



As part of their fairytale topic, **Year 3** enjoyed interacting with their teachers while they pretended to be 'The Big Bad Wolf'. The children asked some

interesting questions to the 'wolf', to gain more information. They decided that the ravenous wolf was not so bad after all. The children loved the grrrrruesome and silly responses given, showing great involvement and enjoyment. Well done, Year 3!

*Year 3 Team*

**Year 5** had an online session with Reverend Hugh on Friday in order to learn more about how communities celebrate Harvest and its importance for Christians as a time to reflect on what we are thankful for. *Year 5 Team*



**Year 1** has had the most brilliant week! The children have bounced into school, full of enthusiasm and smiles. They have settled so quickly into the new school routine and have demonstrated great independence, putting their own things away and being responsible for their possessions. This week has been all about the egg! The children have found an egg in the classroom, created a comfy nest and predicted what may be inside. On Friday we came into school and found we have a class baby dragon! The children were so excited and cannot wait to take it in turns to take the dragon home. *Year 1 Team*



**Foundation Stage:** Our newest Ladygrovers had their taster days in Reception yesterday and today ahead of starting all together on Monday. Congratulations to all the children and to the parents for their calm, brave and positive approaches to their child starting school. The majority of the children were all smiles on the way in to school, some looked a little anxious but by the time they settled in class they were all very happy. Well done to everyone for the rapid settling, nevertheless, the school remains attentive to the emotions of the new children since sometimes they can dip a little when they realise they are supposed to continue coming to school and it's not just a one off visit!

For those parents who are brand new to us, please watch out for your ParentPay activation letter that will go home with your child next week. Please follow the instructions and activate your account as soon as possible to enable you to receive electronic communications from school.

The school voted and our **new Year 6 House Captains** start today. Oak: Jasmine and Sam, Willow: Lola and Rohan, Beech: Erin and Isaac. I look forward to working with them on house tasks including the reinstatement of real assemblies!

## Covid update

It's been a relatively settled start to the term. Like us, the majority of local schools are reporting a few positive cases in their communities. Arising cases have been handled very well and our protective measure and control systems have continued to be effective. You will have noticed that the government approach for schools is very different now, it is much less likely that a class will be closed under the current guidance. We continue to feed covid picture to the local authority for them to track patterns. Those who have symptoms and those who are unfortunately positive should continue not to attend school and follow public guidance about isolation. Test and Trace will contact families personally if they want to direct a close contact to isolate. Test and Trace will contact the school if they want the school to take action or modify our approach, if numbers appear to be rising.

## COMING UP...

### PALS AGM - Thursday 7th October 2021

Everyone is welcome to join us for our PALS (Parents Association) AGM on Thursday 7th October at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed, dependent on restrictions. We would love you to join us and find out more about the fundraising we do for school.

**LPPS Reading Challenge!** To encourage a lifelong love of reading at home and school, we will be running a **sponsored reading challenge** in association with **Usborne Books** between **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** and **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October**. We are inviting you to take part in this fun reading event. Children are sponsored to complete as many of the reading challenges in the grid as they can for the duration of the event and all the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school. This project is being organised in conjunction with our **Usborne Books representative**, Gemma Cotterell. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne will also donate up to 60% of the total raised in **EXTRA FREE BOOKS** to the school. **So for every £600 raised we will get an extra £360 in FREE Usborne books!** Please help us to enhance our reading resources for pupils by encouraging your child to raise sponsorship and complete as many of the fun reading challenges as possible. Should you wish to support our sponsored reading challenge a sponsorship form for your child along with a grid of challenges to complete will be sent home next week. After the event, please send all the sponsorship money (in cash) that your child has raised to the school by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**. Thank you for your support and happy reading! *Gemma Fowkes, Year 5 Classteacher*

## NOTICES ...

**Free School Meals (FSM):** If you are in receipt of benefit support from the Government you may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). It is important to make the school aware of this as they receive funding from the Government for families that qualify for FSM; if you think this relates to you please speak to Sarah or Heather in the office as we can check whether you are eligible. **Please note this is different to universal free school meals (applicable to children in Reception, Years 1 and 2).**

**Kilvrough 2022:** Reminder to current year 6 parents to continue to pay regularly for your child's residential trip that is planned for next summer. Regular payments will ensure you are not having to pay for the full amount nearer the time.

**Reminder: Admissions to school (Academic Year 22/23):** If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2022. You will be able to apply on-line from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021. Please visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **Please remember the following:-**

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

### **Reminder: Admissions to Secondary School:**

Year 6 parents can now apply on line for secondary schools and the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Remember, to ensure your child transfers to the school that you consider most appropriate, you must apply before the closing date.

*Please visit secondary schools websites for information about 'virtual' tours/parent meetings.*

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/secondary-school>

For transport information click on this link <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/travelling-school>

### **Secondary School Open Events:**

**Families are warmly invited to join us at Aureus School for our autumn open events.**

#### **Year 5 and 6 Open Evening – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 5-7pm**

Join us for a student-led tour of the school, meet some of our wonderful teachers, take part in activities and listen to a talk from our Headteacher, Ms Hunter (there will be two talks taking place at 5.15pm and 6.15pm).

#### **Year 6 Open Mornings – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 9-10am**

The morning will comprise of a student-led tour of the school and a talk from Ms Hunter.

The open mornings will primarily be for Year 6 families. Year 5 Open Mornings will be held in the Summer Term.

To register your place, please visit <http://www.aureusschool.org/548/open-events>

As a reminder, below is drop off and pick up times. This will be reviewed next Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

<b>Reception</b> 9am drop off 2.50pm pick up	<b>Years 1, 3 &amp; 5</b> 8.40am drop off 3pm pick up	<b>Year 2, 4 &amp; 6</b> 8.50am drop off 3.10pm pick up
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After School Club finishes at 5.30pm

***Andrew Markham and the school team***

# Town Council **AWARDS**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR NOMINATIONS

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## CATEGORIES

*DIDCOT  
ARTISTIC  
AWARD*

*SERVICE  
WITH A  
SMILE*

*UNSUNG  
HERO*

*JOHN  
ELDRIDGE  
AWARD*

*LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT*

*YOUNG  
VOLUNTEER/  
CHARITY  
FUNDRAISER*

*SPORTING  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD*



To make a nomination visit  
[didcot.gov.uk/town-awards](http://didcot.gov.uk/town-awards) or  
collect a nomination form from  
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road,  
Didcot, OX11 7HN



All nominations must be submitted by **Sunday 31st October 2021.**  
The shortlist will be announced via social media and the winners will be  
announced at Didcot Town Council's annual awards night.