



Friday 12th June 2026

Our vision is 'Let your light shine'. The rainbow symbolises God's unconditional love for each individual. We seek to reflect that light in all we do: in our community, both local and wider, in our communication, both word and action, with curiosity and courage, and with care and compassion for everyone, inspiring a love of learning.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another very busy week in school for everyone with auditions for the Talent Show, information sessions for parents and curriculum enrichment opportunities across the school. Year One have been working hard in phonics and took their Phonics Screening Check this week. We are so proud of the progress the children have made and look forward to sharing the results with you soon.

Last week the children in Year Four took the Multiplication Check and this week the whole of Key Stage Two enjoyed a themed, 'Timestable Rockstars Day', where they had the opportunity to dress as 'rockstars' while participating in competitions and challenges to improve their multiplication fluency. They all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day and it was wonderful to see them so enthusiastic and engaged.



Year Six attended a special Leavers' Service at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford on Thursday. During the service, led by the Bishop of Buckingham, the children had the opportunity to reflect and friendships at primary school. They celebrated their primary school journey alongside 400 children from schools across the Diocese of Oxford. The theme of the service reminded them that, as they prepare for the transition to secondary school, God's light will continue to guide them, encouraging them to let their own unique gifts and talents shine in the years ahead.

This morning the whole-school enjoyed coming together for Collective Worship at St Laurence Church. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect and worship in the local church, further strengthening our community links. Our regular visits to St Laurence church are not just a tradition, but a way of living out our school identity, fostering spiritual growth, moral development and community connection.

I am delighted to announce that FOWS 'Break the Rules Day' before half term raised an amazing total of £474.61! The Country Dancing refreshments sales raised an additional £134. We are very grateful for your support with these fundraising events and the money will be used towards purchasing more class iPads for the children.

Thank you for your continued support – have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Samantha Dimbleby

Headteacher

Chess News

Why do we have a Top Girl Prize in School Chess Competitions?

The purpose of the award is simple: to encourage greater participation and confidence among girls in a game that has traditionally attracted more boys than girls.



Across the chess world, women remain underrepresented at all levels of competition. While the reasons for this are widely debated, many people believe that social and cultural factors play a significant role. As a result, chess organisations around the world have introduced initiatives designed to encourage more girls and women to take up the game and continue playing competitively.

During more than twenty years of teaching chess in six different schools, I have observed a similar pattern. In most chess clubs and classes, boys significantly outnumber girls. A typical group might contain twelve boys and four girls. When asked who they think will win a competition, girls will often nominate one of the boys rather than themselves, even when they are perfectly capable players.

For this reason, I have found that introducing a "Top Girl" prize can have a very positive effect. It gives girls an additional goal to aim for and encourages them to remain engaged throughout the competition. The award is earned on merit and often motivates participants to put in extra effort, improve their skills, and gain confidence in their abilities.

Importantly, the overall competition remains exactly the same. Every player competes for the main prizes, regardless of gender. The Top Girl prize simply provides additional recognition and encouragement for a group that is often underrepresented.

Over the years, I have seen many talented girls enjoy and excel at chess. One former pupil from Whitchurch Combined School won the overall competition outright against all competitors and went on to achieve considerable success in her professional career. Her example demonstrates that girls can be every bit as capable of succeeding at chess when given the opportunity and encouragement to develop their skills.

Popular culture has also helped challenge outdated stereotypes. Programmes such as the TV series *The Queen's Gambit* have introduced many young people to chess and highlighted the achievements of female players.

I also teach a lesson about the remarkable achievements of the Polgár sisters, particularly Judit Polgár, who became the strongest female chess player in history and demonstrated what can be achieved through dedication, training, and hard work.

While some may view a Top Girl prize as a form of positive discrimination, I believe that at school level its benefits outweigh any drawbacks. The award helps encourage participation, builds confidence, and ensures that more girls feel welcome in the game. Ultimately, the goal is not to separate boys and girls, but to create an environment in which every child feels motivated to take part and achieve their potential.

Mr McClellan

Child of the Week

All our children seek to 'Let their light shine' as they reflect our Christian values in their daily life. Many congratulations to the following children this week who have shone particularly brightly and been awarded 'Child of the Week':

Reception: Archie & Tommy
Year 1: Florence & Florence
Year 2: Lillie & Myla-Rose
Year 3: Margot & Baxter
Year 4: Willow & Willow
Year 5: Jorge & Frankie
Year 6: Holly & Sienna



Reader of the Week



Each week, teachers nominate a child who has shown fantastic effort and progress in their reading — whether through home reading, Accelerated Reader, phonics, or class work. Our *Readers of the Week* are celebrated in Collective Worship and also get to take home the Book Buddy Bag.

This week's Readers of the Week are: Hudson S, Carter M, Albert P, Freddie G, Georgie N, Henry F, Henry S, Millie B, Hector R, Bella C, Theo W, Rosie T

Well done to all our readers! Keep enjoying your books and sharing stories.

Attendance

Well done to 4VC who had the best whole class average attendance this week with 97.67%. Our average whole school attendance this week is 93.91%.

We understand that family holidays can often be more affordable and convenient during term time. However, schools are required to follow Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which states that holidays during term time should not be authorised except in truly exceptional circumstances.

Regular attendance is essential for children's learning, progress and wellbeing. Every day in school matters, and even a short absence can result in missed learning and make it harder for pupils to keep up with their classmates.

Parents and carers are expected to arrange family holidays during the designated school holiday periods. Requests for leave during term time will only be considered where exceptional circumstances can be evidenced and, in line with DfE guidance, holidays do not constitute exceptional circumstances. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting high levels of attendance for all pupils.

Accelerated Readers

The following classes have been awarded the Reading Bears this week for completing the most Accelerated Reader Quizzes:

2AA
3RE
4VK
5RS
6MP



FOWS



bottom of the page to be taken to the payment page). Cash payments will be accepted on the day but gifts will be subject to availability.

Don't forget FOWS will be selling ice-creams on the playground after school today.

FOWS are pleased to announce that the Father's Day/Someone Special gift sale is back! Children can select a secret gift on Friday 19th June for someone special on Father's Day. Payment can be made in advance no later than Friday 12th June using this [link](#) (scroll to the



Safeguarding

If you have a concern about a child please contact Mrs Samantha Dimbleby, Mrs Katie Epps or Miss Allen via the School Office on 01296 712296 or alternatively if out of school hours, weekends or holidays visit <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/> to report your concerns.

Mrs Samantha Dimbleby Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Mrs Katie Epps Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Miss Daisy Allen Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Child Protection Governor Mr David Shaw	

What can we do even better as a school?

If you have any comments or suggestions, please do get in contact with Mrs Dimbleby via the school office, or better still, come and chat to her at the start or the end of the day on the playground



Diary Dates

Please find below our summer term calendar of events for your immediate attention. This will be published on our school website and updated as appropriate over the coming weeks.

Date	Event	Year Group
wc Monday 15 th June	Refugee Week	Whole School
Thursday 18 th June	Reception Trip to Hogshaw Farm	Reception
Friday 19 th June	Year 2 Trip to Waddesdon Manor	Year Two
Friday 19 th June	FOWS – Father’s Day Sale	Whole school
Thursday 25 th June	EYFS and KS1 Church Worship with parents – St Laurence Church	Reception, Year One and Year Two
Thursday 25 th June	Winslow Pupil Talent Show	Whole School
Friday 26 th June	FOWS Mufti-Day	Whole School
Friday 26 th June (3:30pm – 5:30pm)	FOWS Summer Fayre	Whole School
Monday 29 th June	Water Safety Assembly	Whole School
Tuesday 30 th June	EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (am)	Rainbows, Reception, Year One and Year Two
Wednesday 1 st July	KS2 Sports Day – Y3 & Y4 (am), Y5 & Y6 (pm)	Year Three, Year Four, Year Five and Year Six
Friday 3 rd July	Pupil Fundraising Day	Whole School
Tuesday 7 th July	Whole School Transition Day	Whole School
Tuesday 7 th July (3:30pm)	Transition meeting for parents of children moving into Years 1, 3 and 5	Reception, Year Two and Year Four
Wednesday 8 th July (3:30pm)	Transition meeting for parents of children moving into Years 2, 4 and 6	Year One, Year Three and Year Five
Tuesday 7 th and Wednesday 8 th July	Y6 Buckinghamshire Transition Days	Year Six
Date TBC	Bridgebuilder – It’s Your Move Y6	Year Six
Friday 10 th July	End of year Reports to Parents	Whole School
Monday 13 th July	Y6 Production (Afternoon performance)	Year Six
Tuesday 14 th July	Y6 Production (Evening performance)	Year Six
Thursday 16 th July (9:00am)	Coffee Meeting for parents of SEND Children	Whole School
Monday 20 th July (Time TBC)	Y6 Leaver’s Service at St Laurence Church	Year Six
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last Day of Term	Whole School
SUMMER HOLIDAY Children return on Thursday 3 rd September 2026		

This Term’s Value is:

Love to learn

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance”

Proverbs 1:5

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE