



Radnor Road
Wallingford
Oxon OX10 0NY
Phone: 01491 836341
Headteacher: Marc Knight

Wednesday 4th June 2025

Dear Families,

We hope you are well. We are delighted the children are back in school and refreshed after the half term break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming partners from Style Acre into school tomorrow to lead an assembly on the work they do. They, like we, are hugely appreciative of the incredible £928 raised by our families who took part in the recent sponsored fun run. We also want to thank those parents who have contributed some items as we look to get Forest School provision up and running again. This is very much appreciated. Our Y6 pupils are working on their end of year extravaganza which is already starting to take shape! Over the next two weeks Y4 pupils will be undertaking some multiplication 'checks' – you can find out more about this national testing by clicking [here](#)

As we embark on the final few weeks of the academic year, We thought it might be helpful to jot down a few 'new term reminders' as well as some other important information.

Communicating with school

A reminder that your child's class teacher should be your first port of call for queries on any aspect of their education. This is because they spend 5 hours each day with your child and are best placed to respond. Teachers are supported by school leaders who include Miss Hutchings (Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Leader) and Miss Lloyd (Upper Key Stage 2 Phase Lead) and by me as Headteacher. A large number of emails come into school each day so we remind that you it may take up to 72 hours for you to receive a response.

Arrangements for the academic year 2025/2026

You will have seen the recent communication from ODST around the plans for our school to become a primary from September 2026. Preparatory work to convert existing classroom space to accommodate Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS Nursery and Reception) pupils will commence during the summer term. The bulk of the work is scheduled to take place from the autumn term, starting in earnest from the end of October 2025.

ODST and the project architects have identified the area of the school which currently accommodates our two Year 5 classrooms (Sycamore & Chestnut) for this work.

This means that while the majority of the work takes place, pupils who will be in Year 5 in September (current Maple and Ash classes) will be based in a modular building (comprising two classrooms and associated facilities) which will be situated on the edge of the playground.

ODST are planning on the basis that these pupils will start the year in one of the existing Y5 classrooms and will be based there for 8 school weeks until the October half term break. They will then move into the modular building from the start of term 2 (Tuesday 4th November 2025) until the end of the academic year (Thursday 16th July 2026). Our school has been assured that the children will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with these new surroundings before they 'move in'. It is also worth noting that this type of modular building provides a better learning environment than some of the older 'terrapin' style buildings we may remember from the past.

The area where the work will take place will be fenced off and ODST do not anticipate any changes to the way that families access the school site each day. It is also anticipated that the garden area will sadly be mothballed for an

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extended period of time. This area has been partly earmarked for the EYFS outside area. We will, of course, be in touch when there are further updates.

School leaders are currently working on the makeup of classes for September 2025 and these will be communicated to families well in advance of the end of term. Alongside this, your child will spend the day with their new teacher in their new classroom on Thursday 3rd July. You will receive your child's end of year report on Monday 14th July. Parents of pupils in Year 6 will receive a letter documenting your child's SATs results soon after they are published on Tuesday 8th July.

Reception/Nursery Admissions to Fir Tree 2026/27

Perhaps you, or someone you know, will be looking to secure a school place for a child who will be entering a Reception class in September 2026 or starting Nursery during the course of the academic year 2026/7. We will be welcoming prospective families into school for a tour and opportunity to ask school leaders any questions on the following dates:

Thursday 18th September 2025 (9.30-11am)

Thursday 2nd October 2025 (9.30-11am)

Thursday 16th October 2025 (9.30-11am)

Thursday 13th November 2025 (9.30-11am)

Since the work to convert the school will not be complete at this point, we will not be able to show prospective parents the Nursery and Reception classrooms, but we will be able to talk at length about our plans, as well as showing families drawings of the planned expansion work. Please contact the school office (office.2578@fir-tree.oxon.sch.uk) to secure a place on a tour.

It's also worth noting there will be some spaces available in Y3 along with a very small number in Y4 for September 2025. Please share this information with anyone you think may be interested.

Changes to pricing for school meals and wraparound provision

There will be some small price increases from September 2025.

As you may know, all schools are facing significant financial pressure. This can be attributed to a number of factors, including rising utility bills, a national decline in pupil numbers and the recent change to employer National Insurance contributions. These price increases will be used to help us directly meet the rising costs associated with operating the services/provision previously outlined. A breakdown of the increases can be seen in the table below:

	Current cost	Cost from September 2025
Breakfast Club session	£2.80	£3.50
Fir Tree Fun Time session	£12.50	£13
Cooked school meal	£2.60	£2.70

We understand that no one is immune from rising inflation and that is why the price increases are as small as we could manage within the constraints of our budget for the coming academic year.

We thank you for your understanding and for your continued support of our school.

With best regards,

Mr Knight and the school team.

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