St Andrew's CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER term 1 2026

Welcome to our new half-termly newsletter!

We are delighted to introduce our new school newsletter, which will be shared with families at the end of each half term. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful learning, achievements and experiences taking place across our school, as well as share special moments, exciting events and highlights from school life.

We are proud of all that our children achieve, both in and out of the classroom, and we look forward to sharing these successes with you. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening at school and celebrating our fantastic school community with us!



JAMES CARTER

The poet James Carter is a regular visitor to our school. In September we were treated to assemblies in his unique, musical, madcap and entertaining way! As usual, James enlisted the support of our our teachers to join in with songs and poetry readings.

After school, James signed books for children who chose to purchase one of his books. His newest title has been dedicated to the children of St Andrew's.

> For all the wolves in the world AND the totally tame but wildly wonderful St Andrew's CofE Primary School in Chinnor.



HARVEST

On Tuesday 29th September we had two services in school to celebrate harvest. As well as singing songs, the children shared information about harvest in the parts of the world they have been learning about in class.

Thank you for all the donations of food which included many tins and packages and also some amazing leeks that a couple of children had been growing in their allotment! The food was packaged up for those in need in the local community and some was collected and taken to the Sharing Life Trust.





CAKE SALE/BOOK SWAP/UNIFORM SALE

The first SASA cake sale of the year took place on Friday 9th October. It was the turn of Year 6 to provide the cakes and a total of £190.80 was raised. Thank you to SASA for organising this and taking time and care to ensure we were compliant with allergy guidance.

SASA were also on hand in the garden room to sell used school uniform. This will take place alongside every cake sale, so watch out for the next opportunity to purchase uniform at reduced prices.

The garden room also houses our regular book swap! This is becoming a favourite event for our bookworms who leave school with a book that is new to them to enjoy at the weekend.

CULMINGTON

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their trip away in September. The children pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and we are incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves! They enjoyed activities such as the zipwire, climbing, abseiling, obstacle courses and grass sledging. Everyone demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and it was a fantastic start to Year 6.









YOULBURY

Year 5 had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Youlbury this term! The children embraced a range of exciting activities, including the 3G swing, Jacob's ladder, nature art and crate stacking. Throughout the trip, they showed wonderful resilience, creativity, teamwork and courage, supporting one another and stepping outside their comfort zones. We were incredibly proud of them all!



BIKEABILITY

Our Year 6 children have been developing their cycling skills and learning how to stay safe on the roads through Bikeability.

Toby and Philline shared their experience:

We started with a session on the playground to make sure we could ride safely before heading out onto the roads. We practised on quiet roads first, learning how to do U-turns and safely ride past parked cars, before progressing to busier roads. We also learned about navigating junctions and roundabouts.

We learned how important it is to signal clearly, look behind us and make sure other road users know what we are doing.

We really enjoyed the experience because it was both fun and educational. The instructors were kind and helpful, and we now feel more confident about cycling safely on the roads. It was great to enjoy a bike ride while learning skills that will help us cycle safely and independently more often in the future!







NURSERY

This term, we have enjoyed learning all about ourselves, our families, friendships, and our bodies and senses. We also learnt about autumn, noticing the seasonal changes around us, and explored Harvest and the important role farmers play in providing our food. As part of our International Term, we studied the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and created our own colourful dotted pumpkin artwork inspired by her unique style.







RECEPTION

This term, we have enjoyed learning about ourselves and where we live, thinking about our families, homes and local community, and exploring what makes our area special. We have also been learning about autumn, observing the changes that happen during the season and discovering why harvest is an important time of year. As part of our International Term, we travelled further afield by learning about Australia, comparing its location and climate to our own and finding out about some of the fascinating animals that live there. We also explored Aboriginal art and created our own colourful dot paintings. It has been a wonderful term of learning about both our local environment and the wider world.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have made a fantastic start to the term and have been busy exploring a wide range of exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum.

In Geography, we have been learning a catchy song to help us remember the seven continents and have enjoyed following Paddington Bear's adventures in Peru. This inspired our writing, where the children created their own suitcase packing lists ready for a trip abroad. We have also enjoyed drawing and learning about some of the colourful fruits that grow in Peru.

In Mathematics, we have been developing our understanding of place value to 10, focusing on recognising numbers, writing numerals correctly and beginning to write number words independently. We created a physical pictogram to investigate the different hair colours in our year group. This linked to our Science topic where we have been learning about our bodies and the five senses, investigating how we use our senses to learn about the world around us.

As part of Black History Month and our PSHE learning, we have been thinking about what it means to belong and celebrating the things that make us unique while recognising how we are all part of different communities.



In French, the children have been learning simple greetings and enjoying practising conversations with their friends.

A particular focus has been our introduction to the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics scheme. The children have embraced learning through Fred Talk, where sounds are blended together to read words, and Fred Fingers, which helps them segment words into sounds for spelling. We can see the children are already applying their phonics skills across all areas of their learning.

We are very pleased with how the children are adapting to the new routines in Year 1.





YEAR 2

It has been a fantastic term in Year 2, and the children have impressed us with their enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work across all areas of learning.

In English, we have started our new phonics scheme and the children have embraced it brilliantly. They have enjoyed learning new sounds, practising their reading skills and growing in confidence as readers. It has been wonderful to see their progress and excitement when tackling new words and texts.

Our Science topic has been all about plants. We have been investigating what plants need to grow and stay healthy, thinking carefully about sunlight, water, air and nutrients. The children have loved exploring the natural world and developing their scientific enquiry skills through observation and discussion.

In Geography, we have travelled across the Atlantic to learn about the USA. The children have enjoyed discovering facts about American life and comparing it to our own experiences here in Chinnor. We have had some fascinating discussions about how schools in the USA can be different from ours and what daily life might be like for children living there.

In Maths, we have been building a strong understanding of place value, helping us to recognise the value of digits and use numbers with greater confidence. We have also been working hard on our number bonds to 10 and 20. The children are becoming increasingly fluent and would love the chance to show off their learning at home, so please do test them whenever you can!

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term. Their positive attitudes, willingness to challenge themselves and enthusiasm for learning have made Year 2 a wonderful place to be. We look forward to all the exciting learning still to come next term!







YEAR 3

This term we have been studying Europe for our international term project. The children have taken part in some outside learning, and found out about capital cities in Europe. They added to their knowledge about the continent and showed great enthusiasm and energy. In Art, we have been learning about French artist Georges Seurat and we have been recreating his famous picture 'The Seine at la Grande Jatte' using the Pointillism technique.









YEAR 4

Year 4 have been getting creative by designing and making their own Benin-inspired plaques using clay. Inspired by the artwork of the ancient Kingdom of Benin, the children carefully shaped their plaques and added decorative patterns and details. They showed great creativity and patience throughout the process, producing some fantastic pieces of artwork while learning more about Benin's rich artistic history.



YEAR 5

Year 5 took a trip to the polar regions during Term 1. The children discovered the reasons behind their extreme climates, delved into the journey of Shackleton's Endurance expedition and created winter landscapes in the style of William Grill, the illustrator of 'Shackleton's Journey'. Finally, they planned their own expeditions to the Antarctic, considering what clothing, equipment and food they would need to take, and budgeted for these using an Excel spreadsheet.

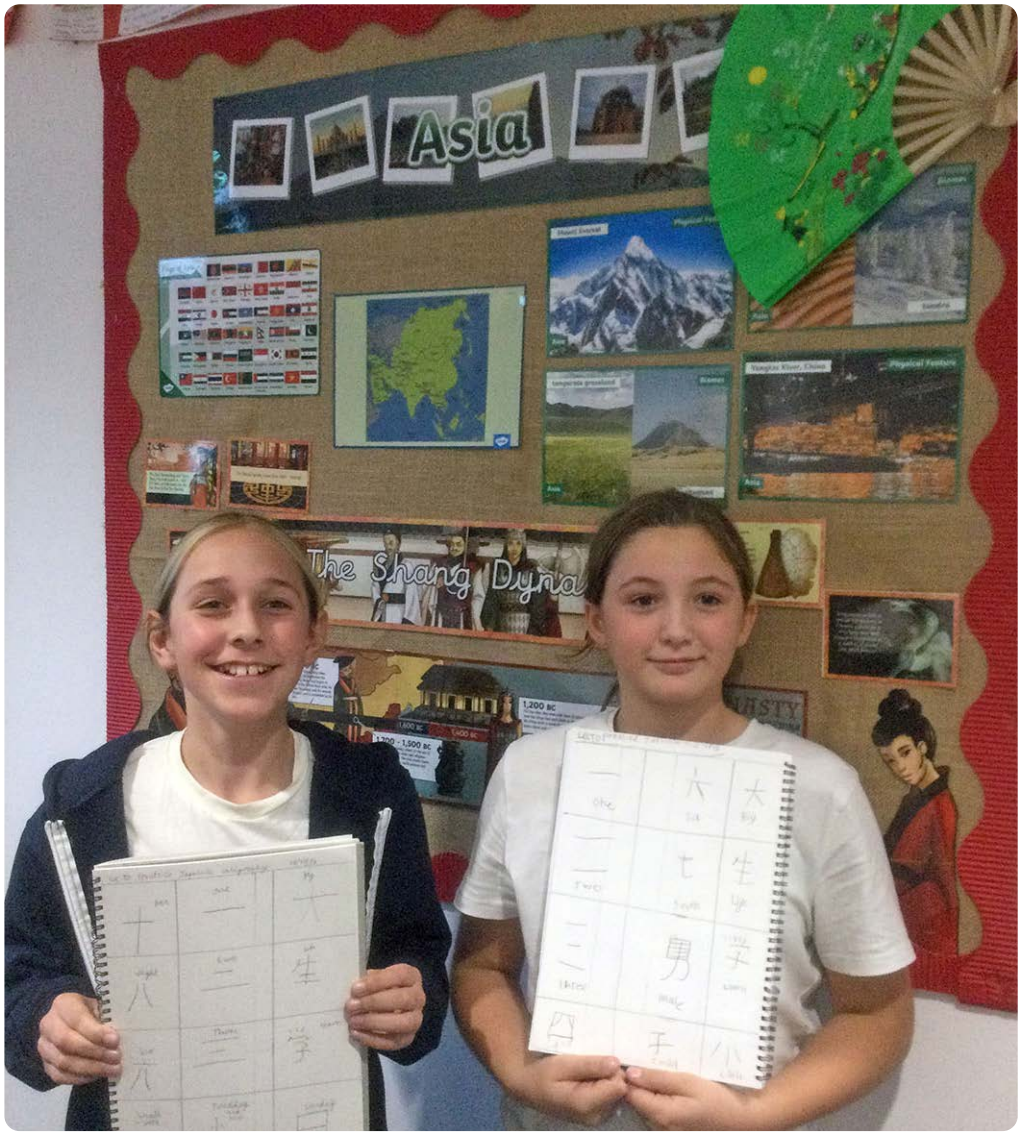
Number of Children in group	2			

Clothing	Costs	Quantity	Total
thermal base layer, long	8.9	2	17.8
thermal cotton long johns	4.98	2	9.96
wool trekkker socks	14.99	2	29.98
waterproof salopettes	42	2	84
fleece lined hoodie	7.99	2	15.98
warm thermal trousers	22.99	2	45.98
wether parker	99.75	2	199.5
sunglasses	34.99	2	69.98
fleece shapka	35	2	70
waterproof beanie	29.99	2	59.98
fleece snood	20	2	40
gaiter	25.45	2	50.9
jacket	120	2	240
vest	4.99	2	9.98
fusion socks	14.99	2	29.98
lambsool socks	7.99	2	15.98
hiking trousers	22.99	2	45.98
snow saloppetes	22.99	2	45.98
gog glasses	105.03	2	210.06
			0
Total Clothing spent			1292.02

Equipment	Cost	Quanity	Total
head torch	32.5	1	32.5
toothbrush	4.61	2	9.22
toothpaste	3.99	1	3.99
first aid kit	19.72	1	19.72
pan	8.9	1	8.9
sleeping bag	435	2	870
4 person tent	970.94	1	970.94
camping stove	112	1	112
camping stove gas	6.3	1	6.3
snow shovel	6.84	1	6.84
blanket	19.85	2	39.7
matches	4.7	2	9.4
spare battries	16	1	16
Camera	329	1	329
deodorant	2.27	2	4.54
cutlery	11.56	2	23.12
water bottle	15.45	2	30.9
soap	1.32	2	2.64
sleeping mat	22.9	2	45.8
shampoo	33.6	1	33.6
Total Equipment spent			2575.11

Food	Cost	Quantity	Total
instant pasta pack	0.99	16	15.84
cup-a-soup	1.99	22	43.78
Nuts	0.69	40	27.6
musili bar	3.45	22	75.9
hot choclatte powder	0.32	16	5.12
crakers box	0.69	12	8.28
instant porridge sachet	0.52	20	10.4
bacon 6 slice pack	1.75	15	26.25
bread loaf	0.83	2	1.66
sausage roll pack of 6	1.75	12	21
beef jerky	1.5	8	12
instant noodle pack	0.85	10	8.5
ham sanwitch pack	2.2	4	8.8
roast potatoes	1.96	16	31.2
biscuit pack	0.86	20	17.2
6 eggs	1.3	12	15.6
cornish pasty pack of 6	3	20	60
			0
			0
			0
Total Food spent			389.13

Amount to spend	12320
Total spent	4256.26
Total left to spend	8063.74



YEAR 6

Year 6 have been exploring the continent of Asia through geography, history and art lessons. In geography, the children have been developing their map skills by locating countries across Asia and identifying its different sub-regions. In history, the children have travelled back in time to investigate the Shang Dynasty of ancient China. They have explored what life was like during this period, learned about the dynasty's achievements and examined the reasons behind its eventual fall. In art, the children have been introduced to the beautiful Japanese tradition of Shodō, the art of calligraphy. They have explored how Japanese calligraphy uses careful brushwork, flowing lines and purposeful movements to create expressive works of art.

JACKY

We said a fond farewell to Reverend Jacky during her final Open the Book worship session, as she prepares to move to a new parish. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the Bible stories and calming, reflective influence she has had on school over the last 9 years. We thanked her for all her time and dedication and wished her every happiness and blessing in her new parish. She will be greatly missed by all those at St Andrew's CE Primary School and the wider community.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 5th November - Open Day 9.30am
Wednesday 11th November - Armistice Day
Friday 13th November - CIN MUFTI
Friday 13th November - Book Look 2.30pm
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day
Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th November - Parents' Evenings
Monday 23rd November - Open Day 1.15pm
Saturday 5th December - SASA Christmas Fayre
Monday 7th December - Y1 Production
Tuesday 8th December - Y2 Production
Wednesday 9th December - Rocksteady Concert 9am
Thursday 10th December - Y6 Trip to Bletchley Park
Thursday 10th December - YR Production
Friday 11th December - Y3 Production
Tuesday 15th December - KS2 Carol Service
Wednesday 16th December - PANTO, Christmas Jumpers & EYFS Party
Thursday 17th December - Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
Friday 18th December - Term Ends 1.30pm


LIGHT NIGHT
The Light Shines in the Darkness
FIND THE LIGHT
FOLLOW THE LIGHT
SHINE THE LIGHT
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."
JOHN 1:5 NLT
A FREE EVENT
FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
(ALL WELCOME)
GAMES
Team challenges and fun
ACTIVITIES
Crafts, experiments and more
BIBLE STORY
A short, interactive talk
FOOD
Hot chocolate and treats
LIGHT TRAIL
Follow the light treasure hunt
COMMUNITY
Fun for all ages Everyone welcome
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
5:00 – 7:00PM
(2 HOURS)
CHINNOR COMMUNITY CHURCH
Jesus is the Light
JOHN 8:12
His light overcomes darkness
JOHN 1:4–5
We are called to shine his light
MATTHEW 5:14–16
CHINNOR COMMUNITY CHURCH
High Street
Chinnor, OX39 4DH
cccadmin@chinnor.org.uk
Charity No: 1146343


MILL LANE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (MLSA)
NOTICE
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
MLSA
Cash & Card
Fireworks to Music "Disney"
Friday 6th November
Gates 6pm
Display 7.30pm
Glo-items stall
Bar & soft drinks
Food vans
Sweets & crisps
TICKETS: £8
2 AND UNDER FREE
AVAILABLE AT
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/TICKETS4MLSAEVENTS
OR SCAN THE QR CODE
LIMITED TICKETS, NO TICKETS ON THE GATE
Mill Lane School field, Mill Lane, Chinnor


OXFORDSHIRE PARENT CARERS FORUM
A Voice for Parent Carers in Oxfordshire
NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust
OxPCF & NDC CAMHS
Parent Carer Webinar Series
Information
Support
Practical strategies
A chance to ask questions
A series of online webinars for parent carers in Oxfordshire, offering expert information, practical strategies and the opportunity to ask questions.
All sessions take place from 12:00pm – 1:30pm (online via Teams)
Online via Microsoft Teams
Wed 30 Sep 2026 What to expect from the CAMHS NDC Service
Fri 23 Oct 2026 Parent carer burnout and looking after yourself
Wed 18 Nov 2026 Parenting neurodivergent young people as a neurodivergent parent
Wed 09 Dec 2026 Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
Wed 20 Jan 2027 Making sense of distress
Wed 24 Feb 2027 Understanding masking
Wed 17 Mar 2027 Supporting neurodivergent young people to stay safe online
Wed 21 Apr 2027 Understanding eating difficulties in neurodivergent young people
Join us online from the comfort of home
Everyone welcome!
Register for your free space via
www.oxpcf.org.uk/events
All sessions are recorded and a summary will be shared on our website.
You can watch the recordings, slides, Q&As and other useful resources on our website under the Resources section.