

"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 v14 & 16



INSPIRE. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

DEDDINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



OCTOBER 2026

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Headteacher's Blog

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year. The children have settled into their classes so well, showing kindness, enthusiasm and a growing confidence in their learning. I am especially proud of the warm welcome they have given our new pupils and families.

Across the school, children are enjoying a rich range of opportunities, from practical science investigations and creative writing to music, sport and outdoor learning. Our Fairtrade Fortnight celebrations were another lovely example of pupils learning together, sharing ideas and letting their light shine.

Thank you to staff and families for your continued support. I look forward to celebrating the children's achievements as they build on this positive start.

Mr Evans

Key Reminders

- Doors and gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.55am.
- Lesson 1 starts at 8.45am. Please ensure your children arrive at 8.40am.
- Term-time holidays are not normally authorised. Unauthorised absence may lead to a penalty notice, including 10 sessions (usually five days) within 10 school weeks.
- Our attendance target is at least 96%. Please support your child to attend regularly throughout the school year.

Every school day matters!

Please ensure all items of clothing are named. Many unnamed items are being left around the school site, and it is not possible to return them to their owner if they are not named.

Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat in school for the changeable weather and is prepared for Forest School: Years 3 and 4 every Monday, Years 1 and 2 every Tuesday, and Years 5 and 6 every Wednesday.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Highlighted dates are newly added dates.

Friday 16th October

Celebrating Reading Miles in assembly

Tuesday 20th October

Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 22nd October

Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 5pm

Sunday 1st November

PTA Fireworks Display & BBQ

Friday 6th November

Sharing assembly for achievements outside of school

Friday 13th November

PTA Dare to Dress Differently Day

Tuesday 17th November

Open morning for prospective parents

Thursday 19th November

Open morning for prospective parents

Friday 4th December

Christmas Jumper Day and PTA Christmas Fair in the hall from 3.30pm

Tuesday 8th December

F1/F2 Nativity in the church from 2pm

Wednesday 9th December

KS1 Nativity in the church from 4.30pm

Thursday 10th December

KS2 Carol Service in the Church from 6pm

Friday 11th December

Celebrating Reading Miles in assembly

Friday 12th February

PTA Valentine's Cake Sale

Friday 26th February 2027

PTA School Disco

Tuesday 16th March

Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 18th March

Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 5pm

Thursday 25th March

PTA Smarties Challenge

Sunday 16th May

PTA Four Farms Challenge — Run & BBQ

Saturday 12th June

PTA Summer Fete & BBQ

Wednesday 21st July

Year 6 Leavers' Service in the church from 9.30am

Fairtrade Fortnight

Let your light shine through Fairtrade



We had a wonderful time celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight at school. We had lots of fun on the playground hunting for the Fairtrade logo, then using chalk to draw the logo and all things Fairtrade.

In class, we enjoyed learning about and exploring Fairtrade through lots of fun activities. The Fairtrade group was very busy too, leading two assemblies. For the second, banana-themed assembly, the pupils dressed as bananas and handed out bananas to all the teachers, including Mr Evans!

Our learning inspired some amazing creations in the poster competition. The winning entries below perfectly capture our school vision of "Let Your Light Shine" through Fairtrade. Well done, everyone!

Our winning Fairtrade posters



Ethan — Year 6



Arthur — Year 1

A heartfelt thank you

Our sincere thanks to Mrs Winand and our outstanding Fairtrade group of pupils for their enthusiasm, creativity and hard work in making Fairtrade Fortnight such a success.

The Deddington Fairtrade Team

Where the Wild Things Are

At the end of this term, we will be holding an Arts Week inspired by Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*. From Friday 16th October until the end of term, each class will use the book as inspiration for art, design, creative writing, outdoor learning and Forest School.

We hope to share some of the wonderful work the children have created on screen at the parent consultation evenings the following week.

On Wednesday 21st October, we invite children to dress up as their own Wild Thing. We will celebrate our work together as a whole school and create a "Wild Rumpus" in the playground!

You do not have to dress up as a character from the book. Use your imagination and become your own unique Wild Thing!

We look forward to a week full of imagination, creativity and wild adventures!





Outdoor Learning

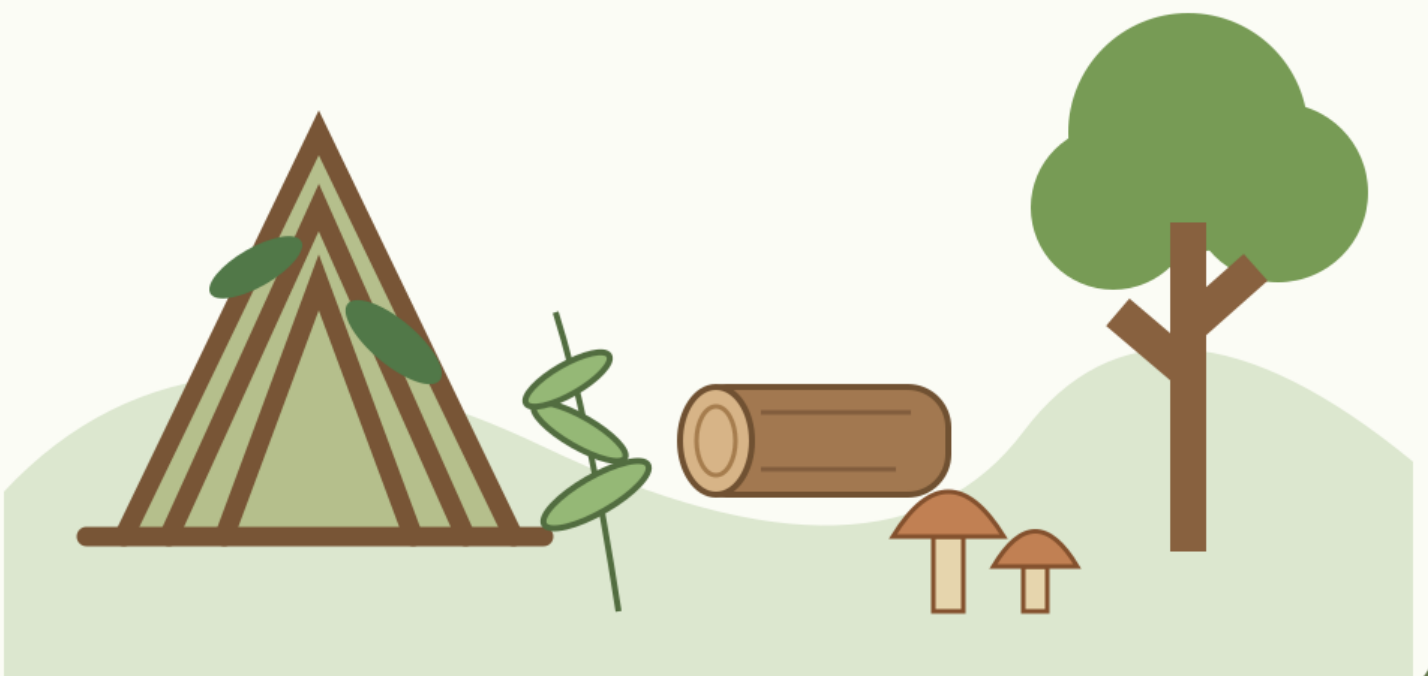
As part of our continued development of outdoor learning, we are delighted to share that both Year 1 and Year 2 pupils can use our fabulous Forest School resources every other Tuesday during lunchtime play.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions so far, making the most of the exciting outdoor activities and resources available to them. Forest School experiences provide many benefits, including developing confidence, resilience, teamwork, problem-solving skills and independence. They also encourage creativity, physical activity and a deeper appreciation and understanding of the natural world.



We are delighted to see the children embracing these opportunities and look forward to seeing their enthusiasm and enjoyment continue over the coming weeks.



Sports News

Cross-country success at Deddington!

Following our fun and inspiring whole-school cross-country competition on 14th September, the top 10 girls and boys from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were selected to represent Deddington at the Warriner Cluster Cross Country Event.

It was a beautiful, sunny morning. Although many children felt nervous, they were excited and proud to represent our school. Every child showed fantastic determination, resilience and commitment, encouraging and supporting one another throughout the event. We could not be prouder!

Several children finished in the top 10, with a special mention to Harper, who came first—an outstanding achievement! Our Year 3/4 girls', Year 5/6 girls' and Year 5/6 boys' teams all finished in the top two and qualified for the final at Sibford in December.

Our Year 3/4 boys' team also gave their all and finished an impressive fourth. Henry finished sixth individually and will join the other qualifiers at the final.

Congratulations to every one of our young athletes! You represented Deddington brilliantly, showing determination, teamwork, resilience and kindness. We cannot wait for the final!



Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

Would you like to volunteer in school? Please attend one of our essential safeguarding training sessions before helping. Both sessions will take place in school:

Monday 2nd November 2026: 1pm–2.30pm

Thursday 12th November 2026: 7pm–8pm

Please attend whichever session is most convenient for you. Thank you for supporting our children and helping us keep everyone safe.

SEND Coffee Morning

Join us for a SEND Coffee Morning on Wednesday 21st October from 9am.

Please let Mrs Simpson know if you can attend by emailing SENCO@deddington.oxon.sch.uk.



Household Support Fund



We understand that some families may need a little extra help with food during the school holidays. If you are worried about having enough food and would like support, please contact Mrs Simpson as soon as possible.

Mrs Simpson can help arrange support, which may include financial assistance or signposting you to organisations that can help.

Please speak with Mrs Simpson or email her at senco@deddington.oxon.sch.uk.



SIGN UP



AFTER · SCHOOL CLUB

**SPANISH
CLUB
VAMOS!**



**MONDAYS - 3:15-
4:15 PM**

**Songs, games, stories and
much more! £6**



CATARINA WALSH-SPANISH WITH CAT



catarinaferia@aol.com



07786601374

F1

F1 have had an amazing start to their school journey. The children have settled extremely well and are getting used to the different routines and rules of school life. They have taken time to explore their new school and all it has to offer, but there is still so much more to see and learn!

The children have already started learning phonics and are beginning to use these skills in their reading and writing. Counting songs and a variety of activities throughout the week are helping us practise our counting.

An important part of their school journey is making new friends. The children have been keen to build friendships both in the classroom and across the school.

We are looking forward to exploring and learning more together at Deddington!



Year 1

What a fantastic, busy start to the year we have had in Year 1! We have had so much fun learning and writing about our pet giant African snails, Garry and Barry, who even took over our reading books!

The children have shown wonderful creativity by imagining what jobs our slimy friends might have. Their ideas ranged from teachers and astronauts to star footballers!

Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as we explore our new areas, investigate our den-building materials and get creative with harvest pumpkin crafts.

We also loved our PE lessons with Coach Ed, where everyone has been working hard to develop their tennis skills.

Mrs Ross is incredibly proud of how well Year 1 have settled in. Well done, everyone!

As part of our continued development of outdoor learning, we are delighted to share that both Year 1 and Year 2 pupils can use our fabulous Forest School resources every other Tuesday during lunchtime play. The children have really enjoyed these sessions so far, and we look forward to the weeks ahead.



Year 2

What a tremendous start to Year 2! We have been developing our skills this term and are so proud of the progress the children have made.

In English, the children have developed their persuasive writing skills. Inspired by *The Day the Crayons Quit*, they have written letters to a range of crayons, tackling increasingly challenging tasks as their confidence has grown. They have used commas in lists and rhetorical questions to make their letters more convincing. The children have loved stepping into the role of crayons and have produced some fantastic writing!

In Maths, we have worked hard to strengthen our understanding of place value, particularly tens and ones and how each digit contributes to the value of a number. The children have shown great perseverance and are becoming increasingly confident in explaining their mathematical thinking.

In Science, we have been learning about different animal groups and extending this knowledge outdoors at Forest School with Mrs Deacon. It has been wonderful to see the children applying their classroom learning in a practical setting and developing their curiosity about the natural world.

We are looking forward to our exciting trip to Little Rollright Farm at the end of term, where we will see our learning come to life out in the field!

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm the children have shown. We cannot wait to see where their skills take them next!

As part of our continued development of outdoor learning, we are delighted to share that both Year 1 and Year 2 pupils can use our fabulous Forest School resources every other Tuesday during lunchtime play. The children have really enjoyed these sessions so far, and we look forward to the weeks ahead.



Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful start to the year and have settled brilliantly into the new routines and expectations of Key Stage 2. It has been fantastic to see the children grow in confidence, independence and enthusiasm as they embrace the exciting learning opportunities that Year 3 has to offer.

We have enjoyed a wide range of learning, from writing clear instructions in English to developing our map-reading skills in Geography. In Science, we have particularly enjoyed exploring human and animal skeletons and discovering how they help our bodies move and protect our organs.

A real highlight of the term has been our weekly Forest School sessions. These have given us the opportunity to take our learning outdoors and enjoy practical, hands-on activities while developing our teamwork, confidence and independence.

It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and curiosity grow throughout the term!





Year 4



Year 4 have enjoyed a wonderful start to the year, full of awe and wonder—particularly through our outdoor learning. We have loved linking our English topic, The Whale, with Forest School. Groups have taken turns to build boats using loose parts, as well as creating smaller vessels from natural materials found in the Forest School area.

Taking Science outdoors has been another highlight. We have searched for vertebrates and invertebrates, sorted animals into different groups and enjoyed playing animal classification snap.

Our swimming sessions at Bloxham have been great fun, with the children developing their techniques and building their stamina.



Year 5



Year 5 have settled into the new school year brilliantly! They have shown kindness and determination and have been working very hard.

In Science, we have been learning about forces, and the children have particularly enjoyed our practical investigations. A firm favourite has been making parachutes to investigate how their surface area affects the time they take to fall to the ground.

In Literacy, Year 5 have written some wonderful setting descriptions inspired by *FARThER* by Grahame Baker-Smith. They have used figurative language and sensory details to engage their readers.

The children have also thoroughly enjoyed our Music lessons, learning to sing and play *Living on a Prayer* by Bon Jovi.

It has been a fantastic start to the year!





Year 6



Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the school year! In Literacy, we have dived into writing stories about a house in the woods. It has been fascinating to see the twists and turns the children's stories take.

In Geography, we have been exploring the Arctic and Antarctic; in RE, we have been learning about Hindu pilgrimages to India; and in science, we have been classifying animals and plants. Did you know that platypuses belong to a group of egg-laying mammals called monotremes, which also includes echidnas?

In PSHE, we have tackled lots of teamwork challenges, including building a bridge out of paper and a cup-stacking challenge. These activities have helped us develop our cooperation, problem-solving skills, perseverance and resilience.

In PE, we have been developing our netball and football skills. All in all, it has been a very busy start, with more adventures still to come!



Harvest Festival



We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Communion Service in church on Wednesday morning. Our Worship Group did a fantastic job sharing the Parable of the Sower and leading the prayers, helping to make the service a special celebration of harvest and thankfulness.

Thank you to all our parents and families for your kind and generous donations. All the donated food has now been given to Banbury Food Bank to support people in our local community. Our thanks also go to Fiona Stilgoe for kindly transporting the donations to the food bank.



What we are working on this year and what staff do on INSET days

Our priorities for 2026–2027

Our draft School Development Plan has three main priorities, supporting our vision of helping every child to “Let Your Light Shine”.

Inclusive teaching and strong foundations

We will develop teaching that meets each child’s needs, with particular attention to children with special educational needs and those facing disadvantage. Staff will adapt lessons, review support and track essential skills in each year group. This includes strengthening reading, writing and maths, giving feedback during lessons, creating inclusive classrooms and introducing Mastering Number in Years 3 and 5.

Personal development and wellbeing

We will review how PSHE lessons support children’s confidence, relationships and wellbeing, using pupil and parent feedback to improve provision. We will check that all children can access enrichment opportunities. Staff wellbeing is also a priority: confidential surveys, workload and communication reviews, and access to support will help us care for our team.

Safeguarding and safe use of technology

We will strengthen digital safeguarding records and review internet filtering and monitoring. Staff training, policy updates and regular checks will support this work. We will also review our technology against the Department for Education’s digital standards and address areas needing improvement.

What happens on INSET days?

INSET days give staff dedicated time for training, working together and preparing teaching and learning. Alongside staff meetings and classroom coaching, they help us put our development priorities into practice.

September — training and preparation

Staff used the September INSET days to take part in training and prepare for the new school year. These days provided time to develop our practice and get ready to welcome children back to school.

October — developing outdoor learning

On the October INSET Day, staff will revisit the curriculum in every subject to identify further opportunities to use our outdoor areas within lessons. This will help us make greater use of our school grounds to enrich children’s learning across the curriculum.

November — working together on inclusion

During the November INSET Day, our staff will join colleagues from the other schools in the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST). The focus will be on strengthening inclusion so that every child feels supported and can take part fully in school life.

School leaders and governors will review progress throughout the year and use the findings to guide our next steps.

Festival of the Girl

Festival of the Girl helps girls challenge gender stereotypes, build confidence and explore what they can achieve. Through activities and inspiring role models, it encourages them to try new things and discover opportunities without feeling limited by expectations about what girls should do.

Last weekend, on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th October, the festival took place at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London. More than 1,500 visitors attended across the weekend, with children exploring activities ranging from flying a plane and making animations to building vaccines, boxing and golf.

Rosie and Georgia were enthusiastic volunteers as well as festival visitors. They spent three hours on Friday evening preparing goody bags and helping the team get ready. Rosie also joined the door team, welcoming visitors to the event. It was lovely that other Deddington children came along too.

The girls took part in an “AI dream art future” workshop led by female coders from Microsoft. They also got involved with the Watch Your Language campaign, which encourages everyone to notice and rethink the gendered language they use.

Both Rosie and Georgia worked brilliantly alongside the adult volunteers. Their helpfulness and behaviour drew praise from the team, and their parents were very proud of their contribution. Congratulations to both girls for representing our school so positively!



DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU!

THE CHILDREN BENEFIT

The PTA helps make school life more enjoyable for every child by funding activities, experiences and extras that they might not otherwise be able to access.

THE SCHOOL BENEFITS

In the 2025/26 school year, the PTA raised an amazing £15,330! We were able to fund books, trips, resources, a shed, a forest school toilet and much, much more!

IT'S GREAT FUN!

With a shared goal of supporting our school, the PTA is a great way to connect with other parents. Whether you have a lot of time, or can just help occasionally, every little helps!

IT'S EASY TO GET INVOLVED

Simply speak to any PTA member in person, or get in touch..

 deddingtonpta@gmail.com

 Call/WhatsApp
07939 517679



DEDDINGTONSCHOOLPTA



2026/27 KEY EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	I CAN HELP
Sunday 1 st November	Fireworks Display & BBQ	
Friday 13 th November	Dare to Dress Differently	<i>No help needed!</i>
W/C 23 rd November TBC	Christmas Jumper Sale	
Friday 4 th December	Christmas Fair & Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 12 th February	Valentine's Cake Sale	
Friday 26 th February	School Disco	
Thursday 25 th March	Smarties Challenge	<i>No help needed!</i>
Sunday 16 th May	Four Farms Challenge - Run & BBQ	
Saturday 12 th June	Summer Fete & BBQ	
July Dates TBC	Refreshments at School Show	

Name:	Phone:	Email:
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DARE **TO DRESS DIFFERENTLY!**



YOUR DARES ARE...

- 1. NON-UNIFORM OR FANCY DRESS**
- 2. WEAR A WACKY WIG**
- 3. PUT ON ODD OR BRIGHT-COLOURED SOCKS OR TIGHTS**
- 4. WEAR FUN OR ODD SHOES**
- 5. SHOW US YOUR TEMPORARY TATTOOS**
- 6. WEAR SUNGLASSES OR FUN-GLASSES**
- 7. PUT ON A CRAZY HAT**
- 8. FLY IN WITH A HERO CAPE**
- 9. WEAR NAIL POLISH**
- 10. GET CREATIVE WITH FACEPAINT**

WHEN?
FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 13TH
2026

PAY 50P FOR EACH DARE.
OR £3 FOR AS MANY
DARES AS YOU LIKE!

Why fit in when you were born to stand out! - Dr Seuss



DEDDINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

INSPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

OPEN DAYS

Come and discover our welcoming village school



**Tours for parents considering a school place
for September 2027 — or sooner**

TUESDAY
17 NOVEMBER 2026
9.15 am or 11 am

THURSDAY
19 NOVEMBER 2026
9.15 am or 11 am

BOOK YOUR TOUR

Please contact the school office to make an appointment

01869 338430

Office.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk





Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me!

We've had a wonderfully **autumnal week** at after-school club! The children explored the season through colourful autumn colouring pages and by noticing the beautiful reds, golds and browns in the leaves around us. There's been plenty of outdoor play too, with lots of fresh air, laughter and time spent playing together. Indoors, the children enjoyed dressing up and getting creative with crafts, sharing ideas and making the most of time with their friends. It's been lovely to see their imaginations and personalities shine! 🍁 🧠

Our new starters are settling in nicely and it's a pleasure to see them joining in with the other children and having fun!

Next week at High Flyers, we'll be learning about **healthy teeth and keeping ourselves healthy**. We have lots of fun crafts, activities and discussions planned to help us explore how to look after our teeth and keep ourselves healthy.

As always, the children can also choose from our everyday activities, including free play, Lego, puzzles, parachute games, dancing, play dough, colouring, board games, den building and much more. It's set to be a fun week celebrating friendship, creativity and choice!

If you haven't tried High Flyers yet and are interested, you're welcome to book a free trial session.

We're also running a fantastic holiday club at Christopher Rawlins School during the October half term, with lots of fun activities and Halloween-themed crafts.

To book a place at High Flyers, please **call us on 07766 290242** or see the booking link below.

We would love to welcome your child.

Telephone: 07766 290242

Email: highflyersclub@hotmail.co.uk

Booking link: <https://highflyerslimited.ipalbookings.com/>

Website: <https://www.highflyers.org.uk/>

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

Term 1

3rd September 2026 – 22nd October 2026 (3.15pm finish on the 22nd October)

October half term

23rd October 2026 – 2nd November 2026

Term 2

3rd November 2026 – 18th December 2026 (2pm finish on the 18th December)

Christmas holiday

19th December 2026 – 4th January 2027

Term 3

5th January 2027 – 12th February 2027 (3.15pm finish on 12th February)

Spring half term holiday

13th February 2027 – 21st February 2027

Term 4

22nd February 2027 – 25th March 2027 (2pm finish on the 25th March 2027)

Easter holiday

26th March 2027 – 11th April 2027

Term 5

12th April 2027 – 28th May 2027 (3.15pm finish on 28th May 2027)

Late spring half term holiday

29th May 2027 – 7th June 2027

Term 6

8th June 2027 – 21st July 2027 (2pm finish on 21st July 2027)

INSET DAYS

23rd October 2026

2nd November 2026 (additional INSET day for ODST training)

4th January 2027

7th June 2027

DEDDINGTON

Church of England Primary School



Next Newsletter

Friday November 13th 2026