News from Cumnor CE School

Love to Learn, Learn to Love

Autumn Term Number 2 *15th September 2025*

Dear Families,

Sponsored Walk
We are very excited to announce our Whole School Sponsored Event which will take place on Friday 3rd October (during the normal school day). Our youngest children in Acorn class will be doing a Teddy Bear themed event based on 'We're going on a bear hunt!', Years 1, 2 and 3 will be doing a walk around the village, and Years 4, 5 and 6 will be walking to Farmoor reservoir!

Acorns - because all the children will be five during their time as Acorns, that will be the special number for this event and they will be completing 5 challenges over the course of the day.

1. A teddy bear treasure hunt on the school field to find all the teddy bears.
2. Just like Paddington Bear, they make a marmalade sandwich.
3. Use a range of materials to independently make a den or home for their teddy bears.
4. Complete a bear themed obstacle course.
5. Learn a new song about bears and perform it!

All Acorns are invited to bring a teddy bear from home to join in the challenge day and to share a teddy bears' picnic before hometime.

Years 1, 2 and 3 will do a 2 mile walk around the footpaths and fields of our village. They will leave at 9:30am, and take a snack and drink with them that they will have at some point on route. They will be back by 12:00pm at the latest and will have their lunch in school as normal.

Years 4, 5 and 6 will walk a longer route of about 6 miles to Farmoor Reservoir, and along the river, and then back to school. They will need a packed lunch and plenty of drinks in a rucksack that is comfortable for them to wear. There will be scheduled toilet stops along the way, and they will have lunch at the side of Farmoor Reservoir. It is really important that they dress sensibly for our expedition!

Only extreme weather will prevent these events from taking place, so please make sure children are wearing strong shoes and have a waterproof coat!

We are asking you to support the children through sponsorship so we can raise some money for our school. Sponsorship should be through the PTA's Just Giving page, which means we can collect gift aid. *This link will be available shortly.*

This event is not only a fun way to bring our school community together, but also a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for a project that will make a big difference to every child's daily school experience.

This year, money raised will go towards renovating our school hall. The hall is at the heart of school life – it is used for assemblies, lunches, PE lessons, celebrations, and performances. However, the flooring has become worn and uncomfortable, and many children have told us how much they dislike it. In addition, our current hall tables are reaching the end of their useful life, and we would like to replace them with a modern, more functional solution that will serve the school well for years to come.

We want to be upfront with you: £4,000 of any sponsorship money raised has already been pre-allocated against items in the school budget which help the school to operate. This means that, in order to get our plans for the hall renovation off the ground, we will need a considerable fundraising

effort from our whole school community. Every pound raised over this amount will go directly into making the hall a safer, brighter, and more enjoyable space for everyone.

We know times are tough, but every contribution makes a real difference. Together, with the support of our families, friends, the PTA, and the governors, we can achieve this important renovation and give the children a hall they can be proud of.

It would also be great to get the support of some volunteers! If you would like to join us, please talk to your child's class teacher.

Thank you so much for your support!

Harvest

This year, we will be collecting donations for Oxford Food Hub as part of our Harvest Service. Tins and packets which are within their sell-by dates would be very much appreciated. We have been advised that they are not currently accepting donations of toiletries. Please could any donations be brought into school on the morning of our Harvest Service (Wednesday 1st October).

Swimming Update

We are delighted to have partnered with St Hugh's Prep School, Faringdon to facilitate swimming lessons for Year 5, 4 and 3 this year. Year 5 families should now have received their letter with lessons beginning very soon.. We look forward to making the most of this opportunity; it is a lovely pool!

Homework

I've spoken with some parents about how we can make life a little more straightforward, particularly for families who have multiple children here. By setting homework hand in dates that are always a week away from them being set, we can ensure that this gives families a set time each week that homework will be live for each child, no matter which day it was set on. We hope this helps!

We've also discussed communication via Google Classroom being a challenge as notifications aren't the most reliable. We will endeavour to streamline and last minute communications by using our software which will email you instead.

Collection from clubs, including TASC

Now that clubs are about to begin, please can we remind families that for collection from after school clubs, the same rules about the school drive apply. We politely request that collection from TASC (when they use the school field) is also treated in the same way. This allows staff to facilitate a safer exit for children at TASC as cars will not be dodging one another or needing to mount the kerb on the school drive.

Another reminder to please walk bikes up and down the drive at the start and end of the day, as opposed to cycling.

Coats

A significant number of children have been coming to school without coats. Despite the still often mild weather, we are experiencing downpours regularly. Please could you ensure your child brings a coat or jacket to school.

News from my child's class:

School Value of the week:	**Curiosity** We linked the value of curiosity to work that takes place in scientific fields. We discussed that our understanding of the world and the way things work is always evolving because of the hard work of curious people! We also read the story of Moses in the basket where the king's daughter demonstrated curiosity by wondering why there was a basket in the stream.
Reception	We have begun our phonics sessions learning the sounds s,a and t. We have been talking about who we live with and creating family pictures with pebbles. This week we will begin our termly book 'All Are welcome' and start our balance bikes lessons!
Year 1	We have been looking at counting on from any number and reading numbers as words this week. In RE we have been thinking about the beauty of the world and how it looks from space. In art we learned about primary colours and how they can be mixed to make secondary colours. We then painted our own colour wheels to show primary and secondary colours.
Year 2	This week we have been exploring different traditional tales. We learnt how to story map as a class and wrote our own versions of 'Jaspers Beanstalk' (a spin off of Jack and the Beanstalk). In maths we were looking at place value and using dienes to make different 2 digit numbers - we then articulated the number of tens and units in each number.
Year 3	This week we have enjoyed exploring the use of language in our class text, *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*. We have begun work on our Year 3 spellings and consolidated our understanding of 3 digit numbers. We have also experimented with different pencils in art to create different textures for some amazing black and white dragon drawings!
Year 4	We have been exploring how we can partition numbers in different ways. In Forest School, we have produced beautiful pictures of leaves and flowers, and also built swings and dens. We have learned about Roald Dahl's life and celebrated his birthday: 13th September!
Year 5	This week we have continued our place value work with particular focus on counting in powers of 10. In English, we have written diary entries and looked at the various features of them. In geography, we have labelled the different layers in a rainforest. We made some Guatemalan worry dolls and talked about their history.
Year 6	This week we have carried on developing our place value skills by looking at number lines up to 10,000,000 and in geography we have started to explore how the land around Cumnor has changed over time. In English we have started to focus on diary entries and have analysed their typical features; how they are used and to what effect.

PTA Committee News

A big thank you!
Our 👕 *uniform sale* last week was a great success – huge thanks to everyone who came along, donated, and helped out.

Every little bit goes straight back into supporting our children.

📅 **Upcoming Date**

🍻 **PTA Meetup – *Tuesday 16th September, 8pm at The Vine Pub, Cumnor***

Everyone is invited – whether you're already a PTA member or have never been involved before. All parents and carers are welcome! 💌

So many parents bring a wonderful mix of skills, ideas, and experiences – and every single one makes a difference. 🌟 Whether it's lending a hand at events, sharing contacts, or simply offering suggestions, it's all truly valued.

Come along for a relaxed chat about the year ahead, meet other parents, and see how you can get involved (big or small!). A friendly face and a warm welcome are guaranteed 😊
💛 Thank you, as always, for your support 💛

Your PTA Team

Clubs

Clubs will start week commencing 22nd September and will then run every week (except half term) with the last week being the week commencing 1st December. Clubs will not run on days the school is not open (e.g. bank holidays/ inset days). Places will be notified by the end of the day on 18th September. Regrettably, we are unlikely to be able to process applications received after the deadline.

Diary dates:

Tuesday 16th October	2.30pm	Acorn & Willow Phonics & Maths meeting
Wednesday 17th September	AM	Flu Vaccinations (whole school)
Wednesday 17th September		Year 5 Bikeability starting (dates will be confirmed)
Wednesday 1st October	9am	St Michael's Church Service (Harvest) - families welcome
Thursday 2nd October		Poetry Day
Friday 3rd October		Sponsored Walk
Thursday 9th October		Year 5 trip to Living Rainforest
Friday 10th October	All day	School Photographs
Tuesday 14th October		Year 6 trip to Oxford
Wednesday 22nd October		Year 6 IMPS Training
Thursday 23rd October		Year 3 Hill end
Thursday 23rd October	5pm	Reception books at Bedtime
Monday 27th -Friday 31st October		Half term
Monday 3rd November		Inset day (school closed)
Tuesday November	8:50am	School starts

Yours sincerely,

Steven Badger
Headteacher

Messy Church

Saturday 20 September 2-4pm
St Michael's Church, Cumnor

CRAFTS ACTIVITIES FOOD

For families with children of primary school age

Free, but please book with 01865 861541
office@cumnor.org

Together in the Wild: Family Bushcraft

Saturday 20 September

10am - 12pm

UNPLUG, GET MUDDY, EXPLORE & LEARN SURVIVAL SKILLS!

Campfire cooking - fire lighting - woodwork - build shelters - knots - foraging

£12 adult / £8 child (sorry no dogs)

Booking Essential: www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events

HillEndOEC Hill_End hill_end_centre

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510

EXCEL Tennis Academy

TENNIS IN KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

Tennis coaching sessions
for children aged 4 - 18

FIRST SESSION FREE!

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www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk

🥋KARATE IN MARCHAM & WOOTTON🥋

‼️TRAIN FOR FREE FOR ALL OF SEPTEMBER‼️

⭐ FREE TRIAL FOR 1 MONTH ⭐

3 years +!

⬜ Marcham Community Centre

🟥 Tuesdays 3-5rs | 4:00-4:30pm

⬜ Tuesdays 6yrs + | 4:30-5:15pm

⬜ Wootton & Dry Sanford Community Centre

🟥 Fridays 6yrs + | 4:30-5:15pm

👊💥 Self Defence

👊💥 Fitness

👊💥 Focus

👊💥 Memory

👊💥 Discipline

👊💥 Teamwork

👊💥 Balance

👊💥 Co-ordination

👊💥 Respect

👊💥 Confidence

👊💥 Qualities that last a lifetime!

👊💥 FUN!

To Book your child’s free karate trial and begin their journey with Oxfordshire’s largest & most successful club, get in touch!

Sensei Harrison Toogood

WhatsApp: 07506 355597

Email: Harrisontoogood@ostma.co.uk

FAMILY LINKS - PARENTING PAUZZLE WORKSHOPS - an opportunity to access this through West Oxford Community Primary School.

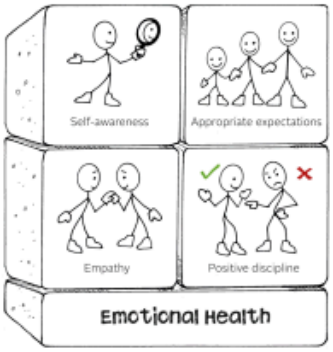
What is the Parenting Puzzle?

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.

The Parenting Puzzle Workshops help deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

A tried and tested programme, it helps us think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel.

The Building Blocks of the Parenting Puzzle



the best chance in life

The Four Workshops

Workshop 1: Understanding Children's Behaviour, Listening and Communicating, Praise and Encouragement

Workshop 2: Praise and Guidance vs Criticism, Child-led Play, and Positive Moments

Workshop 3: Boundaries and Parenting Styles, Time to Calm Down, Dealing with Stress and Conflict

Workshop 4: Choices and Consequences, Behaviour to Ignore, Putting the Puzzle Together, Looking after Ourselves

Practical information

There are four 2-hour sessions with a tea and coffee break

10-20 parents are invited and there are two Family Links trained group leaders

Partners are welcome and it's also fine to come on your own or with another relative or friend

Some groups provide a creche: check with group leaders beforehand

You need to come to all four workshops: they fit together like a puzzle

You will be provided with a copy of The Parenting Puzzle book to accompany the workshops.

How Parenting Puzzle Workshops have helped other parents

"So helpful to have ways of dealing with situations that happen on a daily basis"

"Wonderful! Could do this every day"

"Better than expected, made me think differently about toddler behaviour"

"It was a completely new experience for me but after the first week I was completely relaxed"

Check out familylinks.org.uk

The Nurturing Programme Parenting Puzzle Workshops

Where:

West Oxford Community Primary School

When:

Wednesdays 7-9pm:
15th October
22nd October
5th November
12th November

Contact details:

Louise Siddle and Emma Willis

lsiddle@wesoxfordschool.co.uk

01865 248862

FAMILY LINKS
The Centre for Emotional Health

familylinks.org.uk

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Parenting Puzzle Workshops

Information for parents and carers