

Deddington Church of England Primary School

INSPIRE. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

ODST Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust

NOVEMBER 2026

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Headteacher's Blog

I felt very proud during two special occasions this week. Pebble Mass warmly welcomed our children and their families as they began their Deddington journey.

Sharing reflections and a silence, accompanied by a bugle in the courtyard, was a special moment. Every child marked the occasion wonderfully, with such respect.

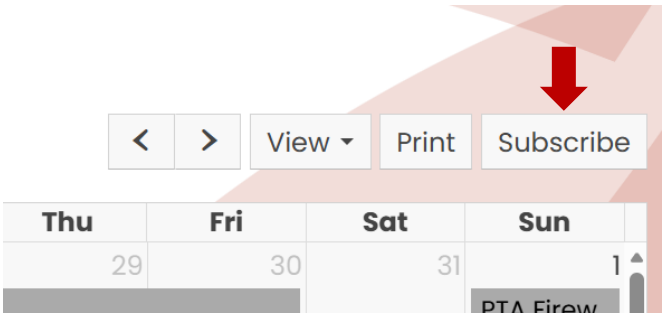
Every pupil is working hard to let their light shine in their own special way. It was lovely to see pastoral groups meet again to create this year's pastoral group board.

Christmas nativity and carol concert preparations are beginning. We have five busy weeks ahead, with lots of brilliant activities to look forward to!

Mr Evans

Subscribe to the school calendar

1. Open the school calendar
2. Select **Subscribe** and follow the instructions to sync school dates to your calendar.



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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. No assembly today.

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

Wednesday 16th December
Santa Fun Run during the school day
Christmas Dinner Day

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

School health assembly

Monday 30 November in the afternoon

Wendy Bull, a School Health Nurse, will join us to lead an assembly about medical needs, including allergies and diabetes. The visit is part of our work on allergy awareness under Benedict's Law.

What is Benedict's Law?

Benedict's Law refers to allergy safety measures for schools in England, named after Benedict Blythe. Schools must publish and review an allergy safety policy. The guidance covers staff training, healthcare plans for pupils who need them and responding to serious allergic reactions.

Please remember and respect that pupils at our school have a range of allergies, including nut allergies. Children will learn more about allergies in PSHE lessons during the year.

Read the Department for Education's allergy safety guidance

Pebble Mass

Welcoming new members of our school community

Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 2.30pm



We held our Pebble Mass to welcome new children, staff and governors to our school community.

Each new member placed a pebble in our community jar. Every pebble is different, just as each of us is. Together, they remind us that everyone belongs to our community and is valued, safe and cared for at Deddington.

When children, staff and governors leave our school, they take a pebble with them as a reminder of the school values they take into the next stage of their lives.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for the service.

Safe and considerate parking

Please Park safely and considerately when bringing children to school or collecting them. Please keep these areas clear:



Double yellow lines
Opposite the school gate



Bus bay



Residents' driveways



Space near junctions

Residents have raised safety concerns about cars parking too close to junctions, including the junction between **The Leyes and Oxford Road**. Please leave enough space around junctions.

Please drive with great care and at a safe speed when collecting children at the end of the school day and from after-school clubs.

Thank you for your support.

Remembering together

Abigail and Bella from Year 6 represented the school on Remembrance Sunday and marched in the parade from the Bullring to the War Memorial. Abigail laid the wreath on behalf of the school, while Bella took a cross to the Commonwealth graves in a different part of the cemetery.

It was so lovely to see them and many other children from school, as well as past students, proudly representing Cubs, Scouts and Guides.

Year 6 also decorated crosses which have been on the Green outside the Co-op. The local Royal British Legion are thrilled with the continuing support from our school.

Rupert Browne from the County Music Service added to the atmosphere of our two-minute silence by playing the Last Post on the Bugle. A truly memorable moment for all.

Royal British Legion Facebook page







The teaching of languages

French from January 2027

As Mr Carrick Cameron has a new teaching post, we've changed our plans for language teaching. We will be using the **Language Angels** scheme to teach French.

I'm delighted to welcome **Mrs. Nikki Bruce** back to Deddington. Mrs. Bruce worked here as a teaching assistant for many years, and it's lovely to have her working with us again.

From January 2027, Mrs. Bruce will work with classes in every year group to support children's French learning.

Staff INSET update

Before half term, staff reviewed our curriculum together to make more room for the creative arts and make the most of our outdoor spaces. Even in weeks without a timetabled art lesson, children have many opportunities to be creative in other subjects and during outdoor learning sessions with Miss Deacon.

After half term, we joined colleagues from other ODST schools for an inspiring talk by **Dr Katriona O'Sullivan**. It prompted us to reflect on how we support every child to achieve their best and how we can give them more opportunities to let their light shine.

School Santa Fun Run

Wednesday 16 December

Money raised will be donated to Katharine House Hospice



We're excited to take part in a **Santa Fun Run** in support of our chosen local charity, **Katharine House Hospice**.

During the school day on **Wednesday 16 December**, children will take on a fun, Christmas-themed obstacle course!

Children are welcome to wear a **Christmas jumper or top** along with some **fun Christmas-themed headwear**.

Support our fundraising

We're encouraging each child to bring a **£1 donation** on the day.

Parents and carers who would like to sponsor their child can donate using the QR code.

Scan to sponsor

Christmas Market

Friday 4 December

From 3.30pm in the school hall



Join us for some festive fun and raise money for our school PTA.

Santa's Grotto

Come and meet Santa in his grotto.

Parents will be able to book a time in advance.

Crafts for Sale

Buy Christmas crafts, including items pupils made before the market.

If you would like to run a stall at our market, providing a donation to the PTA, please contact the school office.

School Choir

Hear our school choir singing Christmas songs.

This week at High Flyers

This week, we celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week. The children shared their favourite rhymes, talked about why people enjoy songs, met familiar nursery rhyme characters and had a go at making up their own. We also marked Remembrance Day by thinking about what remembrance means, why people wear poppies and why peace is important. We remembered together by painting paper plates to create a beautiful poppy wreath and decorating cakes with bright poppy designs.

For World Kindness Day and Children in Need, we learned about Children in Need and created our own Pudsey pictures. Along the way, we talked about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

The children have also enjoyed choosing how to play, whether heading outdoors for fresh air, games and adventures or getting creative inside. There's been plenty to keep busy with, from building amazing creations with Lego and making colourful loom bands to colouring and turning blankets and cushions into cosy dens. We've loved seeing their imaginations at work and all the wonderful ideas they've brought to their play!

High Flyers of the Week

A huge well done to Jack B., Harper and Edmund! These Year 5 stars have been superb helpers all week, kindly supporting the younger children and lending a hand at tea time. Your thoughtfulness and teamwork have made a big difference — we're so proud of you!

Try a free session

If you haven't tried High Flyers yet and are interested, you're welcome to book a free trial session. To book a place, please call us on 07766 290242 or use the booking link below. We would love to welcome your child.

Telephone: 07766 290242

Email: highflyersclub@hotmail.co.uk

Bookings: highflyerslimited.ipalbookings.com

Website: www.highflyers.org.uk

Holiday Activities & Food

Winter holiday provision 2026

Open for booking from Tuesday 10 November

Who can attend

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals (Targeted FSM), from Reception to Year 11, can attend up to 4 free activity sessions over the winter holidays. Some camps and clubs offer more than one session per day, so please check the number of sessions when booking. A nutritious meal is provided each day; you do not need to provide a packed lunch unless you choose to.

How to book

Book activities at eequ.org/hafoxfordshire

You do not need a voucher or code: the system checks your child's eligibility. If necessary, your booking will be sent to the HAF Team at Oxfordshire County Council for review. After the eligibility check or review, the provider must also approve the booking and may ask for more information. You will receive an email confirming whether your booking has been approved or declined.

View all activity locations on the interactive map

Booking guidance

Quick guide to booking a HAF session

Watch the booking guide for computers

Watch the booking guide for mobile phones

Need help

For help with an individual booking, use the Contact Mentor button on the relevant booking page to message the provider. If the provider cannot answer your question, you can email the HAF Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

Parent feedback

"The sessions are a real-life changer for our family. Not only do they allow me to work, knowing that my two children are being cared for properly but they have developed both of my children in so many positive ways. The opportunity to engage in healthy activities, in a safe environment, under the watchful eye of positive role models is something that as a parent I am eternally grateful for."

NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

'We are With You' is a welcoming, parent-led group for anyone caring for children and young perople (up to the age of 18) facing mental health challenges.

Find a safe space to connect, ask questions, and share experiences at your comfort level. Learn from insightful discussion on topics that matter to you.

Connect with others through our popular in-person wellbeing walks. We also offer online, topic-based webinars via Microsoft Teams, with follow-up Q&A sessions to provide additional support and discussion.

.

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming space, provided by:

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

To register follow the link or QR code:

https://oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involvement/oxon/wwy/

CONNECT. SHARE. LEARN.

Please note: The links in this letter will not work in the newsletter. To use them, open the website version of the letter in the Newsletters section of the school website:

School website — Newsletters

Supporting Children and Young People's Wellbeing

Information and Support for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent or Carer,

Oxfordshire County Council's Public Health Team is working closely with schools, health services, voluntary sector organisations and community partners to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people across Oxfordshire.

On behalf of this partnership, we are sharing information, advice and resources to help parents and carers support their children to thrive, build resilience, maintain positive mental wellbeing and access support when needed.

What Do We Mean by Positive Mental Wellbeing?

Mental wellbeing is more than the absence of illness. It is about helping children and young people to:

- Feel connected to others.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop healthy coping skills.
- Feel safe, valued and supported.
- Enjoy friendships, learning and activities.
- Manage life's challenges and setbacks.
- Develop a sense of purpose, hope and belonging.

All children and young people will experience ups and downs. Having caring relationships, opportunities to talk, healthy routines and access to support when needed can help them flourish.

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing

Parents and carers play one of the most important roles in promoting wellbeing. Simple things can make a big difference:

- Spending regular time together.
- Encouraging hobbies, interests and physical activity.
- Supporting healthy sleep habits.
- Helping children build positive relationships.
- Celebrating achievements and strengths.
- Encouraging balanced use of social media and technology.
- Creating opportunities to talk openly about feelings and experiences.

You do not need to have all the answers. Often, listening, staying curious and letting your child know you are there for them is what matters most.

Talking About Mental Health

Talking openly about mental health helps reduce stigma and encourages help-seeking. You may wish to:

- Check in regularly and ask how your child is doing.

- Listen without judgement.
- Validate feelings even when you do not fully understand them.
- Let them know it is okay to ask for help.
- Reassure them that difficult feelings can improve and support is available.

When Might Additional Support Be Helpful?

Sometimes children and young people may experience difficulties that would benefit from additional support. You may wish to seek advice if you notice:

- Persistent changes in mood.
- Withdrawal from friends, family or activities they usually enjoy.
- Changes in sleep, eating or concentration.
- Increased distress, anxiety or irritability.
- Significant changes in behaviour.
- Expressions of hopelessness or feeling unable to cope.

Many of these experiences are common and can occur for a range of reasons, but seeking support early can often help prevent problems from becoming more difficult.

If You Are Concerned About Self-Harm or Suicide

If a child or young person talks about self-harm or suicide:

- Take what they say seriously.
- Remain calm and listen.
- Reassure them that support is available.
- Encourage them to speak with a trusted adult or professional.
- Seek support as soon as possible.

Talking openly and sensitively about suicide does not increase risk and can help young people feel understood and supported.

Support Available in Oxfordshire

Support to Thrive

School support
Schools can provide pastoral, wellbeing and safeguarding support and help identify appropriate services.

Oxfordshire Family Information Service
Information on local services, activities and support for children, young people and families.
Visit the Oxfordshire Family Information Service website

YoungMinds
Information and guidance for young people, parents and carers.
Visit the YoungMinds website

Support When Things Feel Difficult

Tellmi
A moderated, anonymous peer-support community with access to additional support when needed.
Visit the Tellmi website

GP
Your GP can discuss concerns about emotional wellbeing and help identify further support where needed.

Oxfordshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
If anyone is worried about a young person's mental health it is important to share concerns with them and appropriate safe adults. This might be at school or it might be with a health professional such a GP or school nurse. CAMHS (Children's Mental Health Services) are available to consult and consider what might be helpful or if a CAMSH service is indicated. Their telephone number is 01865 902515 and there is further information including how to refer available at Make a referral | Oxford Health CAMHS..

Oxfordshire Safe Haven
A non-clinical crisis support service for Oxfordshire residents aged 18 and over. This may be helpful for parents and carers who need support themselves.
Visit the Oxfordshire Safe Haven website

Bereavement and Specialist Support

SeeSaw
Bereavement support for children, young people and families in Oxfordshire.
Visit the SeeSaw website

Amparo
Free and confidential emotional and practical support for anyone affected by suicide.
Visit the Amparo website

Urgent Help

If you believe a child or young person is at immediate risk of serious harm:

- Call 999 in an emergency.
- Attend your nearest Emergency Department.
- Contact NHS 111 and select the mental health option.
- Contact Oxford Health Crisis Mental Health Text Service 07312263127 – the team aims to respond within one hour.

Working Together to Support Young People

Supporting children and young people's wellbeing is a shared responsibility. By working together as families, schools, health services, community organisations and local partners, we can help create environments where young people feel safe, connected, valued and able to thrive.

If you are concerned about your child, please speak to your child's school, GP or one of the services listed above.

Kind regards,

Oxfordshire County Council Public Health Team

DEDDINGTON FIRE STATION

HAVE A GO DAY

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
10AM - 2PM





DO YOU LIVE WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF DEDDINGTON FIRE STATION?



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?



IF YOU THINK YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT NEW ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

(SPACES ARE LIMITED AND MUST BE BOOKED)

Term dates

2026–2027 school year

School terms

Term 2

Ends Friday 18 December 2026

2pm finish on 18 December

Term 3

5 January – 12 February 2027

3.15pm finish on 12 February

Term 4

22 February – 25 March 2027

2pm finish on 25 March

Term 5

12 April – 28 May 2027

3.15pm finish on 28 May

Term 6

8 June – 21 July 2027

2pm finish on 21 July

Holidays and INSET days

Christmas holiday

19 December 2026 – 4 January 2027

Spring half term

13–21 February 2027

Easter holiday

26 March – 11 April 2027

Late spring half term

29 May – 7 June 2027

INSET days

Monday 4 January 2027
Monday 7 June 2027

Thank you for your support

Our next newsletter

will be sent home on

Friday 11 December 2026

Deddington C of E Primary School

