



Dear Families,

I hope this update from school finds you well. At the time of writing, we are heading into the final few days of the first half term of the academic year. In recent weeks there have been parent tours taking place, involving families interested in choosing Fir Tree for their child. We have received positive feedback from many of those people who visited us, with many commenting on the warm relationships and calm and purposeful environment they experienced.

As you know, we are planning on the basis of there being a Reception class at Fir Tree from September 2026 – you will have noted that building work to prepare for this is now underway. Parents/Carers of children currently in Y1 or Y2 at St Nicholas have been contacted with information on how they can apply for a place in Y2 or Y3 at Fir Tree in September 2026. Since these pupils are currently on roll at St Nics, any queries need to be directed there.

Please contact the school if you or if someone you might know is interested in securing a Reception place with us. There is a tour scheduled for Thursday 13th November (9.30-11am) – please contact the school office to let us know if you plan on attending.

Our Y5 pupils will, after half term, be based in the new modular building which many of you will have seen when you arrive at or leave the site. The children all got to have a look at this space and are very excited, especially when they heard the structure has air conditioning in both classrooms! On the subject of structures and the school site, you will have noted that unfortunately, 2 pieces of wooden playground equipment have been condemned and can no longer be used. Thankfully, our fantastic band of PTA volunteers are planning on raising funds to eventually purchase replacements. This is medium/long term aim, since such structures are more expensive than you might imagine.

This term we have been focusing on the value of respect. Next term, we will be focusing on kindness. Please ask your child to talk to you about the work we have done, especially in assemblies, on this.

A reminder that Monday 3rd November is an INSET day so school is closed for pupils. We look forward to welcoming you back into school on Tuesday 4th November at the usual time. We are working through the process of establishing term dates for the academic year 2026/27 and will be in touch once this process is completed.

The autumn term ends for the Christmas holidays at 14.15 on Friday 19th December. The spring term starts for pupils on Tuesday 6th January 2026!

Please don't forget to contact us if your child has accomplished something special outside of school – we would love to share this news in a future newsletter!

We hope you have a relaxing and peaceful half term break.

Warm regards

Mr Knight and the school team

A big shout out to Ivy in year 4 for achieving her 50 metre swimming certificate.

Well done!



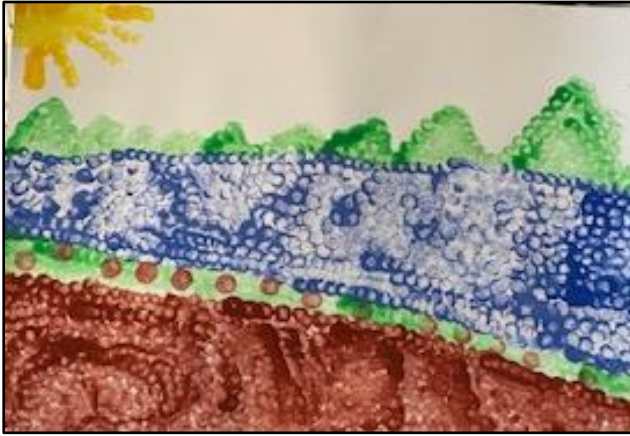
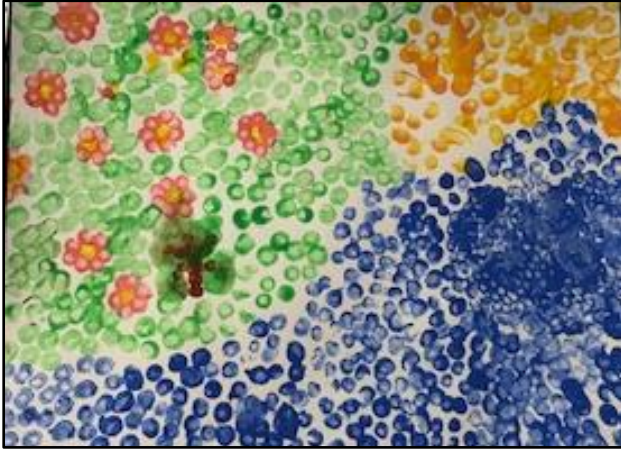
Huge thanks to Polly in year 4 who has been an amazing help in the mornings by organising the harvest donations. She showed great attention to detail making sure that all donations were in date and neatly stacked. Thank you 😊

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News from Ash – Year 4

In Ash Class, we have been learning about Georges Seurat's art movement called Pointillism. Each child has created a river nature scene inspired by Seurat's work. Using paint and cotton buds, each dot was carefully positioned on the page near each other but not touching so when the painting is shown at a distance, the dots become a full image.



Inspired by Claude Monet, we focused on drawing the same picture but changed the colours to show change of day or season. This focused on changes of light and how to portray this in a range of colours. We used water colours to create our artwork.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 24 th October	End of term 1 – 3:15pm finish
27 th – 31 st October	Half term
Monday 3 rd November	ODST INSET Day – School closed
Tuesday 4 th November	Term 2 begins
Friday 7 th November	Non-uniform Day PTA RAFFLE PRIZE
17 th to 21 st November	Travelling Book Fair in school
Thursday 20 th November	NCMP – Year 6
24 th – 27 th November	Y6 Bikeability – Group 1
Friday 28 th November	PTA Christmas Craft Fayre
1 st – 3 rd December	Y6 Bikeability – Group 2

News from Chestnut – Year 5

Tudor Bread Baking

We used our DT and Maths skills to help us create Tudor Bread. These were some of the skills we feel we learned:

- Accurately weighing 110g of flour and 50g of caster sugar using scales
- Using fractions to measure the cinnamon ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a teaspoon)
- Using estimation to divide the dough into 5 equal pieces ($\frac{1}{5}$)



Tudor Rose Making

- We loved working with clay to create our Tudor Roses and showed lots of resilience. We had to carefully sculpt the main flower shape and repeat this for the upper petals; after attaching these together we used tools to add details and textures to the finished roses.



News from Maple – Year 4

It's been a busy and exciting term in Maple Class. In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about river animals, linking our work to our geography curriculum. The children have learned all about the structure and language features needed to write clear and informative reports. They particularly enjoyed researching and making notes on their chosen river creatures—our classroom has been buzzing with fascinating facts!

In Maths, we've been exploring measures, including distance, capacity, and mass. The children had great fun estimating and measuring different features around the school and playground—plenty of teamwork and hands-on learning. As part of our Science curriculum, we've been investigating states of matter. One of our highlights was creating "the water cycle in a bag" to observe evaporation, condensation, and precipitation in action. It's been wonderful to see the children making real-world connections between our science and geography topics.

The children have also impressed us with their incredible homework projects on rivers—so much creativity and enthusiasm on display.

In PE, we've been developing our netball skills, building up to full games. There are definitely some budding netball stars in Maple Class.

It's been a fantastic start to the new school year, and we're so proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm the children have shown. We're now looking forward to a well-earned break and an exciting Term 2 ahead!

News from Silver Birch – Year 6

Who killed King Duncan? Silver Birch enjoyed hot seating the main characters from Macbeth to see if they could find out more information about the tragic death of the King of Scotland. Hot seating is commonly used in drama to help actors understand a character more deeply. Firstly, we thought about the difference between open and closed questions. Our guests were put through their paces as they had to answer questions while in character. After interviewing those present at the scene of crime, we wrote newspaper articles to inform the people of Scotland that there was a traitor in their midst. What next for Scotland? All will be revealed...



News from Year 3

We've really been enjoying our science lessons this term. Recently, we had the opportunity to explore a fascinating collection of rocks provided by the British Geological Society. It was wonderful to have a hands on experience where we could touch, examine, and compare different types of rocks. Using hand lenses, we observed their textures and features up close and learnt how to group rocks based on their properties by making careful scientific observations. To deepen our understanding, we carried out a series of tests to investigate characteristics such as durability, permeability, and how the rocks react to acid (vinegar). Through these experiments, we were able to identify similarities between different rocks and recognise the features that make each type unique.

We discovered some fascinating facts — for example, halite is used in cooking, and marble was widely used by the ancient Greeks and Romans to create beautiful buildings and sculptures. Many children were especially intrigued by the shiny, glass-like obsidian!

Here are some of their wonderful reflections:

"I liked seeing all the rocks. My favourite was the one that was pink and looked like a crystal." Tejiri

"The obsidian was my favourite, it's so shiny and looks expensive. I recognised it from Minecraft!" Benjamin

"I enjoyed seeing the rocks, learning the names, feeling the rocks and seeing them close up. They were all different colours. It was really fun! Niamh

I really liked the shelly limestone because of its shape and colour. I've never seen anything like it before!" Bella

'Obsidian was my favourite rock. It's really smooth and dark." Teddy

"I liked the marble because it was really cool with small crystals that looked like sugar."





15 October 2025

Mr M Knight
Fir Tree Junior School,
Radnor Road,
Wallingford, OX10 0NY

Dear Mr Knight,

I write on behalf of the Wallingford food bank to thank your students, parents and staff for the donations received yesterday.

We are so grateful that the community at Fir Tree Junior school continues to support us in this way, especially as we are seeing, yet again, significant increases in requests for food from local families.

You have all been wonderfully generous. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Alice Penney
Manager

Sports News

What an incredible afternoon of football for the Fir Tree girls! We entered two teams into the tournament at Wallingford, and both were absolutely brilliant from start to finish.

The girls were split into different groups, and both teams played some fantastic football. Fir Tree Team 2 battled hard in a really tough group, showing amazing teamwork, skill, and determination. It was incredibly close, but they just missed out on getting through, though they should be very proud of how well they played!

Fir Tree Team 1 stormed through their group and made it all the way to the semi-finals. In what was a very dominant display, Fir Tree played some exciting football - so much so that the other team could barely get out of their own half! Chance after chance came and went, but somehow the ball just didn't want to go in the back of the net. After a nail-biting penalty shoot-out, the girls were really unlucky to go out, but their performance was absolutely outstanding.

Both teams were amazing all afternoon, every single player gave it their all and showed what Fir Tree spirit is all about.



News from Cherry – Year 6

This term, Cherry Class have been diving into the world of *Macbeth*! We've been exploring the story in lots of creative ways - from writing newspaper reports to performing Macbeth-inspired raps and more.

Linking to our Scottish theme, we've also been learning about the **Scottish thistle** and using it as inspiration for some beautiful artwork. Did you know that the thistle became the national flower of Scotland because, according to legend, a group of Viking invaders once stood on a patch of thistles in the night - their cries of pain gave away their position and saved the Scots from attack!

Here are some of our fantastic thistle creations - we hope you enjoy them!



Forest

We are excited that our forest sessions will be starting again soon. We would welcome any of donations of the following please.

- Shells
- Nails
- Screws
- String
- Utensils
- Hammer
- Wool
- Pots and Pans
- Rope
- Crayons



Friday 7th November – Non-uniform Day

You are welcome to send your child in sensible non-uniform on this day in exchange for a raffle prize/donation for our upcoming Christmas Fayre

News from Sycamore – Year 5

Sycamore have been working towards their newspaper reports. In order to recount the events happening in Hamlet, we have interviewed characters ready to gather ideas for our direct speech. This involved 'hot seating' and carrying out our own interview room. We have also started to use a range of sentence starting techniques to create some brilliant descriptive paragraphs of key events.





Values – Respect

In our PSHE lesson, we were exploring choices and consequences in group discussion through various made up scenarios.

In one example, a girl was angry and cross with another girl over a difference of opinion. She wanted to scream, shout and hurt her. What could she do? So many good ideas were suggested but one that really stood out to Mrs Hall and I was something Victoria said. Her suggestion was, "I disagree with you but I respect your opinion." This is a brilliant example of our school value of respect which we are thinking a lot about this term not only in assemblies but in our classrooms too.

Mrs Giles

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

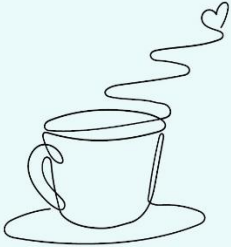

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.

TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR :

[WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/HWY/](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involvement/oxon/hwy/)

Spooky Science
Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 October
Join us for some spooky science: make a bubbling witches brew, create ogre slime and more!
60 minute workshop. Timed slots available.
Suitable for ages 5-11

Modroc Mummies
Wednesday 29 October
Learn how to make your very own Egyptian mummy to take home!
60 minute workshop. Timed slots available.
Suitable for ages 5-11

Let's Get Creative: Autumn Art
Thursday 30 October
Experiment with clay and paint to create a piece of art to take home!
10am - 3pm, drop in. Suitable for ages 3-11

Trick or Treat
Friday 31 October
Trick or Treat in one of the oldest buildings in Aylesbury this Halloween!
Timed slots. Suitable for ages 3-11

Play, Discover, Learn!
this October Half Term
in the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Enjoy our spooky Trail on everyday 25 October - 2 November

Creepy Doll Hunt
Friday 31 October
Visit the museum after dark this Halloween for our very first Creepy Doll Hunt: explore one of the oldest buildings in Aylesbury by torchlight and discover the haunted dolls hidden throughout the museum.
From 6pm, timed slots. Suitable for ages 10+



I Grew Up 90s
25 October 2025 - 22 February 2026

Take a trip back to the decade that defined a generation! Step into the 1990s with over 200 iconic objects and artworks celebrating the toys, films, TV, music, games and fashion that made the decade unforgettable.

Opens for October Half Term!



Discover Bucks Museum
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
discoverbucksmuseum.org




Join Mildred the Witch who will lead children on a magical adventure!!
For ages 5-11 at 3pm in our function room



HALLOWEEN Disco

31.10.2025 The George Hotel Wallingford
Free Entry all day including children - Adults only from 9pm
Silent Disco from 10pm
£5 cash deposit for headphones