

This week and last week **Class 2 and 3 children** have been enjoying their first Forest School sessions of the year. The children were incredibly excited! They had great fun exploring our Early Years Forest School area and using their senses to notice and talk about the natural world around them. The children made some creative crowns with items they found. I am sure there are lots of children looking forward to Forest School next week! *Foundation Stage Team*

Quirky Critters on the loose... **Year 3** children had a fantastic time within forest school this week, where their creative juices flowed. Within the session, they used natural materials to construct some quirky critters and objects, demonstrating excellent creativity and artistic thought.

All year 3 members of staff were incredibly impressed with the children's creativity, resourcefulness and attention to detail. Notably, the models were brilliantly named too!

Year 3 Team



Year 2 have been reading the story 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson.

This week, the children made their own wands using sticks we found in Forest School. They decorated their wands using wool, pipe cleaners and feathers to make them extra magical!

Year 2 Team

Didcot Library visits have officially restarted! The library was delighted to be able to offer visits again this term, with Year 5 being the first to take up the opportunity. The children were clearly pleased to be able to visit and demonstrated exemplary behaviour both while walking and when inside the library. Every child took out a couple of books after guidance from the Assistant Manager, Sue, who talked to them about what types of books were available at the library and how they could find them on the shelves.

Gemma Fowkes, Year 5 Teacher

Our lovely cleaner (and previous parent), Tracey Silver, has now left to take up a librarian role at Didcot Library, so we hope the children will bump into her there in the future.

Reading Challenge Update: An impressive £2,400 was raised from our recent reading challenge! This means we can get an additional £1,440 worth of free books from Usborne Books - so a grand total of £3,840! Staff and children have requested particular types of books they wish to receive for their classes, and a shopping basket of lovely new reads is being compiled. A new update will be posted when they arrive. Thanks to everyone for the support we have received with this challenge - I am sure you agree it has been a huge success and will result in some exciting times spent reading our goodies!

Gemma Fowkes, Year 5 Teacher

Maths Inter Schools Challenge:

Last week, at the inter school maths challenge for Year 6, many awards were won:

Bronze Award: Sam and Eleanor

Silver Award: Rohan and Isaac

Gold Award: Aalaya

The achievement of the children meant that, as a school, we came second overall. This is a competition against a wide range of schools, including independent schools. This is our best result so far, so huge congratulations to all.

It is Children in Need today! Children have come to school dressed in one colour (matching tops and bottoms) so we have a 'rainbow' theme throughout school. Please donate £1 to Children in Need via ParentPay – click on this link

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=5870>

We will announce the total amount raised in next week's newsletter.





Photo Competition

Congratulations to Luca Saunders who is our winner of the recent whole school photo competition. His photo is named "New home for the Lifeboat role models". Very atmospheric!

Assemblies and themes this week We covered a lot of ground this week. The main theme was Diversity and SLT concentrated on celebrating our cultural differences and similarities. Diversity Ambassadors have been working hard to create their assembly, they have made some astute observations about celebrating different cultural backgrounds. Also, to mark Anti Bullying week there was a reminder assembly covering awareness and how to get help and the school's very strict line on it. The children were reminded that bullying is being mean in a targeted way, repeatedly without the behaviour being mutual or returned. We presented the many ways to get help including one strategy of having a 'Go To Person' from amongst the staff in mind, if ever needed.

COMING UP...

Christmas Activities next month:-

- **Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10th December** Children can come to school wearing a festive jumper and pay £2. Proceeds will be shared equally with Save the Children and PALS.
- **Year 2 Christmas Production** – this will be recorded and shared with Parents on Google Classroom towards the end of term.
- **Foundation Stage and Year 1 'Sing Songs'** - this will be recorded on 10th December and shared with Parents on google classroom



Christmas Lunches:

Advance notice about **Christmas lunches** – see dates below. **Pre-order lunch via ParentPay. Deadline for orders is Monday 22nd November.** Sorry, late orders cannot be accommodated.



Monday 13 th December	Tuesday 14 th December	Wednesday 15 th December
Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2	Years 3, 4 and 5	Year 6
<i>Parents to not need to pay for this</i>	<i>Please pay for this on ParentPay</i>	<i>Please pay for this on ParentPay</i>

Please remember on these three days your child will only be able to have a school meal on **their allocated day**. The other two days you need to provide your child with a packed lunch whilst the other year groups have their festive meals. **PALS** have purchased crackers for every child and children can also bring a festive hat (handmade or otherwise) to wear on the day of their lunch but beware of mischievous Elves.....



On **Friday 10th December** we are welcoming The Roving Bookshop into school. The Roving Bookshop will arrive at school in the morning and shop assistants will transform The Hall into a bookshop for the day. The shop sells over 3000 high-quality and critically acclaimed books from a whole host of publishers (unlike some previous book fairs we have hosted), ensuring we are providing our children with the best titles out there. Each class will have a 30 minute slot at the bookshop to browse and buy a book of their choice. Envelopes for cash and more information will go home soon and, if you wish your child to buy a book at the bookshop, must be returned by Friday 10th December. Any money that comes in before the 10th December will be kept safe until the bookshop arrives on Friday. Prices of books range from approximately £3-£10 and familiar adults will be on hand to help your child choose an appropriate book. The bookshop will be open before (8.30am) and after (until 4pm) school for parents and carers to browse and buy; a perfect chance to buy Christmas presents for loved ones. Parents/carers are welcome to pay with cash, cheque or card. As with the previous book fair, the bookshop runs on a commission basis; the more money our families spend, the more money the school has to spend to buy high-calibre resources for our children to use. We appreciate all your support with this!

Year 5 are visiting the Woodstock Oxford Museum next Wednesday (24th November). Children will need to be wearing their school uniform and coat, bring in a healthy packed lunch and water bottle. Children will also be required to wear a face mask on the coach.

NOTICES

Reminder: All children in primary school will be offered a **flu vaccine** (nasal spray) next month. This is a school based programme and the immunisation team will be in school on Friday 3rd December. Further information about this has been emailed to Parents via ParentPay yesterday. The letter is also on our website under 'communications' tab, 'school nursing team'. **Parental consent must be given and you will need to click on the electronic link in the letter to do this.** Further information about the vaccination is available on this website: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/school-health-nurses. Children in our nursery **are not eligible** for this vaccine via the school immunisation team but are instead invited to have this important vaccination at their GP Surgery.



Communicating with school: Important message to Parents

If your child is absent from school, you must let us know. You can do this in two ways:

- Leave a clear message on our answerphone OR
- Email the school office at office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

When you leave a message on our school phone please speak clearly and slowly. State your child's name, class and a detailed reason why your child is not in school. 'My child is unwell' is not sufficient as it then requires a follow up phone call home. If your child is displaying COVID symptoms you must arrange for a PCR test not a Lateral Flow Test (LFT). Please keep school updated with PCR results.

Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated. *The Office Team*

Prompt Timings

Please bear in mind that After School Club and extra curricular clubs start shortly after school finishes each day. The children of these clubs can't enter the playground until all parents have left and the gates are closed again. This is why we urge everyone to be prompt when leaving the site after pick up. Thanks!

Class 7 Trip to Didcot Library – The trip planned next Wednesday (24th November) is cancelled and is being re-arranged to a date in January. This new date will be in Term 3 curriculum letter.

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 2nd November 2021. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15th January 2022.

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15th 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>

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

Reception	Years 1, 3 & 5	Year 2, 4 & 6
9am drop off	8.40am drop off	8.50am drop off
2.50pm pick up	3pm pick up	3.10pm pick up

After School Club finishes at 5.30pm

Andrew Markham and the school team

Messages from PALS

Santa's Grotto

Due to amazing demand, all tickets for Santa's Grotto are now sold out! Please note that due to this being a pre-book only event, we cannot accept anyone wishing to turn up and pay on the day. Those who have booked and paid will have received their timeslot by email, but please contact us on ladygrovepals@gmail.com if you haven't received yours. Please arrive on time for your visit - chocolate tombola, raffle tickets, and hot drinks/mince pies will be available to buy while you're there. Entrance will be the Avon Way/school car park side.

If you would like another way to support the event, we are looking for chocolate and sweet donations for our Chocolate Tombola. Boxes are at both entrances to school for you to put these items in. Any donations big or small are very much appreciated! Please bring in your donations by Friday 26th November.

Christmas Raffle

Raffle tickets have started to go home, with lots of vouchers for amazing days out to be won! The draw will be made on Friday 10th December, so you have until Wednesday 8th December to return yours. Extra ticket books are available from the school office.

PALS Team

Ladygrove Church Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group is Open Again

We're running at the Ladygrove Community Centre every Wednesday during school term time 9.30-11.00am with free play, crafts, song-time and refreshments. £3.00 a session.

Covid precautions are in place to keep us all safe.

For further information, email toddlers@theladygrovechurch.org.uk or see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/theladygrovechurchtoddlergroup>

Oxfordshire Libraries

NOT ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES!



Storytime with Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, with a special guest appearance from Oxfordshire firefighters!

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER
10:30 AM FOR AGES 4-7
2:00 PM FOR AGES 8-11
DIDCOT LIBRARY

FREE!

Booking essential
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or call 01235 813103
didcot.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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