



# October 2025



## Deddington 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.



### Deddington Primary School Open Morning

For Parents of Children Starting School in September 2026

 **Date: Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**

 **Time: Appointments at 9.30am and 11am on both days**

#### **What to Expect:**

-  A warm welcome from our Headteacher and staff team.
-  Guided tours of our classrooms, facilities, and outdoor spaces.
-  Meet teachers and learn about our curriculum & enrichment opportunities.
-  Discover how we live our vision: **Let Your Light Shine. Inspire. Believe. Achieve.**

#### **Booking Your Place:**

You can book an appointment at 9.30am or 11am on either day by contacting the school office.

 01869 338430

 [Office.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Office.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk)

 **Come and see how our school can be the perfect start to your child's learning journey!**

www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk  
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## Important dates

### INSET Days

24th October 2025

3rd November 2025 (additional inset day for ODST training)

Parent Consultation meetings – A letter will be sent next week.

Tuesday 21st October 2025 – 3.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 23rd October 2025 – 3.30pm to 5pm

## Spirituality for Primary School Parents

### What is Spirituality?

Spirituality is not about rules or just religion—it's about what we feel inside and how we make sense of life. For children, it often means:

- Wonder and Awe – noticing amazing things in nature, art, music, or life.
- Asking Big Questions – like 'Why am I here?' or 'What happens when we die?'
- Feeling Connected – to ourselves, to other people, and to something bigger than us (this could be nature, love, or for some, God).
- Reflection – taking time to think, be still, and appreciate beauty or kindness.

A simple way to explain it:

“Spirituality is about noticing the special moments in life, asking big questions, and caring about things beyond ourselves.”

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## Why Spirituality Matters

Spirituality helps children develop empathy, gratitude, and a sense of purpose—whether or not they follow a particular faith.

## How Can Parents Nurture Spirituality at Home?

- Spend quiet time together—go for a walk, watch the sunset, or listen to calming music.
- Talk about feelings and thoughts—ask what made them feel proud, peaceful, or curious.
- Encourage kindness—notice when they help others or show empathy.
- Explore nature—look at the stars, collect leaves, or listen to birds.
- Ask big questions—wonder together about life, love, and the world around us.

## Big Questions to Explore Together

- Why do people help each other?
- What makes something beautiful?
- Where do feelings come from?
- What happens when we die?
- How can I make the world better?

## F1

F1 have settled in beautifully into school life, really letting their lights shine! We have had fun getting to know each other and all the different routines of school, there is so much to learn.

Phonics has begun and we have already learnt so many sounds that we have our first reading books to take home and read to our families. We have also practised writing the letters and are getting better every day!

In our maths learning we have been exploring subitising and saying what we see! This can be quite tricky as we all want to count the amounts of objects, but we are getting better at saying what we see straight away.

We have enjoyed our Forest School sessions with Miss Deacon and the PE sessions afterwards. There is so much more learning ahead of us and we are looking forward to exploring how much we can do!

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## Year 1

What a fantastic start to Year 1! We have been learning about and getting to know our class pets Garry and Barry (our giant African snails)! “They like apples”-Arlo. “They like to climb the walls”-Mariella.

Last week in literacy, we labelled their body parts and created brilliant oral sentences about them. This week, we have focussed on a ‘Harvest’ theme in literacy enjoying reading ‘Winnie’s Amazing Pumpkin’. We used an unusual pumpkin to make observational drawings and some children have chosen to craft their own pumpkin inspired creations in ‘Choose and Learn’.

In maths, we have enjoyed learning how to use resources such as the Rekenrek, cubes and counters to support our learning through daily Mastering Maths sessions. Throughout the curriculum, we have also been enjoying outdoor learning in Forest School, the school garden and around the school grounds.

What a fun start to the year-well done for all your hard work year 1!



## Year 2

Year 2 have really stepped up to the mark of being Year 2! The children have been working hard in English, producing some fantastic persuasive letters to convince the crayons not to quit. They’ve shown growing confidence as writers, managing to produce both quantity and quality in their work.

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In Maths, we've been deepening our understanding of what makes up a number. The children can now confidently use the language of *tens* and *ones* to explain, compare, and reason about numbers.

Our Geography and Art learning have come together wonderfully through our topic on 'maps'. We've discovered what makes a good map, explored the use of symbols and keys, and then let our creativity shine by designing our own maps using a variety of media.

In Forest School, we've taken this learning outdoors—following maps, creating new ones, and exploring the school site to put our mapping skills into practice!

It's been a busy and brilliant time in Year 2 – well done, everyone!



### Year 3

It has been wonderful to start year 3 – and we were glad to see each other again in September! In Year 3 we have been learning about the Stone Age – and have loved our time in the Forest School with Mrs Deacon where we have explored some stone age ideas. We have made shelters, axes and our own versions of Stonehenge.



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We have used the story 'Stone Age Boy' to develop our writing skills and have also looked at the book 'Stones and Bones' by Rob Wilshaw. We have also been finding out about Skeletons and how our bodies move in Science. PE has been lots of fun too as we have had some football coaching sessions with Adam Bradley.

## Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazing start to the year. We have particularly enjoyed making use of the Outdoor Learning area for Science, Maths and PSHE.

We have been enjoying our class texts 'The Whale' and 'Why the Whales Came' and these have inspired some really creative ideas for writing.

Whilst time was tight last Friday afternoon, we pulled together and were pleased to achieve finishing our newspaper article and investigating 'scale' in Geography whilst we took turns in helping to make shortbread cookies for the Fairtrade Bake Sale.

We have really believed in ourselves to find the confidence and resilience to try everything whether in the classroom, outside or at the swimming pool. In particular, the amazing effort to improve our technique and stamina at our weekly sessions has been outstanding. Everyone has been really shining their light so very brightly.



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## Year 5

So far in Year 5 we have had a great start to the year!

In literacy, we have enjoyed sharing and exploring our book 'FARThER' By Grahame Baker-Smith. To begin with, the children made some brilliant, informed predictions about the book based on the text, images, body language and facial expression of characters, and setting. We then moved onto exploring similes and metaphors, which we incorporated into our writing of a setting description. This week, we have moved on to exploring the emotions of the characters and dialogue to write diary entries.

Our Maths lessons so far this half term have looked at place value, and Year 5 have really impressed me with their efforts and engagement in this topic. We are now just about to start addition and subtraction.

The children have also been enjoying our art topic of portraits, where they have explored how to draw a proportionate portrait. We then also explored how we could modify our portraits to make them more effective through changing the style and background. The topic of portraits was also taken out into forest school, where the children created their own natural picture frames and portraits!

I think, and I think most of the children would agree, that the highlight of our half-term so far has been our parachute experiment. Our science topic so far this year has been forces. When investigating air resistance, we planned an experiment to find out whether the size of a parachute affected the time it took for the parachute to fall to the ground. The class was split into groups to make various-sized parachutes before we headed outside to investigate. The children were so excited about this and made some brilliant predictions and conclusions.



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## Year 6

It's all go for Year 6 this year. We started off at full pelt and have really got stuck into the final year of school. They are a determined bunch and are both nervous but keen to do their best. At the end of the very first week, we invited our parents and siblings to join us after school to try out some of the team building activities we had spent the day trying out. They enjoyed homemade cookies and spent some time in our amazing Forest School area, finishing with a parents vs children drainpipe challenge. Many laughs were had.



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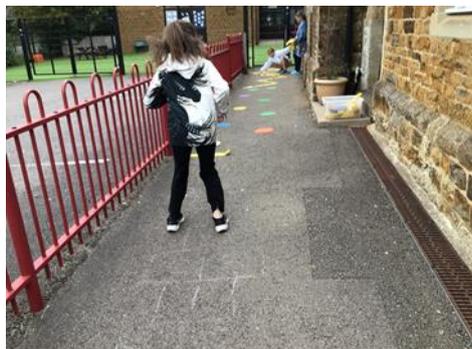
We have been looking at the books *Window* and *Belonging* by Jeannie Baker, which have helped us to get our imaginations moving, working hard on using the beautiful illustrations to practise our writing skills. We are now looking at the book *'Wild Child'* by Dara McAnulty to create our own unique chapters based on our favourite places within nature. We look forward to sharing those with people later in the year.

In Art, we have been studying several artists and comparing the styles of painting/drawing. A homework challenge was set to create our own versions of *'My Parents'* by David Hockney. We have looked at how stories and emotions can be shown through the choice of colour and mark making. We look forward to creating our own masterpieces on a proper piece of canvas, using some of the skills, media we have been experimenting with – a picture to tell our story.

Florence and Ella have been designing an active pathway for outside Year 6 leading to year 3 and 4. They have designed it and invited year 3 and 4 children to try it out. They have made changes and are looking forward to making the marks more permanent, so prepare to take on the challenge after half term. They have now recruited Finlay and Isaac to help them to design the space outside the Year 6 classroom. Great example of thinking outside the box and making an empty space more exciting. Well done girls

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There is so much more to come for Year 6. Watch this space!

## Forest School / Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning has been great fun this term with every year group going up to the forest school area each week! We have been doing all sorts of activities from our science lessons, classifying animals and plants to looking into artists and creating our own masterpieces! Year 3 have been studying the stone age and the children made their own tools, cave art and Henges! We have been looking at coordinates in year 5 and year 2 have been following and creating their own maps and ariel views!

Forest school club on Mondays have been making the most of Autumn treasures creating models using clay and natural materials, foraging and cooking on the fire, making rope and drilling holes in conkers!



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## Gardening Club

We might be small but we have been mighty in our gardening efforts! We have planted, weeded, watered, and dug. We have also enjoyed picking the pears as a reward for our hard work. In particular, we have enjoyed making fruit crumble during Fairtrade Fortnight (using Fairtrade sugar, of course).



## Harvest

This week the whole school walked down to church to celebrate Harvest. This is a wonderful tradition. Years 4-6 School Worship Group helped plan and lead the service from writing prayers, to serving and presenting as well as reading from the Bible and sharing connections between the story of Ruth and Boaz and the work of Fairtrade. They did an amazing job. Well done to all of them. Thank you so much for all the amazing donations of food for the Banbury Food Bank. You have all been so very generous and a lot of families are going to benefit from your kindness. Well done to choir for their beautiful rendition of 'Sing' by Gary Barlow.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents join the children and congregation for this fantastic service - the community coming together. The children all decorated Harvest Apples that were taken down to decorate the church. Follow this link to the video on our website to see the apples on display.

<https://www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/prayer-and-reflection/>



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## Fairtrade Fortnight

We have had lots of fun at school celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight, learning about Fairtrade and linking it with our school vision of 'Let your light shine'.

The Fairtrade Group launched the two weeks with a wonderful assembly to the school and also launched our 90kg Rice Challenge 2025, which as a school we are taking part in. 90kg is the amount of rice a farmer in Malawi needs to sell, in order to send one child to school for a year. The Challenge is a brilliant, visual way to really show the children the true meaning behind Fairtrade.

Some of the Fairtrade Group took part in the church service in Deddington, talking about Fairtrade, introducing the Rice Challenge to the congregation and selling the rice afterwards. They really let their light shine – you were amazing!

To end the Fortnight, the generosity of the cake donations for the cake sale last Friday, together with the resilience of the Fairtrade Group selling the cakes and everyone supporting, in the rain, was so wonderful to see. Together we raised £90 for Fairtrade, despite the weather!

A huge thank you to the entire Fairtrade Group. Your passion for Fairtrade has truly shone out across the world. They all received a 'Let your Light Shine' badge. Well done!!



## E Safety

### Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

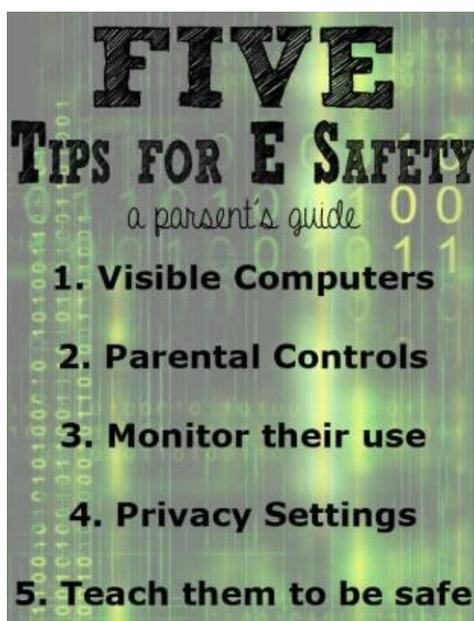
We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

#### What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.



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## Notification of Road Works on Earls Lane



# OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – Section 14(1)

Notice of Temporary Traffic Order  
 Deddington, Earls Lane  
 Prohibition of Through Traffic  
 Date of Order: 13 October 2025  
 Coming into force: 20 October 2025

This Order is being introduced because of water main replacement work which is anticipated to take 3 months to complete.

The effect of the Order is to temporarily prohibit vehicles proceeding in the section of Earls Lane from the junction of Banbury Road to Castle St.

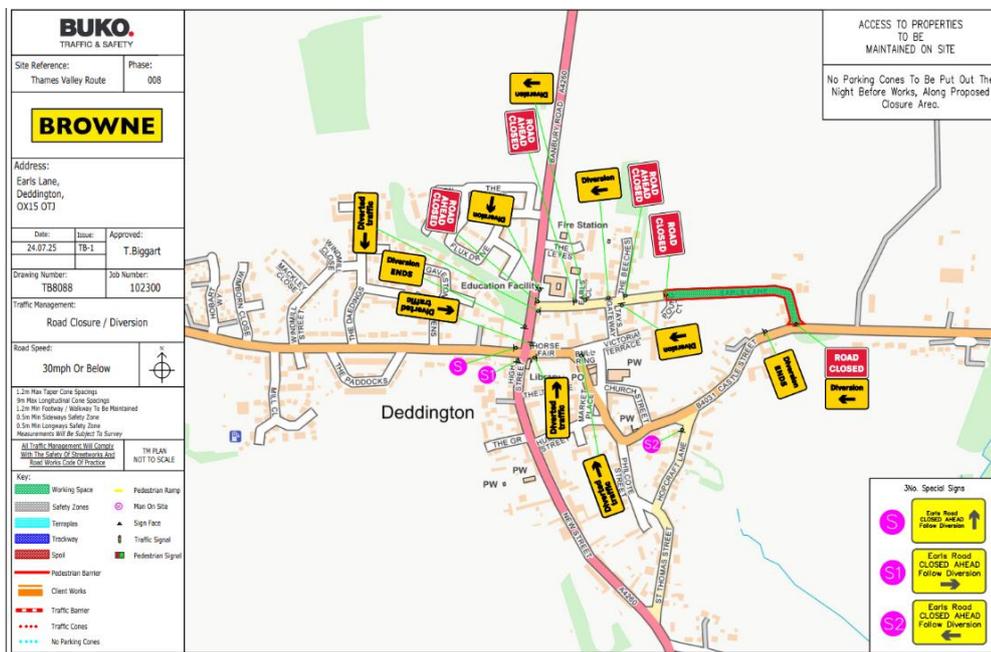
Appropriate traffic signs will be displayed to indicate when the measures are in force.

Exemptions are included for emergency services and for the works and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road.

The diversion for this closure is via the B4031 & A4260 and vice-versa.

This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner.

Traffic Regulations Team (Ref: T16539/MR) for the Director for Infrastructure Delivery, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND. 03453101111.



### Important Dates.

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Dates will be added in future newsletters.

### Parent Consultation meetings.

Tuesday 21st October 2025 – 3.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 23rd October 2025 – 3.30pm to 5pm

Tuesday 24th March 2026 – 3.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 26th March 2026 – 3.30pm to 5pm

### Pebble Mass to welcome new pupils, governors and new staff

Tuesday 18th November from 2.40pm in the hall

### Christmas performances in the Church

F1 and F2 Tuesday 9th December from 2pm

Key Stage 1 Wednesday 10th December from 4pm

Key Stage 2 Thursday 11th December from 6pm

### Term Dates

Term 1 3rd September 2025 – 23rd October 2025

October half term 24th October 2025 – 3rd November 2025

Term 2 4th November 2025 – 19th December 2025

Christmas holiday 22nd December 2025 – 5th January 2026

Term 3 6th January 2026 – 13th February 2026

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 Days

24th October 2025 3rd November 2025 (additional inset day for ODST training)

5th January 2026 20th July 2026

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# PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

in aid of



## MAGGIE'S



Everyone's home of cancer care

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**The Institute, Adderbury 10am-4pm**



To donate **good quality** items for men, women and teenagers, please contact:

Emma Flint 07850 172190

Nikki Bruce 07875 080212

Sarah Duffy 07710 171944

Katie Vance 07879 220880

In support of

**Sarah's Marathon for Maggie's**

**"Anything is possible."**

Find out more by scanning this code:



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# FESTIVAL — OF — THE GIRL 2025

Sat 18 / Sun 19  
OCTOBER

Business Design Centre,  
London

For 7-11 year old girls and their families



Activities and workshops range from:

Engineering to gaming,  
Sports to aviation,  
Experiments to activism,  
Production to sustainability,  
Politics to friendships,  
Banking to farming and much more.

Although aimed at girls everyone is welcome!  
Tickets via our QR code or website  
[www.festivalofthegirl.com](http://www.festivalofthegirl.com)  
Pay-what-you-can and SEND options available



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# FARM & FOREST HOLIDAY CLUB

@ WARRINER SCHOOL FARM

28<sup>TH</sup> -30<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER

AUTUMN  
HOLIDAY  
CLUB

- Wildcrafts
- Denbuilding
- Campfirecookouts
- Meet the animals
- Mudkitchen
- Treeclimbing
- Rope swing
- & More!

AM (9am-12pm), PM (1-4pm)  
& Full-day sessions available:

TUES: KIDS (AGE 6-8)  
WED: TWEENS (AGE 9-12)  
THUR: TWEENS (AGE 9-12)

Email [farm@warriner.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:farm@warriner.oxon.sch.uk) or  
call 01295 721471 to register

