DUCKLINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dare Discover Do

Tel. (01993) 703651 Website: https://ducklington.oxon.sch.uk/

Headteacher: Mr R. Leigh Chair of Governors: Mrs R. Buckland

Friday 23rd May 2025

Headteacher's Thoughts

Last week, the Year 6 children were engaged each morning in their SATs papers sitting in the hall. I would like to say well done to the children for managing the week very well and concentrating through the papers each day. We are proud of them. To finish the week, they all enjoyed a special delivery of pizzas as well as salad, fruit and cake.

Staff News.

Sadly, for us, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Prior on the 6th June, (just after half term) as she starts a new and exciting adventure. I know she will be sadly missed by the children from her work as our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and working with Years 5 and 6. We will, of course, say our goodbyes after half term as we wish her well.

Over the last few weeks, you may have seen a pair of ducks roaming the grounds clearly looking for a 'quiet' nesting site. They have now found such a place, although the quiet part I think will be sadly lacking at times during the day. The chosen site in in the Year 1 planter (near the playground door). The photo here shows the duck in place. It has certainly been an area of interest and excitement during each playtime.

I hope you have a good half term break next week and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd June.

Mr. Leigh

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Kindness

Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. Kindness means that you treat everyone the best that you can. No matter who they are or how you feel about them you treat them with fairness and respect. We might think of nice things to do and say all day but when we act, that is kindness.

"Encourage anyone who feels left out; ... and be patient with everyone.
1 Thessalonians 5:14

Future Diary Dates.

w/b 26th May – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 9th June – Tile Painting Workshop
Wednesday 11th June –Library staff visiting Year 2
w/b 16th June – Healthy Living Week
Tuesday 17th June – Festival of Voices – Dorchester Abbey for choir
Friday 20th June – 1:15pm Sports Afternoon
Monday 23rd June - Y2 Ultra Olympics
Monday 23rd June – 3:15pm Y5 Meeting about Pioneer

Achievements Assembly

Well done to the children mentioned in our achievement assembly over the last few weeks.

Ducklings	Ellis Burton, Harry Waddington
	Caleb Moss, Leon Kenneally
Owls:	Elise Bishop, Lara Paiva, Joel Wright
	Mehmet Aksahin, Khadidja Belhadj Ezzine
Mandarins	Evie Spolander, Penny Tyler
	Roman Mercer, Yusef Ali Yildirir
Eagles:	Olivia Keen-Green, Ellis Appleton
	Ben Pells, Esperanza Villafana
Robins:	Owen Reed, Isla Blackford
	Henrie Rose, Kiera Stuart
Kingfishers:	Theo King, Evie Wright
	Tess Jackson, Leo Newman
Red Kites:	**Whole class for their SATS week**
	Muadh Mumthas

Around the School

Nursery

What an exciting term Nursery have had! We have had visits from Fire fighters, Police officers and Paramedics. The children have enjoyed exploring how different people can help us and the equipment they use. We have also been busy in Forest school planting and growing our own cucumbers and strawberries.

Year 4

Ancient Maya Clay Gods and Hieroglyphs

As part of our learning about the role of Maya gods and goddesses Y4 studied images of Maya artefacts to make clay sculptures. We had a very enjoyable afternoon and we think the results are amazing!

The ancient Maya prayed to 150 gods and goddesses. Last week we made 3D gods' heads out of clay, we also did a hieroglyph which looked a bit like a biscuit! They prayed to the gods so they could have rain, sun and cacoa beans. There was also a Maize god. Did you know that they believed that people were made from maize (corn)?

Ollie Y4

Last week, we were learning about the ancient Maya. We learnt about the different gods (and goddesses) that the Maya believed in. We learnt about how the Maya gods chose to make humans out of maize. There was a special maize god but he was one of 150 gods the Maya worshipped. One of the gods was called Chaac, he was the rain god, Kukulcan was the cacoa bean god (we call them coco beans now) and there was a sun god. The ancient Maya were farmers so they needed these gods and goddesses for their harvest. Here is the fun part- we made 3D models and hieroglyphs from clay. Learning about the gods was fun!

Henrie Y4

Last week we made Maya hieroglyphs and god heads out of clay. Did you know that there are over 150 Maya gods? One of the most important gods was the maize god because the ancient Maya believed that humans were made out of maize. I chose to make Kukulcan (say ku-cl-can) who is a dragon. I enjoyed it very much. There were a few hard bits, but I think it looks good.

Ellis Y4

Year 6

Over the past week, we have ditched our SATS stresses and have been putting our brains to more creative classes. We were fortunate enough to have Cate Wood from the brain injury trust come and work with the class to create some characters for a book she is working on. There was definitely an outburst of creation when the children were trying to construct their monsters and glitter to match!

We have also turned ourselves into budgeting business moguls when creating our own theme parks! We have had to be the creative brains behind the theme of our park and the types of rides within it. We have had to have the accounting and budgeting skills to be able to make sure we haven't overspent our £5 million loan on construction as well as staff wages. Then we have had to turn our minds to persuasive writing in our theme park brochures. I look forward to the dragon's den-esq presentations they will be giving me next term.

FODS Update

Thank you to everyone who came to the **Book Fair** this month. We were delighted to see so many of your there and hope you enjoyed it. We now have an incredible £666 in Scholastic Rewards which will go directly to new books for all the class libraries.

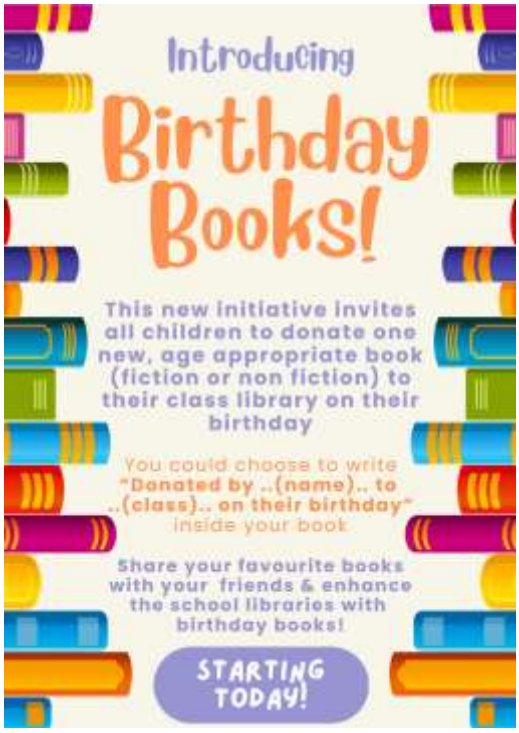
We also launched a new initiative – **Birthday Books**! This optional new initiative invites all children to donate a book to their class library to share with everyone on their birthday. We hope the children enjoy participating in this new opportunity.

We have some more events to announce this term

- **4th July Summer Fair**
- **11th July End of Year Disco** (details to follow after half term)

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Summer Fair and hope you can join us to make this event a success. Please see the poster below for details and fill in the google form if you can help on 4th July. Thanks so much.

Summer Fair volunteer form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VuCIAPuodnF7yQ7S9FNobLRnMVP6HniVpE35HvtkdnI/edit



Vicky's After School & Holiday Club Ltd

Join us at Vicky's Holiday Club!
Located at Aston & Cote Primary School - from 8.30 am – 5.00 pm.

May Half Term
Tuesday 27th May – Friday 30th May

Summer Holidays
Wednesday 23rd July- Friday 25th July
Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August
Monday 4th August – Friday 8th August
Monday 11th August – Friday 15th August
Monday 18th August – Friday 22nd August

Vicky's Holiday Club is open to all children aged 4-11 and will include fun activities, including arts and crafts, sport, indoor and outdoor play, baking, games and much more. Bring your own packed lunch (a light tea will be provided) £42.00 per day

To book contact Vicky Hickman
Cell: 07887711454
Email: holiday@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

School Holiday Tennis Camps

Have Fun and Learn to play Tennis, Holiday Camps for children in:

- Witney Lawn Tennis Club
- Lower Windrush Tennis Club (Standlake)
- Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club
- Hanney Tennis Club

Sessions for children aged 4 - 16 years old
Flexible Bookings - Book Full Weeks or Individual Days
Morning, Afternoon or Full day camps available
All children are placed in age appropriate groups for the best experience

All Equipment Provided | Childcare Vouchers Accepted

info@exceltennis.co.uk
www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk

STAGECOACH
SUMMERTOWN & WITNEY
SUMMER WORKSHOPS 2025

One Short Day

Summertown 4th - 8th August
Witney 11th - 15th August

Featuring songs and music from
THE WIZZ
The Wizard of Oz
WICKED

STAGE COACH

Summertown 4th - 8th August
Witney 11th - 15th August

Ages 4-8 9:30am - 1pm daily*
Show 12 noon on the Friday
£145 (siblings cost £125)
*additional childcare hours available, see website for details

Ages 8 - 18 10am - 4pm daily
Show 5:30pm on the Friday
£195 (siblings cost £175)

additional week

Summertown 11th - 15th August

STAGECOACH HAS
Talent

Ages 5 - 18 10am - 4pm daily
Show 5pm on the Friday
£195 (siblings cost £175)*
*25% discount off this week if you book both Summertown weeks

Visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/summertown
www.stagecoach.co.uk/witney to book

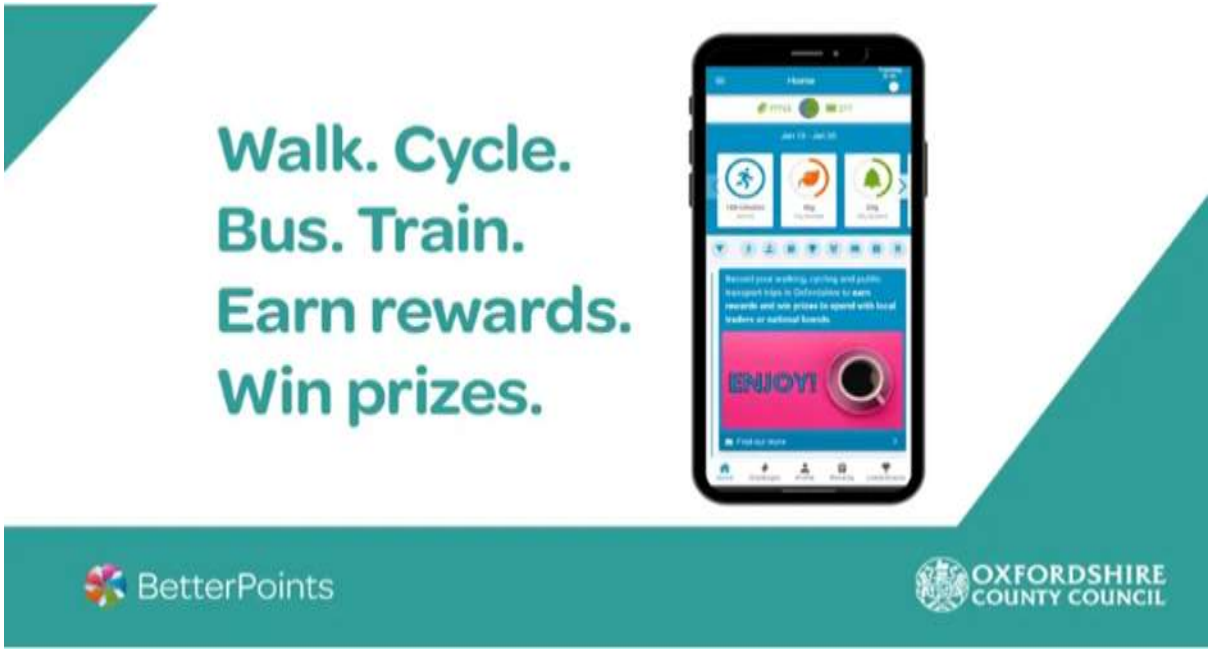
STAGE COACH

Witney Hockey Club
MAY HALF TERM
Enjoy one, two or three days of fun, skill development, games and socialising with expert coaching in a supportive environment.
Book here
10:00-3:00 on:
May 28th, 29th & 30th
Suitable for years 3-10
£45 per day
Lunch included

MASTER BUILDERS CLUB BRICK BUILDING WORKSHOP
Do You Love Building With LEGO® Bricks?
Calling all young designers, engineers and inventors.
MASTER BUILDERS CLUB® NEEDS YOU!
Join us for a creative brick building workshop
COST £18
AGE 5-15
MASTER BUILDERS CLUB
Immersive and engaging play experience
Just bring your imagination
Half Term Minecraft Themed LEGO Brick Building Workshop
Tuesday 27th May
The Heights Primary, Caversham 09:30-11:30
Sonning Common Village Hall 14:30 - 16:30
Wednesday 28th May
Badgemore Primary School, Henley 09:30 - 11:30
Woodcote Village Hall 15:00 - 17:00
Madley Park Hall, Witney 09:30 - 11:30
Thursday 29th May
Reading Town Hall 11:30 - 13:30
Secure your space at www.masterbuildersclub.co.uk
Master Builders Club provides 1000's of LEGO® bricks for all events

SOUTH OXFORD DANCE ACADEMY
STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2025!
NEW WITNEY CLASSES!
www.southoxforddanceacademy.co.uk
esodacademy_
Our aim is to provide a warm, inclusive and enjoyable environement for children to learn and thrive!
FREE TRIAL CLASS!
Mondays - Ducklington Village Hall
2.45 - 3.15 - Baby Ballet (ages 2-4)
3.30 - 4.00 - Primary (Aged 5-7)
4.00 - 4.30 - Grade 2 (Aged 7-9)
4.30 - 5.15 - Grade 3 (aged 10-12)
REGISTER HERE
5* REVIEWS!
southoxforddanceacademy@gmail.com
07724 601080
DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE TEACHER

GIRLS SUMMER RUGBY TRAINING
STARTS
17 JUNE
6-7.00PM
RUGBY
Girls only
8-17 Years Old
EVERY TUESDAY
FREE
Witney RFC
Hailey Rd, Witney OX29 9UH
https://witneyrfc.rfu.club/



Ever wanted to move more but need a bit more inspiration? Got a favourite spot for a cuppa while you're out and about?

Well now you can combine the two with the launch of the BetterPoints Oxfordshire app which has just been launched countywide.

Getting started is easy, just download the free app at https://oxon.betterpoints.uk/ to your mobile phone and register using your email address, then you can earn BetterPoints when making greener and healthier journeys. Choose to walk, wheel, run, cycle or take the bus or train. Record your trips and see your points total grow.

You can then turn your Better Points into rewards and redeem them at many high street and local Oxfordshire based businesses. Points can be swapped for high street vouchers, spent with local businesses, or even donated to charities.

The app is really easy to use and helps you keep track of your progress. If you step outside Oxfordshire, don't worry. As long as part of your trip takes place within the county boundary you will still earn points.

It's a fun way to stay motivated and make positive changes in your life. By making one change at a time, you can get fitter, be healthier and earn BetterPoints.

Oxfordshire County Council
Active Travel