reading diary so we can celebrate in our Achievement Assembly on a Friday*

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## ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR

(as of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October)



Yr. Grp	Average Attendance <i>97% attendance is satisfactory</i>	No. of children with 100% attendance <i>Getting the most out of all the school has to offer</i>	No. of children with less than 90% attendance <i>Which dramatically impacts on the child's learning.</i>	No. of children who arrived late this term
R	91.8%	6 out of 13	1 child	2
1	98.7%	12 out of 16	1 child	2
2	98.4%	7 out of 13	0	0
3	98.3%	11 out of 16	1 child	1
4	97.6%	15 out of 20	2 children	0
5	97.3%	12 out of 24	1 child	5
6	99.1%	10 out of 15	0	2

### If your child is poorly...

Please call or email the school before 9.00am on the day. **Please do this every day they continue to be ill.** We have a safeguarding duty of care to know why a child is not in school.

### Being Late for School

The school day starts at 8.45am. Registers are taken at 8.50am. Children who arrive after this time are marked as 'late'.

Most children who arrive late to school become embarrassed so do not start the day in a good frame of mind. Also, their lateness impacts on the teacher being able to start teaching and the rest of their class being able to start learning. Please be on time.

### Unauthorised Absence

The most common reason for unauthorised absences is parents removing their child from school to go on holiday. Occasionally parents will lie to us about why their child was absent from school. We usually find out because their child or the child's friend tells us, despite being told not to by the parent! This undermines our teaching about honesty, places the child in a very embarrassing situation and damages the trusting relationships needed in school.

**All the staff work incredibly hard to provide the best teaching and learning experiences for your child.**

**Help your child make the most of this by getting them to school on time and keeping them in school during term time.**

### School Uniform & PE Kit

We expect all children to wear the appropriate uniform and kit at Standlake. It makes the children look smart, gives them a sense of belonging and, in the case of PE, ensures they can take part safely. **From Term 2 we will be sending a note home if we notice your child is not wearing the appropriate clothing and look forward to seeing them return the next day in the correct uniform.**

You can order if from:

[www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk)

OR

If you are a family on a low income, we can provide FREE, as-good-as-new, uniform. Just ask or send an email to the office.



Children must wear black shoes with their uniform; buckles, velcro or laces are fine. Children MUST NOT wear trainers (unless it is a PE day)



Children must wear trainers or plimsolls (Children MUST NOT wear the same shoes as a normal school day)

## Notices

### Jill Plants School Photo's

Jill plans to return 'proofs' of the photos in the first week back after half term so that parents can order them in plenty of time for Christmas gifts.

### Parent Governor

We have some upcoming vacancies for a Parent Governor. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact the school office.

### Flowers at St Giles Church

A message from St Giles Church: We are a small team, who take it in turns to put fresh flowers in Church. As we are getting older our numbers are getting less. We could really use some younger mum's or dad's to join us. Flower arranging is not a required skill, help us on hand, if needed. We are more than happy to have fresh flowers popped into a vase. If anyone can help, please contact me Lilian Wetherald on 01865 300523. Thank you.

### School Clubs

We will continue to run the staff school clubs in Term 2. If you would like your child to join the netball (Monday), art and craft (Wednesday) or Multi-Sports (Thursday) you can sign them up on ParentMail. It'll cost just £10 for 5 sessions in the Autumn term. If money is a barrier to them joining, email the school office and we may be able to help.

## Key Dates for Term 2

**1<sup>st</sup> Nov:** Term Starts

4<sup>th</sup> Nov (9.00-10.00am): Shoe Box Appeal (Approximately £10)

**7<sup>th</sup> Nov (3.45pm):** EPA Boccia Tournament (Y3-6)

**10<sup>th</sup> Nov (9.30am-2.00pm):** Year 6 Bartholomew Transition

**11<sup>th</sup> Nov (9.00am):** Remembrance Service

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov (3.45am):** EPA Sports hall Athletics Meet: (Y5&6)

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov (9.00am-12.00pm):** Rugby Festival (Y3&4)

**27<sup>th</sup> Nov (afternoon):** FOSS Christmas Fair

**8<sup>th</sup> Dec (7.00-9.00pm)** Staff v Parents Christmas Quiz

**w/b 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Parent Meetings (Whole School)

SEND Pupil Reviews

**13<sup>th</sup> Dec (pm):** IRock Concert

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec (2.00pm & 6.00pm):** Nativity Play (FSU and Y1&2)

**20<sup>th</sup> Dec (9.00am):** Christmas Service (Whole School)

**20<sup>th</sup> Dec (am & pm):** It's Tri Day & The Last Day (finish 1.15pm)

**21<sup>st</sup> Dec-3<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** Christmas Holiday

**Term dates for 2023-2024 can be found on our school website under the Parent Page**