

19 June 2023

Edition: 31

## LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and you enjoyed the wonderful warm weather we had over the weekend. The final term of the academic year is always a busy one and we have lots of exciting events and learning experiences taking place. Do look out for dates and ParentMail notifications for various events and visits. With the warmer weather upon us please do send your child to school with their suncream on, a sunhat and drink. We are mindful of keeping the children in shaded areas when they are exposed to longer periods outside.

### Sport and Health Week: Week Beginning Monday 17 July

The week beginning Monday 17 July we will be hosting our annual Sport and Health Week. Mr McKay is working hard behind the scenes to organise various sporting experiences to develop a range of new skills for the children. Sports Day will be held on the final day of term, Friday 21 July where you are invited to come and watch your child/ren's year groups take part, the timings for each phase are below. We will ensure the main blue gate onto the Years 3&4 playground are opened just before the start of each phase race. As you will appreciate, for safeguarding purposes, we are required to lock the gates between each session, so we advise arriving promptly.

Phase	Timings
EYFS: Nursery & Reception	09.15 – 10.15
KS1: Years 1 & 2	10.30 – 11.30
KS2: Years 3&4	13.05 – 13.55
KS2: Years 5&6	14.05 – 14.55

At the end of each phase session, the gates will reopen for you to be able to leave. If you have children in multiple phases, you will of course be able to attend all of these and can remain on the school field. We would advise bringing something to sit on (picnic blanket or camping style chair). Children can wear their school PE Uniform for the whole week.

### Staffing for September 2023

We are now able to share with you the arrangements for class teachers from September 2023. Please see the table below which outlines which staff members are with which class.

Phase	Class	Class Teacher
Early Years	Nursery	Mrs Green
	Reception: Bumble Bees	Miss Harrison
	Reception: Lady Birds	Mrs Patino-Velasquez
Key Stage 1	Ducklings	Miss Garrison
	Goslings	Mrs Boutayeb
	Cygnets	Miss Allen
Key Stage 2: Years 3&4	Nightingales	Mrs Hanney
	Kingfishers	Mr White
	Woodpeckers	Mrs White (2) /Mrs Coaker (3)
Key Stage 2: Years 5&6	Falcons	Mrs Poole (1) /Mrs Morris (4)
	Kestrels	Mrs Isherwood (4) /Mrs Hipwell (1)
	Red Kites	Mrs Rees

Miss Richardson will be sadly leaving us at the end of this academic year; however, we would like to take the opportunity to thank her for her hard work and commitment to the school and wish her congratulations and the very best of luck in her new role.

### Woodstock and Bladon News Art Competition: £50 Prize Money

Following on from the success of the Woodstock and Bladon news art competition earlier in the year, which one of pupils won, they are running a summer art competition to design the August Edition front cover.

#### The design must be:

- Bold and bright in colour (avoid pencil sketches)
- A4 in size
- Portrait in Orientation

The **deadline for all entries is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023** and they should be submitted to the school office please.

### Curriculum Updates

In Years 3&4 this week, children took part in a pizza making workshop with Veronica from Little Puddings to support this term's theme Europe Explored. The children developed a range of food preparation skills including kneading and rolling dough, preparing vegetables as toppings, and understanding the importance of a range of textures in foods. The children had an amazing day, especially the eating – the school smelt amazing!

Thank you to Mr White and Falcons class for their Curriculum Celebration event for parents. The children presented lots of detail about the learning over the term and did a fantastic job of representing the school. Thank you to parents for coming along and supporting your children.

Year 5 children went to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum last week to support this term's theme War and Peace. The children were encouraged to investigate old artefacts such as gas masks and ration books as well as creating their own 'rag-rugging' designs. During the morning, the groups also toured Woodstock to learn more about influential people in the town's history - following a trail of wall plaques.





Thank you as always for the continued support you give to our school, it is always very much appreciated and hugely valued.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Poole  
Deputy Headteacher

## Collective Worship Weekly Theme

Week Beginning: 19/6/23		Collective Worship	
Key Idea: Travel and Transport			
Biblical Link:	2 Corinthians 11 26:27 '26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.' (NIV)		
Core Value:	Courage	<div>Invitation prayer</div> <p>Dear God, Thank you for all the different ways we can travel, which help us explore your wonderful world, Give courage to those who may have a difficult journey to make, Amen</p>	
Understanding Christianity Theme:			
Worship Song:	The journey of life		

## Ready, Set, Read! Summer Reading Challenge 2023:

Children across Oxfordshire can take part in the challenge at their local Oxfordshire Library from **8<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. This year's challenge celebrates reading, sports, games and play. Children are encouraged to read at least six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. As they read, they collect stickers (some smelly) and rewards. If they complete the challenge, they will be rewarded with a Ready, Set, Read! medal and certificate. The overall aim is to encourage children to carry on reading over the long summer holiday and at the same time have some fun! In previous years over 8400 Oxfordshire children have taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

For more information visit: [The Summer Reading Challenge](#) and [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge)

## Message from Hilary Brown (Chair of Sustainable Woodstock)

It is Green Week and so it's a good time to remind our community to switch off engines, especially when you pick up your children from school. It's been very warm all week and I understand the comfort of air-con, but as there are still about 5 weeks of term to go ...could we ask you to switch off and seek shade instead of allowing engines to run. Not everyone sees the pollution running cars are causing that exacerbates health conditions such as asthma, COPD, hay fever, etc.

A reminder too to everyone that it's illegal to keep engines idling on a public road - whether in a carpark, lay-by, picking someone up, dropping off, etc

<https://www.confused.com/car-insurance/guides/finest-for-idling#:~:text=Stationary%20idling%20is%20an%20offence,stationary%20on%20a%20public%20road.%20>

Resources that might help. <https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day>

## Caretaker

**Grade 5 – hours negotiable – full time equivalent £21,575-£22,369**

We are seeking to appoint a hard-working Caretaker who wants to make a real difference in children's lives to join our team in September 2023. This is a fantastic opportunity for the right candidate to join our well-established and supportive team.

Application form and job description are available from our Business Manager Richard Graham. Contracted hours are negotiable, please contact the Business Manager to discuss. Please contact the school by emailing [sbm@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:sbm@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk) or calling 01993 812209.



## Safeguarding Children Updates:

### What to do if you have concerns about a child

If you have any concerns about a child relating to Safeguarding, please get in touch with one of our Safeguarding Leads immediately by contacting the school directly on 01993 812209 or by email [safeguarding@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk).

If you are unable to speak to a member of our Designated Safeguarding Team at school and have a safeguarding concern, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly who will be able to advise you.

**If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.**

### NSPCC Updates for Parents and Families

The NSPCC have updated some of their guidance on supporting children with mental health issues. Please follow the links to some very useful pages on their website.

**Child Mental Health:** click [here](#)

**The Safeguarding Network:** click [here](#)



## Our World



### Let's look at this week's story



Within the next ten years, people may be able to travel between London and Sydney in just two hours by journeying through space on a sub-orbital flight. The current length of a traditional flight between London, UK, and Sydney, Australia, is at least 20-22 hours and usually entails a stop-off to refuel along the way. A sub-orbital flight involves launching a spacecraft to an altitude above the Kármán line (the boundary of space).



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



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### UN Rights of a Child



If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



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### Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Having access to travel can help us learn more about people living in our world. Life is not the same for everyone and we should respect that.

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## Fun with the Hedgehog Club for all the family

Available to book on the website today:

### Sunday 25th June – International Mud Day Family session

Come and join us in Hailey Wood for lots of muddy fun and games. Fun for all ages from toddlers up to 12 years old. All children must come with an adult.

£15 per child including drinks and marshmallows on the fire.

10-12.30pm at Hailey Wood near Witney.

### Summer Holiday Activity Days 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 23rd and 24th August

These are full days for children aged 5-12 years old. 9.30am to 3.30pm with an early drop off/late pick available.

Full days of learning new skills, nature connection and campfire cooking.

£37 for a day, takes place at Hailey Wood near Witney.



### The Great Hedgehog Club Camp Out Wednesday 23rd August

Come and join us for a sleep over in the woods. Take part in night-time games and looking out for nocturnal wildlife.

For children aged 5-12 years. £37 a child, includes BBQ supper, breakfast and lunch for the next day.

Book your outdoor fun today at [www.thehedgehogclub.co.uk](http://www.thehedgehogclub.co.uk)

Any questions do get in touch with Mandy on [thehedgehogclub123@gmail.com](mailto:thehedgehogclub123@gmail.com)

## PTA NEWS

### Rounders Social - Friday 7th July from 5pm, Woodstock Football Field

Family-friendly, fully-inclusive & lots of fun. All families, teachers, staff, friends and dogs are very welcome to join us for a game of rounders. Pre-order a pizza and ice cream available or bring a picnic and enjoy an evening of games and fun! Fully licensed bar available.

Rounders Social Sign-Up Form: <https://forms.gle/RtXtAFcPuBnr3ma3A>

### Summer Festival - Sunday 17th September 1pm to 5pm, Marlborough School

Join us for 4 hours of controlled chaos and good times! We are so excited to be hosting a Summer Festival featuring 3 fully charged Super Pirates for all kids aged 3+. The afternoon of fun will include group games, extreme dodgeball, messy play, talent shows, challenges, glitter tattoos, inflatables, giant parachutes, party hairstyling, a sober bar and tuck shop, a star tent and family rave! All proceeds will go to PTA. Everything included in the ticket price except for glitter tattoos, hair styling, tuck shop and sober bars which are all subject to small additional charges. Wristbands will be available to collect from school the week before the event. This event is for children aged 3 and over.

Summer Festival Booking Form: <https://forms.gle/stBnWKLq2jTsJeQV6>

Family-friendly, fully-inclusive & lots of fun

## PTA ROUNDERS SOCIAL

All families, teachers, staff, friends and dogs very welcome to join us for a game of rounders. Pre-order a pizza and ice cream available or bring a picnic and enjoy an evening of games and fun!



7TH JULY FROM 5.00PM  
FIRST MATCH: 5.30  
THE FOOTBALL FIELD, WOODSTOCK  
ACCESS VIA NEW ROAD



WOODSTOCK PTA PRESENTS A SUPERPIRATES

## SUMMER FESTIVAL



JOIN US FOR 4 HOURS OF CONTROLLED CHAOS & GOOD TIMES

Featuring 3 fully charged SuperPirates

SUNDAY | SEPT 17

FROM 1PM | TO 5PM

OX20 1LP

Group games  
Extreme Dodgeball  
Messy Play  
Sober Bar & Tuck Shop

Talent Shows  
Full Play Area  
Challenges  
Glitter Tattoos

Star Tent & Family Rave  
Inflatables  
Giant Parachutes  
Party Hair-Styling

At Marlborough School,  
Shipton Road,  
OX20 1LP  
Parking on site available



Limited Tickets Available  
Scan The QR Code  
for more information  
& to book tickets

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

# Ready, Set, Read!

Get active this summer with a  
FREE children's reading challenge at  
your local Oxfordshire library!

**8 July to 9 September 2023**

Read library books and meet the  
Ready, Set, Read! friends, who are working together  
and using their skills to complete an obstacle course.

Finish the challenge and get your  
own medal and certificate!

Look out for fantastic new  
books and activities at your  
library!

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)  
[www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)



Illustrations by Louise Stanger and Lisa Jones for Little Puddings Agency 2023



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

### PREMATURE EXPOSURE

13+

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

### EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

### PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

### SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

### MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints – and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

### NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

### KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

### ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

### RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.

## Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site [grmw3.com](http://grmw3.com) and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the Immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



Sources: Grmw3.com, Vintag



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# HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD THROUGH THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SPORT

Be a positive sport role model for your child



Teach them to respect officials and opponents



Help them work towards their strengths



Be proud of your child's achievements



Praise their hard work and effort



Help them separate sport failure and personal failure



Support your child to have fun



Encourage and support them



Listen to what they have to say



Help them to learn from their mistakes



Don't put pressure on them



Let them play sport for their own reasons



Avoid instructing in games and training



Do not get angry with your child. Be patient



Understand their motivations to take part in sport



Don't coach them when playing sport



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