DUCKLINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Friday 21st November 2025

Headteacher's Thoughts

This week saw our Open Day for Prospective parents, we welcomed several families that were given their tours by the Year 6 children, who had prepared brilliantly to explain areas of the school. Thank you, Year 6, you were great ambassadors for the school.

You will have received a letter with all the Christmas activities and events, including performances, Christmas lunch and jumper day, that are fast approaching for the festive period. If you did not receive that letter, please do let us know.

Next weekend sees the beginning of the season of Advent as we wait and watch to celebrate Christmas with all the joy and thrills that brings. So, we look forward to the first event with the FODS Christmas event and grotto on the 28th November starting at 4pm. This was great fun last year and there was so much interest in meeting Father Christmas – I am sure the excitement will be building all day.

Back in October, we supported Witney Foodbank as part of our Harvest service – this week we have received the following letter from the foodbank.

I am writing to say a huge and heartfelt thank you for your generous support to the Foodbank. It is incredibly kind of you to support us in this way. The need for our services are not abating and as you will know all of our clients are referred to us so are in food poverty and without your support and donations we could not do what we do. Sadly, with inflation and other challenges there is less available funding so we remain dependent on our supporters. Every item of the 170.4 Kg of food that you donated from your Harvest Festival was put to good use and made a difference to our clients.
Kind regards ***Maria Grindley*** *| Chair of Board of Trustees*

Finally, a reminder that the *outside PE kit for the winter months can now be used* as the weather starts to get colder. With the additional reminder about bringing coats, hats and gloves for our breaktimes.

Mr. Leigh

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Forgiveness

We will be thinking about how important it is to forgive people who upset us and how we need to say sorry if we do things to hurt others. We will be learning about how Jesus is a great inspiration to Christians to forgive others. We will also think about God's all-forgiving love.

"Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us."
Luke 11:4

Future Diary Dates.

Monday 24th Nov – Reception Vision Screening
Monday 24th Nov 5pm – Full Governors
Wednesday 26th Nov – U11 Girls football at Cokethorpe
Friday 28th Nov – FODS Christmas Event
Monday 1st Dec – Mad Science Assembly
Tuesday 2nd Dec – U9 Football at Cokethorpe
Monday 8th Dec – Year 5 Trip to Hill End
Thursday 11th Dec – Year 1 trip to Oxford Science
Thursday 11th Dec – Reception Nativity

Achievements Assembly

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

Ducklings	Jay Kingston, Theo Reed, Ben Kinch Khareeto Tal, Summer Griffiths
Owls:	Madeleine Caton, Freya Hemming Leon Kenneally, Edward Townsend
Mandarins	Issac Broadbent, Jacob Mittell Freddy Burch, Gideon Ma
Eagles:	Emily Cassettari, Remi Howard Sophie Xhakollari, Evie Spolander
Robins:	Esperanza Villafana, Gianluca De Gregorio Darcy Mittell, Renee Rogers
Kingfishers:	Rafferty McDiarmid, Melissa Xhakollari Nathanael Ma, Ruby Milner
Red Kites:	Cerys Shepheard, Leo Newman Elliot Dunsby, Tess Jackson

Around the School

Nursery

We have been enjoying their 'Fabulous festivals' topic so far and have been learning about Divali, Bonfire night and Remembrance Day. They worked in pairs to build pretend bonfires, created firework pictures and learnt 'On Bonfire Night' song. For Remembrance Day they decorated a large poppy wreath with their handprints and went on a walk to the local War memorial where they listened to a poppy poem, had a moment of silence, looked at the marks on the memorial and laid our wreath.

All of the children enjoyed their first Forest school session last week, finding rubber ducks on a duck hunt, exploring all the autumn leaves and using some new resources.

In **<u>Year 1</u>**, we have been having a wonderful time at Forest School. We have been wrapping up warm as the colder weather begins to creep in. A favourite moment was cooking over the fire. We made delicious popcorn and toasted crumpets. We loved learning how popcorn starts as a tiny corn kernel before it bursts into a yummy snack. Another activity we have enjoyed has been getting creative outdoors and painting with our very own stick paintbrushes. It has been fantastic to see us exploring, learning, and having fun in nature.

We have been thinking carefully about the meaning of Remembrance Day. We took part in interesting discussions about why we remember and the importance of poppies as a symbol of Remembrance. Using a collaging technique, we created our own beautiful poppies and explored different textures and the significance of the colours we used. We then proudly shared our artwork in the whole school collective worship and had the

opportunity to see and learn about the artwork created by other children across the school. To mark Remembrance Day, we took part in a special tradition by carefully hanging crochet poppies donated to the school on the front gate as a lasting display of remembrance.

Sports News

On Tuesday 11th November, we took part in the Witney Partnership Cross Country event at Henry Box. We took 4 teams, an Under 9 girls and an under 9 boys, as well as an under 11 girls and an under 11 boys. We were extremely impressed with the incredible efforts of all 26 of our runners and they represented the school excellently. Our under 11 girls finished with a brilliant 2nd place and qualify for the West Oxfordshire finals along with the under 11 boys, who won the event!

It was another successful league game for our U11 girls on the 12th November. They played away at North Leigh Primary School and won 12-0.
Yet again they showed great resilience and teamwork, and they embraced playing in positions they wouldn't normally be comfortable playing. Well done girls! You are doing Ducklington proud.

Parish News: Messy Church

Our next 'Messy Church' session will be held on Friday 5 December 2025 in St Bartholomew's church from 3.15 – 5.00pm. The children will be invited to enjoy Christmas crafts, stories and prayers. All children are invited to join us if they are accompanied by an adult. A selection of crafts will be available to enjoy, and a sandwich tea will be provided towards the end of the session. Please note food is generously provided by our volunteers and will have been made in their home kitchens.
We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you. Sarah Varnom

MESSY CHURCH IS BACK!
FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 2025.
3.15-5.00PM
IN ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, DUCKLINGTON.

COME AND JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, MUSIC AND FOOD. OUR THEME IS LIGHT.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILDREN ALONG AND STAY WITH THEM DURING THE SESSION. TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Just a reminder:
'Messy Church' is:

- a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.
- it meets at a time (and sometimes in a place) that suits people who don't necessarily belong to church.
- it typically includes a welcome, a creative time to explore a biblical theme through getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games and similar; and sharing food together.
- it's fun.
- it's a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age.
- it models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family, an extended family, and a global and local church family.
- its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him and to grow closer to him.

WE REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND PREPARING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS.