

**Roots that Strengthen.**

**Branches that Reach.**

**Fruit that Flourishes.**

## Autumn 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents



The start of the academic year is a good time to reflect on our school vision and remind ourselves of what we are striving to achieve for your children at Standlake Church of England Primary School...



The vision statement of **Roots that Strengthen**, **Branches that Reach**, **Fruit that Flourishes** is inspired by The Parable of the Sower: The seeds (*children*) that grew best were those that fell on good soil (*teaching*), have strong roots enabling the plant to develop (*learning*) and produce a good harvest (*academic & personal success*).



The *roots* are like the foundations we lay down in the early years of school and at the start of any lesson, as new learning is introduced or revisited. As the children move through the school or lesson, they build on those early experiences, new knowledge, skills and concepts and start *reaching* up to apply it in their work and play. As those metaphoric roots and branches *strengthen* during their time with us, we see the children *flourish* and find themselves ready for the next stage of their education and life.



Throughout their time at Standlake we nurture the children's character as much as their academic achievement so that the children pursue excellence in everything they do; develop resilience when faced with difficulties and show compassion during their individual journeys to success.



We have started the academic year really well by laying down some strong foundations for what is to come. We are seeing the children endeavour to work hard and live out our values and flourish in what they do. The year ahead is looking full of potential...

Have a lovely half term break

Andrew Denham



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

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## Romania Update

It has been a long time coming but the children in the Finis community are now getting an education – and it is all because of the money we raised on our Triathlon: £4,412. This simply would not have happened if it wasn't for our school community's generosity. There can be no better expression of Standlake values we adhere to!



## Standlake Superstars Success

We have been delighted with the success of Standlake Superstars. The team are delivering the very best before and after school clubs in the local area and it is clearly very appreciated by both the children and families. From Forest Craft to Performing Arts to Dodgeball to Giant Lego – there is something for everyone – and there is the healthy, balanced tea! This is all part of the aim of raising children's participation in engaging, active and healthy lifestyles at Standlake.



## Girls U11 Football Tournament



Congratulations to our Under 11's Girls Football Team who were runners up in the EPA Tournament, just missing out on being crowned champions because of a goal difference! The team won three matches and drew in the final one, not conceding any goals all tournament. We are so proud of your achievement - you have done yourselves, family and school very proud!

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## River Walk

Our annual walk to the river and picnic was a great success with all the children from Year 1 to 6 completing the 8km route - 2 hours 45 minutes of walking! A special thank you to Sharon at the Maybush for allowing us to use the pub garden for the picnic and to the parents who joined us and helped jolly the children along.



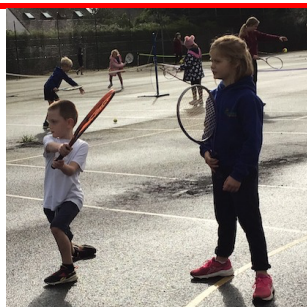
## Cross Country

Wow! Wow! Wow! Congratulations to all of the children who took part in the EPA Cross Country event. We entered boys' and girls' teams into the Under 11 and Under 9 races and **our teams won every category!!!** This means that the Top 5 runners in each team will go through to the West Oxfordshire Final.



## EPA Tennis Tournament

The Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed their time at the EPA Tennis Festival - hopefully some of them have been inspired to become the next Andy Murray or Katie Boulter!



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## Harvest Service

It was great to see all of the children performing a song at our Harvest Festival. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Besom charity so families in Witney could receive a gift of 'harvest' food this autumn.



## 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!



## Inter-House Competition

Poor weather meant a last-minute change to the inter-house competition but the children still enjoyed the 'just for fun' challenges that tested their ambition, resilience and teamwork skills!



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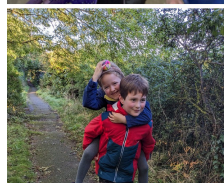
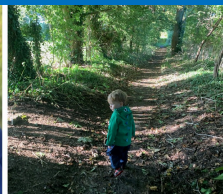
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## No Cars!

Well done to everyone who embraced the World Car Free Day event. It was great to see so many more families walk, cycle and scoot to school!

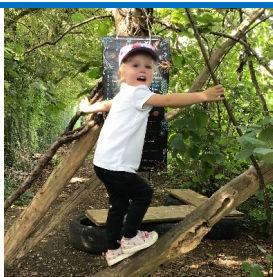


Our Values: **Courage** **Love** **Forgiveness** **Compassion** **Tolerance** **Thankfulness** **Honesty**

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**Murphy Class, Mrs Harrison writes:** Murphy Class have had a wonderful start to the year. Our topic this term has been 'All About Me!' and we have all got to know each other really well. We began by thinking about what makes us special and unique. We talked about and drew pictures of our families. We then used a wonderful book, called The Colour Monster, to talk about our feelings. The children loved this story and helped sort coloured pompoms into the different emotion colours, made feelings sensory bottles and created a fantastic display – see picture above. We then found out about different homes both in this country and around the world. The children really enjoyed looking at maps and created some amazing maps themselves. We finished off the topic by talking about how homes were different in the past, the children were fascinated to find out about all the changes.

The Reception children have made a strong start with their Read Write Inc phonics sessions and have learnt more than 20 sounds. They are using these sounds to 'Fred talk' to read and write simple words. Nursery children have been playing lots of listening games and loved going on a listening walk wearing their big listening ears headbands!

We have all been working really hard on improving our fine motor skills by threading beads/pasta, using peg boards, practising our scissor control and boogying along in our 'dough disco' sessions.



**Donaldson Class, Miss Morton writes:** Donaldson Class have had a fantastic start to the year. Our topic this term has been Paddington. We have really enjoyed listening to different stories of Paddington and used different illustrations to practise writing sentences. Some children have been able to write longer sentences using adjectives and conjunctions as well as remembering to sound out longer words. Some children planned and wrote a set of instructions for Paddington to use when he makes marmalade sandwiches. We were very brave and tried some marmalade ourselves, though most of us decided to choose strawberry jam. Our own Paddington Bear has been thrilled with all the adventures he has been on so far. From pizza nights to ballet lessons, to a trip to the farm, Paddington can't wait for the year ahead with Donaldson Class.

In Maths this term, we have been building on our place value and number knowledge. We have been learning to identify tens and ones in a two-digit number. We've also learnt to use a number line to find a number, skip count, add and subtract. The children in Year 2 have particularly enjoyed starting their NumBots and TT Rockstars journey which has improved their number and fluency knowledge.

In Science, we have been learning about the basic needs to survive. We identified that plants are the same as humans because they need air, water, and food to survive. To prove this, we planned an investigation with 3 plants, all growing in different environments, to see which environment allowed the plant to survive. We can confirm, the plant left in the classroom cupboard did NOT survive! We've also been talking about the importance of exercise, hygiene, and a balanced diet. As a class, we concluded that we must have some vegetables with our chicken nuggets!

In Geography, we have been learning about the UK. We have been learning about London. We have been identifying different landmarks and using the map to describe their locations. We enjoyed using our geographical knowledge in Art with Mrs Mitchell where we have been creating landscape masterpieces and using different materials to decorate them with.

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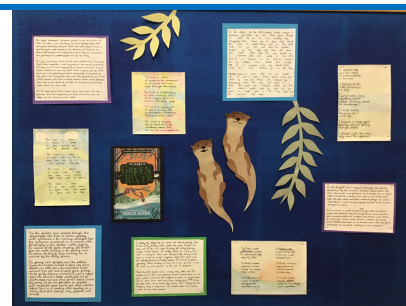
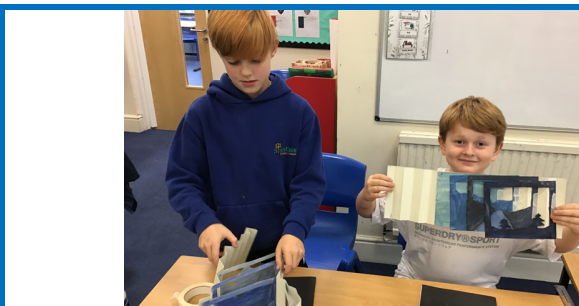
**Dahl Class, Mrs Conroy and Mrs Fleet write:** We have really enjoyed this term's topic of River Deep, Mountain High! We have learned about the changes of a river from its source to the sea, features of a mountain and the names and locations of famous rivers and mountains all over the world. Linked with our class story, 'River Singers' by Tom Moorhouse, we have written beautiful river setting descriptions. Mrs Crouch from WASP inspired us to write some very persuasive letters to Robert Courts about the problem of sewage pollution in our local rivers. We also had fun in English creating kenning poems about ourselves, which are on display for people to try to work out who wrote them.

Our Science topic this term has been Living Things and their Habitats. We now know how living things can be grouped and classified. We have learned about living things we have in our local area and how animals have adapted to their habitat. We did not hesitate to express our opinions about the impacts that humans have on plants, animals and their habitats when Farmer Conroy shared her building plans with us!

We have been very creative in RE this term while learning about Diwali. After learning about the story of Rama and Sita, we explored how Hindus celebrate Diwali and made our own brightly coloured Diwali pots.

Thanks to Mrs Lee's enthusiasm and ambition, we have produced some eye-catching pieces of artwork this term – all linking with our River Deep, Mountain High! topic.

We have made up our own greetings song in French and we have been learning numbers, days and months through songs and games. Mrs Fleet is impressed by the way we are all happy to have a go when learning new sounds, words and phrases.



**Morpurgo class, Miss Bridgeman writes:** This term, our learning has been focused around our topic of 'River Deep, Mountain High'.

In English, we have been reading 'The Story of Green River' by Holly Webb. This inspired the children to write some fantastic setting descriptions of an otter den using some new and ambitious vocabulary. We then had an inspiring visit from Mrs Crouch, who spoke to us all about the work of WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) and how we could protect our rivers from pollution. Following this, we wrote persuasive letters to our local MP asking for help to save our local river Windrush and its wildlife.

In Maths this term, we focused on securing our knowledge of place value, before looking at some addition and

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multiplication work. We even took some of our learning outside (before it got too cold!) and tried some active learning to help us memorise our timestables.

Our science topic this term has been electricity and we have been building on our knowledge of electricity. This unit is always a firm favourite with the children and they have really enjoyed creating their own circuits and investigating the benefits of parallel and series circuits – they can now make excellent recommendations about which Christmas lights you should buy!

During our topic lessons, we have been looking at the physical aspects of geography, learning all about how mountains and rivers are formed. The children took great pleasure in pointing out the features they had learned about on our whole school river walk.

This term's Music topic has been soul music and we have learned about a number of different soul artists from the 1950s and 60s. The children have really enjoyed getting to learn about a new musical genre and have found a particular liking for some of the music of the Jackson 5!

Finally, Morpurgo class has been lucky enough to have Mrs Lee running their art sessions this term and they have produced some fantastic tunnel books of mountain landscapes.



**Shakespeare Class, Mr Brown writes:** Following on from the whole school river walk, our 'River Deep; Mountain High' topic has allowed us to consider land use; the impact of tourism & climate change; and the sustainable use of hydro-electric power around both rivers and mountains. This has been both interesting and thought-provoking. Linking with our topic, our page-turning class text – Journey to the River Sea – has inspired us as we have written a setting description about the Amazon rainforest; newspaper reports about an event from the story; and diary entries as if we were one of the characters.

Our maths learning over the past seven weeks has allowed us to consolidate and further our knowledge of number and place value (up to millions and down to negative numbers), before applying this to calculating using all four mathematical operations. Meanwhile, this term's science learning has been about the human body, giving us the chance to plan, complete and evaluate an investigation into the effect of exercise on our heart. Most of us(!) thoroughly enjoyed dissecting pigs' hearts to help us to understand the complexity of this incredible part of our own bodies.

For year 6, our trip to Junior Citizens was a highlight, as we faced scenarios to help us with fire, water, road and internet safety, amongst others.

Back in the classroom, our RE learning this term has been considering how Muslims show commitment to their faith, while we are also really enjoying our weekly French and music lessons (with Mrs. Fleet and Miss Bridgeman respectively). Mrs. Lee has inspired us with our mountain-themed artwork and Mr Weaving's PE lessons are a twice-weekly highlight





## 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: 25 reads:** Harvey/Tommy Lee/Finley/ Freya/ Eve/ Dottie/ Joey/ Chloe/ Isobel/ Evie/ Ted/ Brooke

**DONALDSON: 25 reads:** Aidan/William/ Erges/ Thomas/ Seren/ Felix/ Ori/ Molly/ Sophie/ Sylvie/ Gracie/ Ezra/ Patrick/ Beatrice

**DAHL: 25 reads:** /George / River / Martha / Seb / Arthur / Kyle I/ Layla / Lexi / Mari / Ava / Finley / Lena / Natalia / Jenna / Arthur / Issac / Nancy r/ Shannon-Rose

**MORPURGO: 25 reads:** Henry/ Arlowe/ Eadie/ Charlotte/ Jasmine/ Rosie/ Kitty/ Fin/ Kaleb/ Sienna/ Annie

**SHAKESPEARE: 25 reads:** Ezra/ Ruby/ Oscar/ Will/ Archie/ Vienna/ Mara-Jade/ Jessica/ Alfie/ Finn

**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*

## Governor Update

Our governors have had some new members join them recently. Here is a little bout them...

### Jonathan Waltho

Hi, I'm Jonathan Waltho. I joined as a Foundation Governor in June 2023. Foundation governors are nominated by the church to preserve Christian values in the school. I have lived in Standlake for the last 20 years. I am married to Geraldine, who works in the NHS and many of you will know her from her time in the school kitchen when she loved serving the children their lunches. We have 3 boys - Reece (17), Cameron (12) and Alexander (9). All have enjoyed their time at the primary school in Standlake and Alexander is currently in Year 5. By profession, I'm a solicitor and chartered governance professional, currently working as Head of Legal for a telecoms infrastructure joint venture based in Reading. When I'm not working or enjoying family life, I like to run, practice yoga, and support my football team, Leicester City.

### Simon Tuohy

I have two children attending Standlake School and I joined the governing body in 2022 as a parent governor to both learn more about the school and hopefully contribute in some way to its continued success. I hold a PhD in Physics and work in R&D for a laser technology company. I am originally from Ireland.

### Amy Prior

I have been a parent governor since 2022. We have lived in Northmoor for 10 years and our two children; Arthur – Year 4 and Lottie – year 2, attend Standlake Primary School...We also have baby Edith in training! I currently work part time as an Associate Assistant Headteacher at John Mason School, as well as running a small Architectural Design and Planning business. I have worked in secondary education for 13 years. Whilst working in education I have primarily worked in pastoral leadership. The wellbeing, aspirations and personal development of young people is a passion of mine and one that enticed me to want to work more closely with Standlake Primary school as a parent governor. When I'm not working I love painting, designing and gardening.

## Term 2

**30<sup>th</sup> Oct:** INSET Day

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct:** Term Starts

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov (3.30pm-5.30pm):** EPA Boccia Tournament (Y3-6)

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

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

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

**15<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Flu vaccinations for Reception to Year 6 children

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

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christmas Fair (FOSS)

**4<sup>th</sup>& 5<sup>th</sup>Dec:** Parent Meetings (Whole School)

SEND Pupil Reviews

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

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Panto Trip for Reception, Year 1&2 (Approximately £20)

Jack and the Beanstalk

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** World War 2 Day (Key Stage 2)...dressing up required!

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec (2.30pm):** Irock Concert

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec (2.00pm):** Christmas Service (Whole School)

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

**21<sup>st</sup> Dec-7<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Christmas Holiday

**8<sup>th</sup> Jan:** INSET Day

**9<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Term 3 Starts

Note: Dates in **Red** are additions to the 2023-24 Key Dates sent out at the start of term