



February 2026

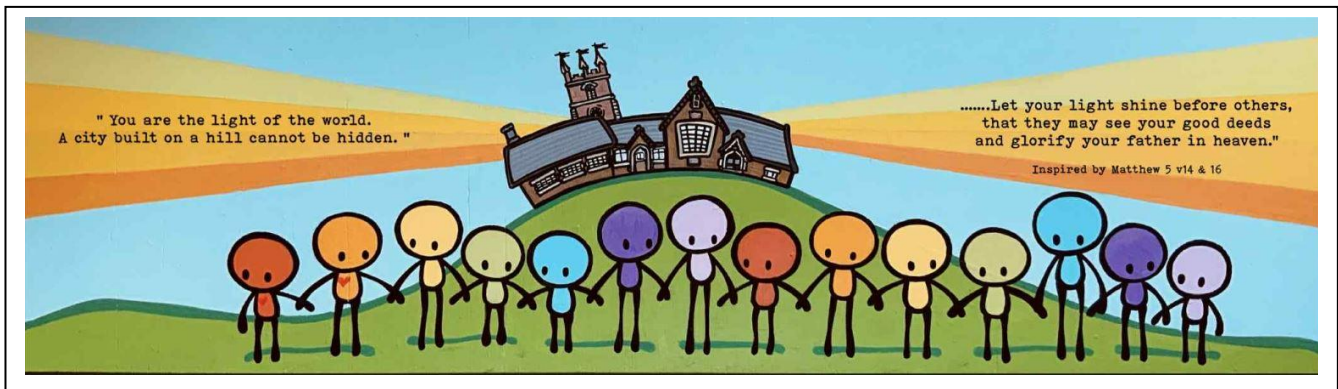


Deddington Church of England Primary School Newsletter

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5: 14 and 16*

At Deddington, we create an inclusive, nurturing and caring community, empowering each other to **let our light shine**, through **INSPIRING** and supporting each other, **BELIEVING** in ourselves and others and **ACHIEVING** together.



At Deddington, our vision *"Inspire, Believe, Achieve... let your light shine"* lies at the heart of everything we do. We believe every child has their own unique light—their strengths, their character, and their potential—and our role is to nurture and celebrate this.

Rooted in the words from Matthew 5:14 & 16, *"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others,"* this message encourages our children to recognise their value and to use their gifts to positively impact those around them.



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Inspiring

We aim to spark curiosity and excitement in learning, helping children feel motivated to try new things and discover what they love.

Believing

We help children believe in themselves and others, fostering confidence, kindness and resilience. Everyone has something special to offer, and we celebrate these differences.

Achieving

Achievement looks different for every child, and we recognise success in all its forms—academic progress, personal growth, friendships, creativity and acts of kindness.

By working together as a supportive community, we help each child grow into a confident, caring individual who knows their light matters. Thank you for being partners with us in helping our children shine brightly.

SPIRITUALITY AT DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

What is Spirituality?

As a staff and governor team, we have agreed on the definition of spiritual development in our school community to support us as we talk about spirituality.

Spirituality is about how we experience life and therefore, how we live our own lives. It is also about our relationship with ourselves, others, the world and with faith. We believe it gives us the confidence to reflect, ask questions and challenge in many ways, searching for meaning. It reminds us that we are all valued and all unique.

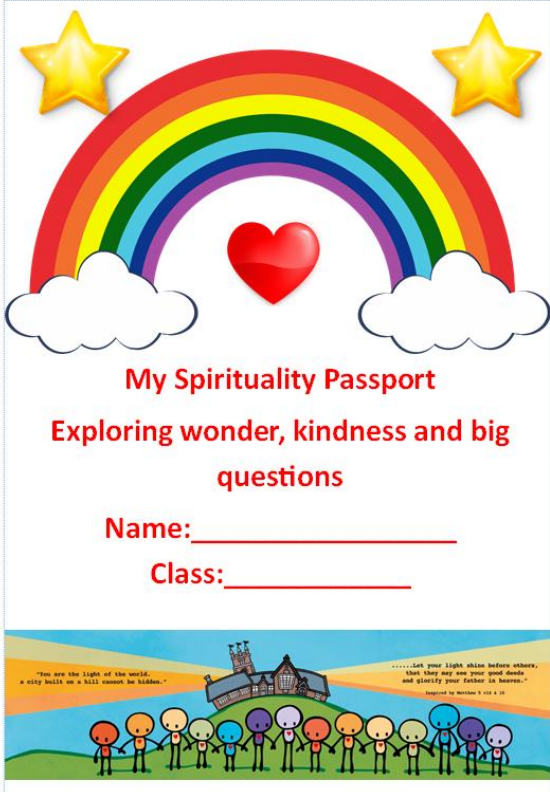
Spiritual development is shown by our:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform our perspective on life and our interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values.
- A sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about ourselves, others and the world around us, including the intangible.
- Use of imagination and creativity in our learning.
- Willingness to reflect on our experiences.

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Each child will be bringing home a Spirituality Passport. Each week there are 4 sections to complete at home about the special things/moments that you might share.



My Spirituality Passport
Exploring wonder, kindness and big questions

Name: _____
Class: _____

"You are the light of the world. a city built on a hill cannot be hidden."
.....Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."
Inspired by Matthew 5: 14 & 16

<u>Week 1</u>	
<u>Wonder moment-what amazed you this week?</u>	<u>Kindness tracker-How did you show kindness this week?</u>
<u>Big Question-What's something you've been thinking about?</u>	<u>Reflection box-draw or write something that made you feel peaceful, proud or curious</u>

How can we develop Spirituality at home together?

1. Notice and talk about beautiful things in nature or everyday life.
2. Encourage your child to ask questions even the big ones.
3. Share stories that explore kindness, courage, and wonder.
4. Create quiet moments for reflection, like bedtime chats or nature walks.
5. Celebrate acts of kindness and talk about how we care for others
6. Explore different beliefs and cultures with curiosity and respect.
7. Keep a family 'Wonder Journal' to write or draw special moments together
8. Complete your Spirituality passport.

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COMING SOON: Spirituality at Deddington video on our website. Link to follow!

A recent spirituality focus across the school was to think of ordinary items or experiences that are actually extraordinary. Mr Evans spoke about beautiful snowdrops around school and the local area as well as daffodils, reminding us that brighter days are hopefully ahead. This explains why there have been daffodil stems on his window sill and some children have been checking them!



Food in school

A gentle reminder about food coming into school to ensure it is nut-free as we have noticed some Kinder Beuno being popped into lunch boxes. These contain hazlenuts and must not be sent into school. Other items easily missed include pesto (cashews), chocolate spread (almost all contain hazelnut even when labeled as chocolate spread), oaty-style snack bars as these often contain a sprinkling of nuts. As you pack lunches, it's a good idea to check labels so as not to get caught out by recipe updates.

For healthy food choices, the NHS website has some great lunch box suggestions which you might like to try [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS](#).

The Greening Project

We are excited to be working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, in their 'Green Infrastructure in Schools Pilot Study'. This aims to use nature-based solutions to create healthier learning environments by seeking to reduce exposure to air pollution, reduce road traffic noise for pupils and staff and increase biodiversity within our outdoor spaces.

As you will have noticed by the yellow wire cage around the air quality sensor on the Banbury Road, phase 1 has started with collecting air quality data both outside the school and within the school boundary.

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Over half term, planters will be installed in the car park area adjacent to the astro-turf. April will involve children planting-up the planters supported by staff, parents and the County Council. Whilst the plants will start small, they will soon grow to provide more shade on the astro-turf and increase biodiversity with a variety of plants that will support wildlife and pollinators. Year 5 will also take part in an Air Quality Workshop in April.

F1

In F1 we have been busy exploring all the extraordinary things we see and do every day. We discussed how sometimes the small things that we do each day with our friends are special and extraordinary. We thought about how we showed friendship and kindness to both those around us but also to the natural world. Our adventures in the Forest with Miss Deacon have helped us to explore these wonderful moments and appreciated the world around us.

We were very excited to see our new school vision board displayed proudly in our classroom. The installation of this prompted lots of discussion about what they could see in the picture – the different people holding hands, the heart on their chest symbolising love and friendship, the hill with the school standing on top. The children noticed the church behind the school, and we talked about how important the school and church were to our community.

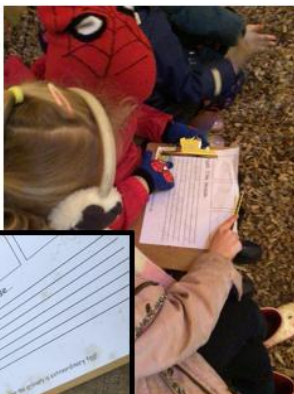
When asked if there was anything else they spotted, Indigo's response shone out - "There is light bursting out from the school!"

F1 are constantly letting their light shine in their positive attitude to their learning journey. We are looking forward to exploring and learning even more together and shining our lights!

Year 1



1. We read the book 'Extraordinary' and reflected on our wonderful world.
2. We went to Forest School to explore the 'ordinary' and notice what makes it 'extraordinary'.
3. Using reciprocity and supporting each other, we drew and wrote our thoughts on paper.
4. We went to the yurt to 'check' our writing and correct any mistakes.
5. We listened to each other sharing our sentences in loud, clear voices.



6. This then led to continued discussion in class about what 'spirituality' means to us...
7. Our 'blue rainbow challenge' was to draw our thoughts.



Year 2

In Year 2, we have been reflecting on the idea that the ordinary can often be extraordinary. We discussed how, in our busy daily lives, we sometimes take simple yet beautiful moments for granted. The children shared examples such as listening to birds tweeting, feeling a warm summer breeze, sharing kindness, and offering a simple smile. These moments helped us think about how our school vision, "Let Your Light Shine," can be lived out every day. We agreed that small acts, like holding the door open for someone or showing kindness to a friend, are wonderful ways of shining our light. We also recognised that larger acts, such as helping to raise money for charity, can be truly extraordinary and have a powerful impact on others. Our discussions also led us to think about recycling and why it is so important to care for our world, recognising that small, everyday choices can make a big difference to the environment. This inspired links with our English learning, where we have been enjoying writing our own stories with an environmental message, just like the book *Somebody Swallowed Stanley*. Through these reflections, Year 2 have been

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learning that both small and big actions help to make our school, community and planet a brighter, kinder place.

Year 3

This term, Year 3 have found the extraordinary in the ordinariness of soils in their Science lessons. They have had great fun 'making' their own soils to identify the differences between clay soils, sandy soils and peaty soils - making the peaty one was very exciting as it involved adding rotting leaves to the mix! They have also enjoyed sieving to explore soil composition and making soil (mud) drawings and paintings.



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed many extraordinary moments within our ordinary days. We have particularly enjoyed practical, physical and outdoor learning moments. We have loved marvelling at the ordinariness of mountains and been excited to learn about myriad volcanoes, their beauty and their explosiveness. A particular highlight of the term has been the creativity and sharing of volcano projects from drawings, paintings and PowerPoints through to Scratch coding, modelling clay, Lego, recycling put to good use and even a volcano made from cake. Some depicted living near a volcano, others were full of delicate touches or glitter and sparkle.

We thought we would also share a picture of us having fun making extraordinary creations using ordinary items (recycling) during our Greek Day.

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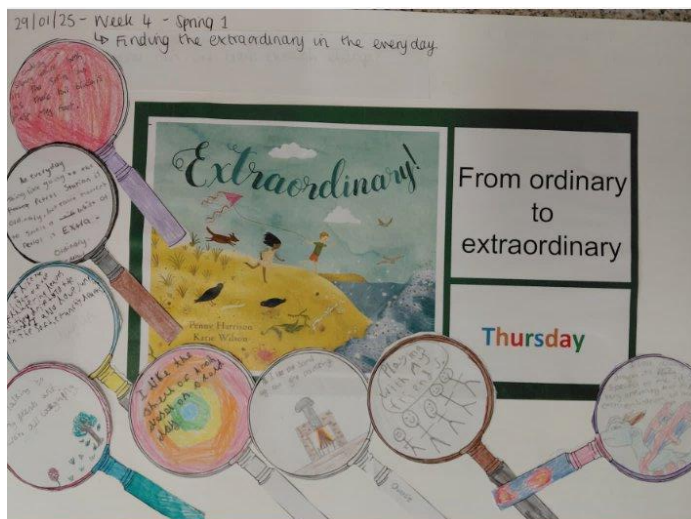
Year 5

In year 5, we have been reflecting on finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. As a result of reading 'Extraordinary' by the author Penny Harrison, we thought about our own lives, and how when we 'zoom in' on things that we normally take for granted, they can actually be pretty extraordinary! We especially focused on appreciating nature and spending time outdoors, including in our forest school area, where we noticed how the changing sounds and colours of the seasons can be extraordinary when we take the time to look closely.

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We also talked about the importance of spending quality time with family and friends, and how simple, everyday moments can become special when we stop, notice, and truly appreciate them.

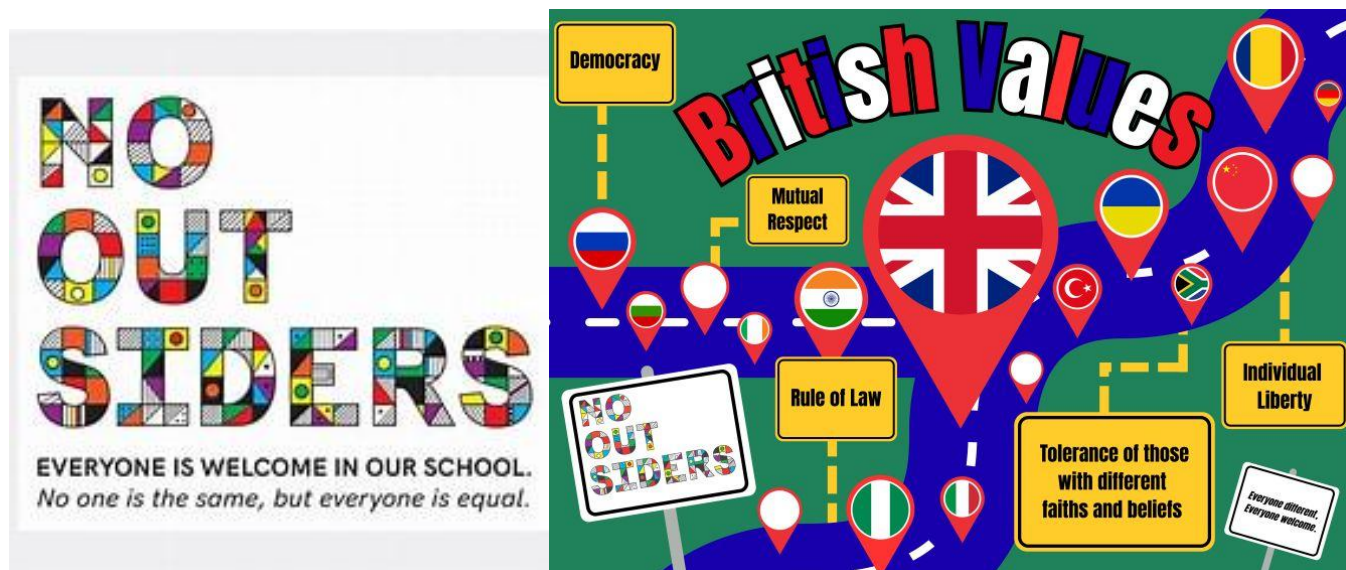


Year 6

In Year 6, our 'Extraordinary' journey allowed us to reflect upon those special moments in our lives. Some of these moments have been as simple as a time that we spent chilling with our family at home. Some of these moments were bigger, thinking about a special holiday experience. Some of us thought about the lovely moments in our outdoor learning sessions that have brought the curriculum alive, making potions in the woods and painting with mud. Year 6 love the chance to get creative and shared some of those moments in our discussion. We love the idea of being able to show our skills in other things apart from lessons. Eva has had an extraordinary moment in that she has been published in 'The Week Junior', sharing her favourite books on her bookshelf. We look forward to many more extraordinary moments this year.

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This academic year, we have a new addition to the way we deliver Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship (PSHE) lessons, our teaching of British values and our drive to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

The No Outsiders programme promotes an ethos of inclusion and aims to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. The programme is specifically designed to teach children about 'difference' and their rights and responsibilities under the 2010 Equality Act, which is British law.

Classes learn about the rich diversity and differences that make up our school and the world in which we all live. The No Outsiders scheme uses carefully chosen stories and picture books, and through assemblies which deal with diversity and difference in a sensitive and age-appropriate way.

The programme focuses on teaching pupils that we are all different, and that it is okay to be different. We can still respect each other even if we have different ideas. In a no outsiders lesson, children are encouraged to voice their different opinions, to listen and to consider if they "agree" or "disagree".

No Outsiders teaches pupils to develop their own opinions and how to agree and disagree with others respectfully. No Outsiders is an ethos of tolerance, respect, understanding and embracing difference. Lessons do not indoctrinate pupils or encourage them to question their identity, religious beliefs gender or sexuality.

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No Outsiders lessons do not focus in on any one of the protected characteristics at any one time. For example, there isn't a lesson on race, or religion or being disabled or gay. Instead, each of the books have characters that are different in many ways, children will be taught that even with these differences, we can be respectful, kind and co – exist. What makes Deddington CE Primary school a great place to be is that we are all different and we all work together: There are No Outsiders here!

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, Emilia in year 5 created a poem at home.

This is my place, wild and free and I belong here.

This is my place where my imagination grows.

This is my place where I believe in anyone.

This is my place where everyone is included in our school community!



Sports News

Bowls Enrichment Sessions at Woodgreen Leisure Centre

This term, a group of pupils from Years 5 and 6 were selected to attend two enrichment mornings at Woodgreen Leisure Centre, where they were introduced to the sport of bowls. The sessions provided a wonderfully calm and engaging experience, supported by dedicated members of the local community who generously volunteered their time to coach our pupils.

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Both the children and the adult coaches commented on how much they enjoyed the opportunity. Several pupils will now be returning in March to represent the school in a friendly competition against other local schools.

Although many arrived feeling apprehensive, the pupils quickly grew in confidence. They demonstrated great courage, determination, and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones as they embraced a new skill and hobby.

Banbury Bowling Club runs an after-school academy on Tuesdays at Woodgreen Leisure Centre for anyone who may wish to continue exploring the sport.

Sports Hall Athletics Success at The Warriner

This term, all children in Years 5 and 6 attended one of three Sports Hall Athletics tournaments held at The Warriner School. Pupils were selected for each event following an intra-school competition that took place during their PE lessons last term.

During the tournaments, pupils participated in a range of assigned track and field events. On 15th January, Team Awesome competed against local schools within The Warriner cluster and achieved an outstanding first place, winning an impressive 17 out of 24 events. Team Brilliant competed on the 22nd and secured an excellent second place, also finishing first in a number of races and field disciplines. And finally, on 5th February, the festival team were given the opportunity to explore all the events in a relaxed and fun environment. The School Games value for the event was self-belief, encouraging students to recognise their strengths and embrace new challenges demonstrating determination and resilience.

The children have been working incredibly hard on developing their agility in PE, and this was demonstrated superbly throughout the competitions. Their enthusiasm and determination was evident, and the smiles on their faces truly lit up the hall. Mrs Barrell and Miss Deacon are extremely proud of every one of them.

Intra-School and Wade Gymnastics Competition

This term, we held an intra-school gymnastics competition for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 who wished to be considered for a place at the upcoming competition at Wade Gymnastics Club on 10th February. There were 12 places available in total, with three pupils selected to represent each level from 1 to 4.

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We were delighted with the level of interest shown, with an impressive 35 children putting themselves forward. The dedication, focus and effort demonstrated on the mats was wonderful to see, and the standard throughout was exceptionally high.

A huge well done to all pupils who took part. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Millie B, who achieved Gold at Level 4, and to Millie, Erin and Lena, who secured Gold as the Level 4 team.

We are incredibly proud of all competitors for their hard work and commitment.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

This term has been full of excitement and hands-on experiences in Outdoor Learning across the school!

- **Year 2** have been exploring plants and investigating light and dark through practical outdoor activities.
- **Year 3** have delved into fossils and conducted soil-based science experiments.
- **Year 6** have focused on art outdoors, developing skills in sketching and experimenting with macro photography.
- **Year 4** have been busy measuring and comparing perimeter, as well as exploring how sound travels in different environments.
- **Year 5** created powerful sculptures inspired by climate change and its effects on our planet.
- **Year 1** enjoyed designing and building different types of houses, inspired by *The House That Jack Built*, using loose parts and natural materials in the forest area.

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After school, our Forest School Club has been absolutely buzzing with adventure! Children have been whittling like woodland craftsmen, striking sparks with flint and steel, creating adorable mini bird feeders, and—of course—finishing it all off by toasting delicious marshmallows around the campfire!



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Important Dates.

Dates will be added in future newsletters.

Parent Consultation meetings. A letter will be sent home a fortnight before these meetings.

Tuesday 24th March 2026 – 3.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 26th March 2026 – 3.30pm to 5pm

Term Dates

Spring half term holiday 16th February 2026 – 20th February 2026

Term 4 23rd February 2026 – 27th March 2026

Easter holiday 30th March 2026 – 10th April 2026

Term 5 13th April 2026 – 22nd May 2026

Late Spring half term holiday 25th May 2026 – 29th May 2026

Term 6 1st June 2026 – 17th July 2026

INSET Day

20th July 2026 – the last day of the school year for children will be Friday 17th July 2026

Enjoy the February half term, especially if you plan to make pancakes together on Shrove Tuesday!

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Magical Maths is coming to Deddington Primary School!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Professor Poopenshtinken and his friends will be coming to **Deddington Primary School** to introduce a brand new after school club, designed to show your children just how much fun can be had with numbers!

Our fantastic after school clubs will help to boost your child's engagement and enjoyment in maths through really fun and challenging games, tricks and activities.

This **10 week club** begins **Tuesday 21st April** for **KS1 pupils** and is priced at just **£80.00**. To find out more or to book your child's place, visit our website www.magicalmathsclub.com or call us on **07960411706** but hurry as places are limited!

*We look forward to welcoming your children
for lots of Mathemagical fun!*



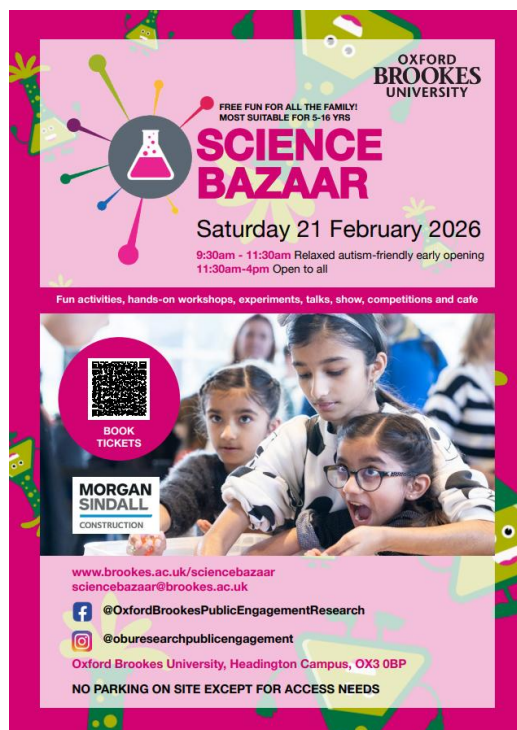
Brand New This Year:

Magical Maths Online is now **FREE** with every booking! Don't miss out on over 260 hours of interactive content designed to compliment our after school clubs and continue the fun and learning from home!

www.magicalmathsclub.com
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OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY


FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR


Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all


Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe





BOOK TICKETS



MORGAN SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION



www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

 @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch
 @oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

Meet the Author, at Adderbury Library

Sue Palmer

Join Sue Palmer as she introduces her new book for children, *The Shell Secret*, an adventure/mystery, inspired by the beaches, caves and rock pools of Cornwall and provides a fun and engaging 90 minute workshop.



Monday 16th February

10:30am - 12pm

£5 per child (7-12 year-olds)
accompanied by an adult

Tickets are available at Adderbury Library

Sue will read from her story,
challenge you to a coastal quiz (with prizes),
tell stories of WWII, Falmouth and her family,
and show you how to make your own quirky shell
creatures.



Finishing with a book signing at the
end...



FOCAL
Friends of the Community of
Adderbury Library