DUCKLINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

Friday 3rd October 2025

Headteacher's Thoughts

During last week, the second and third groups of Y6 Bikeability took place with the children continuing to develop their cycling around the streets of Ducklington, did you spot them? The week concluded with the Year 5 children completing their level 1 training around the playground.

The Flu vaccinations happened this Tuesday, the children managed this very well and it is great that the whole school has the opportunity to receive the vaccination.

On Thursday, Year 6 headed off to Rewley Road Fire Station in Oxford to Junior Citizen, a valuable experience, which includes several emergency scenarios for the children to work through and also have the opportunity to phone a 999 call. The Year 6s have, of course, been sworn to secrecy about the activities so that the next year groups can have the same experience.

Just a reminder, on the 9th October, we will be having our **Harvest Festival** in the church (***children only***). As part of our Harvest giving, we will be collecting food once again for the Witney Food Bank. At the end of this newsletter is the Witney Foodbank shopping list, which lists the items they would like to support their work. The children can bring their donations in on the 9th October. Thank you.

Additional Reminders

- **PE kits** - most classes have their PE sessions on certain days each week, however on occasions this may change due to the weather or school events. Please could we ask that your child's PE kit is in school all week. Thank you for your help.
- **Coats: -**With changeable weather – please make sure coats are in school every day as we will try to take the children out for breaktimes. Thank you
- **Secondary Places – Year 6 applications -** a reminder to Year 6 parents, that this is the time when you can apply for your child's secondary place, to access the website, please click here. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **31 October 2025.**

Mr. Leigh

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Respect

We will be learning about respect for people because you admire something about them, respect for other people's feelings, wishes and rights as well as respect for the environment. We will learn that we can't expect to be respected unless we show respect.

'So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them'. Matthew 7:12

Future Diary Dates.

Wed 8th October – U9 Girls Football
Thu 9th October – Harvest Service in Church (***children only***)
Mon 13th October – Y5/6 Tag Rugby
Wed 15th October – Y2 Corinthian Lego Morning
Thu 16th October – Individual Photographs
Thu 16th / Friday 17th October – FODS Book Fair
Mon 20th October – U11 Girls Football
Tue 21st/Wed 22nd October – Parents Evenings

Achievements Assembly

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

Ducklings	Rorlee Steed, Dorothy Russell.
	Elise Keen-Green, Jay Kingston
Owls:	Max Tivendale, Aya Hoare.
	Adelaide Boxer, Alessia Rahmany
Mandarins	Mehmet Aksahin, Daisy Godfrey
	Toby Cross, Gideon Ma
Eagles:	Sebastian Kinch, Zina Sicoie
	Isabella Attwater, Ralf Dunsby
Robins:	Benjamin Pells, Grace Borer
	Ellis Appleton, Flora Bynorth
Kingfishers:	Owen Reed, Lucy Beards
	Isla Blackford, Ellis Moore
Red Kites:	Samuel Hale, Nancy Gibbons
	Esme Borer, Florence White

Witney & West Oxfordshire Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Witney and West Oxfordshire Foodbank

Suggested donation list

Thank you so much for donating to your local Foodbank. We are seeing more people struggle each year to make ends meet and every item you donate makes a huge difference.

The following list are the items we currently need most. Any of these items will be very welcomed.

(We hope providing the following list is useful as we get a lot of pasta, baked beans and cereals which are of course welcome but we currently have plenty of all three of these items so would much prefer items from the following list if possible.)

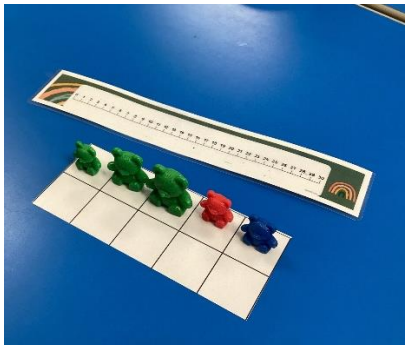
- Porridge Oats
- Rice
- Tinned meat
- Tinned peas / sweetcorn/ carrots
- Teabags
- Long life milk
- Crackers / Rice cakes
- Jar Sauce (Pasta / Curry etc)
- Tinned Soup
- Jam
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned Custard
- Crisps
- Hot Chocolate
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Cat food
- Tinned Sausage and Beans
- Instant noodles
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned potatoes
- Coffee
- Long life juice
- Biscuits
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned Pulses
- Peanut Butter
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Chocolate / Sweets
- Cereal Bars
- Squash
- Soap / Handwash
- Conditioner
- Laundry pods
- Toothbrushes
- Washing up Liquid
- Dog Food

Thank you so much for your help and support!!!

Around the School

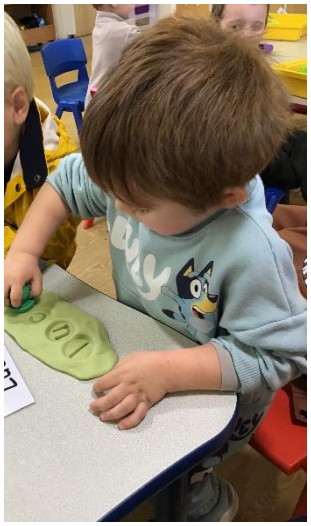
Year 1

This week in year 1 we have been learning how to find one more and one less. We used manipulatives, such as counting bears and cubes to support our understanding of this concept. The children were able to confidently use the sentence stems "1 less than ____is_____." "1 more than ___ is __." It was fantastic to see the children applying the key vocabulary so confident in this practical lesson.



Year 1 had a great time at forest school this week. We had a brilliant opportunity to look at an empty wasp's nest. We looked carefully at the details of a wasp's nest and observed the delicate patterns and textures. The children enjoyed exploring the natural environment working together to make mud pies, dig in the mud and use their imaginations in their play.

Nursery children have happily settled into our setting and daily routines over the last month. They have been busy with our 'Getting to know you' topic, including creating face puzzles, playdough names, lollipop stick house family drawings, friendship games, talking about family photos, reading 'Home is where my heart is' and using doll house toys to recreate their own homes. There has also been plenty of inquisitive exploring, meaningful play, learning nursery rhymes and actions songs and sharing stories. We are looking forward to our 'Autumn' and 'Super Celebrations' topics.



Year 5

What a busy time we have been having in Year 5! Over the past few weeks we have started our new topics, challenged ourselves in our maths, started to write our own version of The Highwayman poem and taken on lots of science experiments!
It has been an absolute joy getting to know the children, and we are so proud of how quickly they have settled and bedded in to life in Year 5

The children have particularly enjoyed Miss Parkes' science lessons where she has had them making and testing ramps and then taking part in parachute experiments!

In Geography we have taken a virtual trip to the Alps, enjoying all the splendours it has to offer and then compared it with our beautiful village of Ducklington. Although we thoroughly enjoy the park it might be nice to have a few ski slopes too!!

Finally, we have undertaken our Level 1 Bikeability which I am pleased to say that everyone passed! The children showed great listening skills, safety awareness and maturity in their approach.

Dear Parents and Pupils,

I hope you are all well and had a lovely summer holiday.
Excel Tennis is running one more holiday course of the year during October half term 27th-31st at Witney Tennis Club. Sessions are available for players ages 4-16. You are able to book anything from a few hours, right up to a full day all week.

If you would like to look at the sessions please use the link below:
https://www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk/october-half-term-booking
As a member of a local school, you are able to get 10% off of your booking using the code 'SCHOOL'.
If you have any questions, please get in touch: info@exceltennis.co.uk
We look forward to seeing you on court soon.
Many thanks,
The Excel Tennis Team

Looking for fun, FREE, family-focused support? Beezee Families is a free, award-winning healthy lifestyle programme for families with children aged 4 to 12 years. Build lifelong healthy habits together! Sign up today at: https://oxf.maximusuk.co.uk/beezeefamilies/.