

On Monday, Year 6 had a bespoke coding session run by RAL. The children learnt about coding (one of the many languages that we use in computing) and how it is used in most of our lives. The children were exposed to 'microbit' for the first time in school. Microbit is like a small computer that follows instructions and has similarities to 'Scratch'. Initially, children asked their Microbit to show their name but then after that, the complexity increased. The children learnt how to create a game that timed their reactions to seeing a shape that they had asked the computer to reveal. Children had to write code to ask the Microbit to count down from 3 to start the game and then to make variables to delay the start of the games as well as show the reaction time. A fantastic session in which all children achieved the derived outcomes. We look forward to using Micro Bit during our computing lessons this year. *Year 6 Team*

On Tuesday, year 6 were inspired to become scientists when they participated in a webinar led by RAL all about 'Spectacular scientists and where to find them'. They heard from three scientists, from various backgrounds, talking about their experiences of being a scientist, their journey from school to get to where they are now and the challenges that they have had to overcome along the way. Each presenter shared information about a scientist who had inspired them to become scientists. Year 6 learnt about various other scientists such as Henrietta Lacks, who had cancer, and after her death, how her cells are still used now for research purposes. RAL introduced a competition, open to the Year 6 children, with prizes (solar powered robot or crystal-making kit). To enter, children need to design either a 'loominary' - a model of their inspirational scientist using a toilet roll or a poster explaining why this scientist inspires them. Entries to a Year 6 teacher by 12 November.

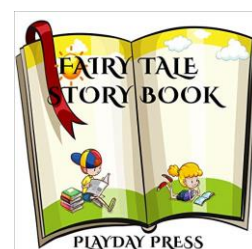
**Year 4** enjoyed a fantastic Tudor day today. Activities included making and tasting pottage, creating their own family shields and finally some Tudor dancing.

Big thank you to all the support staff for their hard work and parents for the costume efforts!

*Year 4 Team*



**Year 3** enjoyed a fairy tale day today. Children have come to school dressed as their favourite fairy tale character and have been sharing their favourite fairy tale stories. *Year 3 Team*



Congratulations to our new **Peer Mentors** in Year 5: Molly, Rosie, Chloe, Toby, Lucy, Callum, Charlotte, Keira, Emilia and Ffion. The previous Peer mentors, now in Year 6, helped me to shortlist the many applications for the role. The very high quality of all applications led us to change our plans for the role. We will run the Peer Mentor role as 3 groups through the year, allowing everyone who applied to take part. Their role involves highlighting ways to maintain a positive mental attitude (our green rule) and create presentations about mental health for assembly.



**Sports Shirt Day** A huge thank you to everyone who donated for our Sports Shirt fundraiser last week, PALS are delighted to announce that £380 has been raised for replacement goal posts. Many parents donated using our card readers, or online, so we will definitely be using these again in the future. Thanks for your donations, helping the school to acquire more equipment from the wishlist.

**Parents' Evenings:** Thanks to everyone for attending the virtual parent meetings this week. There were very minimal technical hitches so we hope it was a helpful experience for you to discuss your child's development with their teacher.

**School Photographs:** Two photographers from Tempest were in school on Monday and proofs were sent home that afternoon. Ordering is really simple – all online. Follow the instructions on the proof (do not send any orders to the office) and the deadline for orders is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

## COMING UP...

### **Ladygrove Park Primary School Photography Competition - Thinkers, Collaborators, Role Models**

We are delighted to invite all children to enter our 2nd annual Ladygrove Park Primary Photography Competition. The inspiration for this year's competition is our school vision, 'Thinkers, Collaborators, Role Models.' What do these values mean to you? How can you show them in photographic form? You can either take a picture that shows all three values in one photo or a photo inspired by just one of the values. Please give your photo a title (limited to 12 words) and send it to [celebrate@lpps.org.uk](mailto:celebrate@lpps.org.uk). Only one entry per child please. Get inspired and have fun!

There will be fun prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and the chance to have your photo displayed in school. Have a go, take a photo - Good luck! **Deadline: 9am Tuesday 2nd November**

**Clubs** will start next term and you will be notified via ParentPay by the end of today if your child has a place in the club they requested. If you do not receive an email (after checking your spam/junk folder) please assume your child did not get a place this time. Please explain to them that there will be more clubs and more opportunities in this academic year.

## NOTICES ...

### **Some Health and Safety reminders**

A game from a television show has caught the imagination in local schools recently. It is a variation of 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?'. The concern is that the television show is rated 15 and is arguably at the high end of that rating. Please check that your child is not accessing this or any shows which are beyond their age group.

A reminder about older children **walking home on their own**. To be clear, there have been no issues, this is just a timely reminder. Usually in Year 5 or 6 some parents begin to allow their child to walk home by themselves if they wish. This is up to the parent entirely and is often based on proximity of home to school. If there is a problem on the way home or when they get home (ie. parent is not at home) the child should come immediately back to school and ring the front door bell for help.

**Pupils with mobile phones**- a reminder which is not in response to any issue. The school recognises that pupils might have a need for a mobile phone (for example- if they walk to and from school by themselves). For this reason, we allow pupils to bring phones into school, only in Year 5 and 6. If they do, they must surrender them to the class teacher who will lock them in the class cupboard. If they do not surrender their phone the school cannot be held responsible for its loss and the pupil maybe subject to sanction if the phone is used by them during the school day. Note that pupils can request permission to make calls from the office if urgent during the school day.

### **Covid update:**

Cases have thankfully remained very low at school this week, although there has been a rise in cases in some other Didcot schools and areas this week.

The local authority has released reminder guidance as we go in to next term. For your information, we would contact Public Health for advice if 5 or more positive cases arise amongst close contacts (ie. in the same class). Thinking ahead to the winter, if cases spiral, they are recommending familiar measures such as: reintroducing masks, isolation for close contacts, 'covid19 secure groups' (as yet undefined, but sounds like Bubbles) and maintaining staggered timings.

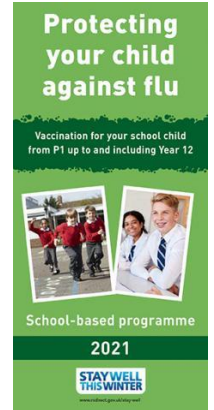
Nevertheless, we are maintaining all our current measures and there is no change when we return.

**Parenting Smart** The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they can find themselves in with their children. It gives practical tips to support children's wellbeing and manage behaviour. Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can found here: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

All children in primary school will be offered a flu vaccine next term. This is a school based programme and the immunisation team will be in school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Further information about this will be sent home in November so for now, please pencil the date in your diary.



**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>

**Year 6 Parents:** If you haven't done so already, please remember to apply online for your child's secondary school place for September 2022. The deadline date for this is 31<sup>st</sup> October. 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>

We are currently keeping these timings but will communicate any changes as much in advance as possible.

<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**

Today is the last day of term 1. School is closed tomorrow for a staff training day. Term 2 starts on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

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

## Free Virtual Conference on Positive Mental Health and Neurodiversity

The Witherslack group is the leading provider of schools and children's homes for children with special educational needs. They offer general advice and support for parents and carers of neurodiverse children and young people.

They are offering a free to attend virtual conference on *Supporting you and your child: Positive mental health and neurodiversity*, details are below:

For the event we will bring together SEN and neurodiversity experts to present you with informative and inspiring talks around promoting positive mental health for you and your family. Here are the details:

Title: **Supporting you and your child: Positive mental health and neurodiversity**

Date: **Tuesday 23rd November**

Presentations from 10.30am onwards

Presentations to include:

**Mental health: Positive mind-set, positive results** - Colin Foley, National Training Director for the ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity

**Supporting your child's learning and mental health** - Amy Ferguson, Deputy Head Teacher at Sandwell School Witherslack Group

**Understanding and managing anxiety** - Julia Clements, Principal Educational Psychologist at Place2Be

**Five ways to wellbeing** - Dr Jodie Quigg, Senior Psychologist for Witherslack Group Clinical Services  
Please note this event is free to attend and we hope you can join us for what is sure to be another fantastic day!

Click the button below to register.

Remember, all of our webinars are recorded so even if you can't make it on the day a recording of the webinar will be sent to everyone who registers following the event.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

In July 2021 we partnered with the ADHD Foundation to welcome over 800 attendees to our National Parents & Carers Virtual Conference 2021: Celebrating Neurodiversity Through Positive Support, covering a broad range of SEN support and advice.

[CLICK HERE](#) to catch up on the webinars from our last conference.

## Messages from PALS

**Half Term "Fund-Raisin"** This week every child will have been given a small box of raisins! These boxes can be returned after half term containing some coins instead of raisins! Any donation, big or small is very welcome - this money will be used to contribute to getting the playground markings refreshed and new paintings done. PALS would also like to thank Tesco for contributing to the purchase of these raisins, in support of our event.

If anyone has questions about our fundraising, or would like to get involved with organising future events, please contact us on [ladygrovepals@gmail.com](mailto:ladygrovepals@gmail.com)

All the children have produced **artwork which can be made into Christmas cards** and other festive items. Click on the link to view and order. <https://mychildsart.co.uk/order/parent-portal/login/> Username: LadygrovePark Password: WZs86sg2

Many thanks from the PALS team 😊

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**Message from Didcot Girls School:** We are currently recruiting for several support staff roles including, Teaching Assistant, Cleaners, Exam Invigilators, Counsellor and a Work Experience Coordinator. I wonder whether you might be good enough to mention this in your parent bulletin this week and include the link below to our website: [Didcot Girls' School Staff Vacancies](#)



We have exciting news! Our Free Half Term Family Activities linked to our NEW Mechanicals Exhibition!

Moving Mechanical Makes! Check out our Website... [Children's activities at The Oxfordshire Museum | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Tuesday 26th October: Push and Pull (2-4pm)

- Join us to make a moving picture based off the new mechanical exhibition

Get your family ticket today! (Up to 3 Children). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/176207339897>

Wednesday 27th October: Kool Kaleidoscopes (11-3pm)

- Use inspiration from the mechanicals exhibition to create the coolest of Kaleidoscopes!

Get your family ticket today! (Up to 3 Children). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/176236858187>

Thursday 28th October: Mini Mechanics (2-4pm)

- Watch your creations balance and fly with inspiration from the great outdoors and our new mechanicals exhibition.

Get your family ticket today! (Up to 3 Children). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/176274260057>

We also have a new Mechanical Trail for you to enjoy. Why not come to the Oxfordshire Museum this Half Term!

Learning & Access Team, Oxfordshire Museums Service, The Museums Resource Centre, Cotswold Dene, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7QG

Telephone: 01865 300639 Email: [HOOH@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HOOH@oxfordshire.gov.uk) W: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum)

Enewsletter: <http://eepurl.com/ker5P>



<https://twitter.com/oxonmuseum>

Visit The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock – It's FREE!



# Confidence Building Fun

This school has joined Perform's School Partnership programme.

Perform weekly drama, dance and singing classes boost confidence and give children a creative outlet to make friends and have fun.

[perform.org.uk](http://perform.org.uk)



## OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITY CAMP

Come join us to learn new skills, make new friends and have fun!

**All Coaches are Experienced, Qualified and Insured**

**Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October (5 days)**

**Wallingford Sports Park (OX10 9RB)**

**9.30am to 4.30pm**  
Extra time of 8.30am to 5.30pm available - charges apply

**£34 per day**  
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