



# West Kidlington

Primary & Nursery School

Be kind, give your best!

# WEST KIDLINGTON NEWS

## Dear Families

The school will be supporting **Comic Relief** next week - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. We will be having a non-school uniform day in school. We will be asking children to donate £1 on the school gate.

With more choice than ever and rising concerns about safety, phone ownership can raise important questions for families.

### These might be:

- Is my child ready for a phone?
- How do I keep my child safe?
- What's the right approach for our family?
- Are children and phones a good mix?

This link gives families some really good advice about mobile phones and children.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>



We have placed some details about an exciting competition being organised by Blenheim Palace.

Your child's brief: Create a drawing of Blenheim Palace. This should be your own view of the Palace. Be as creative and imaginative as you like.

## Important Dates

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief Day - non-school uniform**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - School Breaks up**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - School Opens - Term 5**

### Mother's Day Tea event

Thank you to everyone who came to the Mother's Day Tea, it was a brilliant event. There was a superb turn out and everyone was able to spend some quality time with a Mother figure. Thank you to Poppy for organising the event and to Anne, Judith, Louisa and staff who supported. Special thanks to children who were able to help, they were: Leo, Arthur H, Edith, Catrin, Lucia, Fleur, Orla and Alys.



# Happy Easter from Grace Church Kidlington

Join us this Easter to discover why Jesus' death and resurrection are the best news we can ever receive.

**Saturday 28 March**

## *Lego Easter Trail*

between 10.30am and 11.30am – starting by the tennis courts in Exeter Park.  
Follow the storytellers trail, complete the puzzle and collect an Easter goody bag.  
For ages 3-11 with their families and carers.

**Sunday 29 March**

## *Palm Sunday celebration for all ages*

10.30-11.30am at Gosford Hill School

**Sunday 5 April**

## *Easter Day celebration for all ages*

10.30-11.30am at Gosford Hill School



## West Kidlington Primary School



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

Reception - 2:45-3.15pm

Year 1 & 2 - 3:20-3.50pm

Year 3 & 4 - 3:55-4.25pm

Year 5 & 6 - 4:30-5pm

Sponsorship forms, cash (minimum £5) and waivers must be returned to the school office by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 for your child to participate in the event.

## **Blenheim Palace Design Challenge 2026**

*Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is inviting the next generation of architects to leave their mark on history through a nationwide design challenge, launched during National Careers Week (2–7 March 2026).*

*The competition forms part of the national Vanbrugh300 celebrations and coincides with Blueprints of Power, the latest exhibition at Blenheim Palace, which celebrates the 300th anniversary of its architect Sir John Vanbrugh (1664–1726).*

### **Categories**

***Choose the category that applies to you and respond to the relevant brief below.***

#### **1) Budding Architects (Children under 12)**

Your brief:

Create a drawing of Blenheim Palace.

This should be your own view of the Palace.

Be as creative and imaginative as you like.

A little inspiration:

- Use whatever you love most, be that pencil, crayons, felt tips, or paint.
- You can focus on the front of the Palace, a detail you find exciting (like windows, statues, towers, rooftops), or the whole building.
- Add colour, patterns, people, gardens, flags, wildlife, or your own creative touches to bring your drawing to life.
- Think about what makes Blenheim Palace feel special and show it in your own style.

### **Submission Format**

***All entries must be submitted as:***

- One A4 visual design, saved as a PDF
- Clearly labelled with: name, age, category, and contact details

### **How to Enter**

Email your A4PDF submission to: [blenheim@cabcampaign.co.uk](mailto:blenheim@cabcampaign.co.uk)

### **Deadline**

Wednesday 18 March 2026 (entries must be received by this date)

### **Judging Panel**

Entries will be judged by an expert panel including:

- Sir Charles Saumarez Smith CBE, author, curator and architectural historian
- Kelly O’Driscoll, Head of Built Heritage, Blenheim Palace
- Edward Lewis, Practice Director, Donald Insall Associates (leading the roof restoration project at Blenheim Palace)



BLenheim PALACE

## Winners & Prizes

Winners announced: Monday 23 March 2026

Prize:

- An exclusive invitation to the topping out ceremony at Blenheim Palace 31st March (a major restoration milestone)
- A once-in-a-lifetime chance to sign a roof slate, reinstalled on the Palace roof, meaning your name remains in situ at Britain's Greatest Palace for generations
- Exclusive built heritage talk and tour at Blenheim Palace with Kelly O'Driscoll, Head of Built Heritage\*
- A signed copy of Sir Donald Insall's book *Living Buildings: Architectural Conservation, Philosophy, Principles and Practice*\*
- Afternoon tea for two people
- An annual pass to Blenheim Palace for two people

\*This element of the prize will only be received by the winner of the Rising Architect (18+) category.

## Ready to Enter?

Pick your category, create your A4 visual design, save it as a PDF, and submit by Wednesday 18 March 2026 to [blenheim@cabcampaign.co.uk](mailto:blenheim@cabcampaign.co.uk)

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## Terms and conditions apply

- All entrants in the Budding Architects category must be children under 12. All entrants in the Aspiring Architects category must be 12-17 years old. All entrants in the Rising Architects category must be over the age of 18 and be studying a degree (or equivalent) in architecture, construction, or design-related subjects. There will be one winner per category only.
- Competition run date: Monday 2nd March to Wednesday 18th March 2026. Competition winner drawn and contacted: By Monday 23rd March Access to Blenheim Palace is subject to opening times. The Annual Pass does not include entry to all events, or third-party events including Nocturne, Christmas Trails, and Blenheim Palace Horse Trials. Winners of Annual Passes to check on entry restrictions before visiting. Afternoon tea bookings will be subject to availability. The winner will be chosen by Blenheim Palace and an agreed judging panel. Once selected, the winner will be notified and will have 72 hours to claim the prize. Failure to reply to notification within this time period renders the competition void and a replacement winner will be selected and contacted via email / phone. There is no cash or other alternative to the prize stated and the prize is not transferable, and no part or parts of the prize may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions The name, email address and a contact number of the winner will be requested for prize fulfilment and may be passed to a third-party provider for prize arrangement. The competition winner may be invited and agree to take part in post-competition publicity as may be requested by the promoter.

By accepting the prize, the competition winner consents that the promoter may use his/her name, photograph, likeness (including his/her voice), hometown and biographical information and statements concerning the competition or the promoter and/or its products without further compensation or notice for the purpose of marketing, advertising, and promotion. The decision is final and binding on the entrants. No correspondence will be entered into

# Grow the Tallest Sunflower!

Sow your seeds with  
Our School Garden

**Monday 16th March**

during break and lunch times, and after school

**PRIZES TO BE WON!**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

# ONLINE SAFETY

## IN JUST 4 SIMPLE STEPS

Keeping your child safe online - and knowing what to say no to and what to say yes to - can feel like an impossible task.

So keep it simple with these 4 Rules.

Protect your child from exploitation by strangers, problems with peers, content that harms their mental health, addictive products, violent and sexual content, poor sleep, reduced concentration and disrupted development.

**1**

### **NO SMART PHONE UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS 12**

Once you give your child a smart phone it is very hard to go back. Once they've got a smart phone it becomes almost impossible to control or monitor how they use it. So keep it simple: no smartphone. If your child really needs a phone you can get them an old fashioned feature phone for about £30.

**2**

### **NO SOCIAL MEDIA UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS 16**

Social media can be fun, but it can also be addictive and harmful. The social media platforms are not making sure that they are safe for children to use. So the world of social media is full of content that is dangerous or damaging for your minds, from cyberbullying to pornography. So just keep your child off social media.

**3**

### **NO YOUTUBE AND NO TIKTOK**

The social media rule includes youtube and TikTok. These platforms are designed to be addictive. They weaken your child's ability to concentrate. It is very hard to monitor and supervise them and there is a lot of harmful content on there. Whilst they are kids, there is plenty for them to watch on things like iPlayer and Netflix.

**4**

### **NO GROUPS, NO STRANGERS, NO SNAPCHAT**

Just because your child is in your house, it does not mean that they are safe from being exploited by adults or upset by other children. So if they use things like Whatsapp, it's family and close friends only. No one that you don't know, no being in big online groups and no deleting messages. And this includes gaming online.

## **AND REMEMBER...**

Don't rely on your child being sensible and honest online to keep them safe.

Yes, we need to teach them to be those things, but it is not fair or realistic to ask young children to operate safely in an online world that is really not set up for them.

Your child will not thank you for these rules. They will tell you that other children don't have these rules.

But those other children are not your responsibility. It is your job to look after your own children.

The majority of parents worry about their children online - some of them decide that saying 'No' is an option. You can be one of those parents.

If using tech devices is making your child sad, anxious or angry then take those devices away from them.

If they are not following your rules then take those devices away from them.

This might not be easy when they are young, but it will be almost impossible as they get older.

Ultimately you are the adult and you have to decide what is best for your child.

# **HALF EIGHT IS TOO LATE**



**HOW MUCH TIME YOUR  
CHILD SPENDS ON A  
SCREEN IS IMPORTANT**



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