Dr South's CE Primary School

Bletchingdon Road, Islip, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2TQ
Nurture, Educate, Inspire
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Watson
Telephone (01865) 372323 **Website:** www.dr-souths.co.uk

13th November 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Photographs
Individual photographs were taken on Thursday and the children have all brought home an order form to allow you to order photographs. Orders need to be placed before the 22nd November for free delivery to school.

Children In Need
Thank you to everyone who has donated to Children in Need this week. The children enjoyed wearing their odd socks today and we learnt in assembly about the children we help by donating to this cause. There is still time to donate by using this link : https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=22933

ParentPay
We have lots of outstanding balances on ParentPay, so please log in and check your balances. If you make a voucher payment, please email the office and let us know (along with the amount you have paid) which will enable us to put this on your ParentPay account.

New Website
Today we have launched our new school website which should be easier to use and will give you lots of information about the school. The calendar has been updated for November and December dates will be added shortly. More information will be added soon and we hope you find this new site useful.

Beech Class trip
Beech Class enjoyed their trip to the Ashmolean and will be sharing their learning in their class assembly on Friday 11th December at 2.30pm. Parents are welcome to join us to see what the children have been studying this term

Celebration Assembly
Today we celebrated with children who have achieved their 25 nights and 50 nights reading awards.
We also celebrated with Amelie who received a swimming certificate for achieving her Level 1 award at her swimming class and with Leo who received a medal at his football club for excellent listening.

Birthday Books
Thank you to Margot and Hazel who have celebrated their birthday by donating books to the school library – it is a wonderful way to increase the new books we have for the library. We will send out some wish lists shortly, but if you would like to mark your child's birthday by donating a book and need some suggestions, do come and have a chat.

No Waste Noel – Saturday 23rd November at 12.00 – 12.45pm
We have 11 children who have already volunteered to come and sing some Christmas songs at Exeter Hall next week – we would love to have some more children to come along. If you able to join us, please email the office and let us know. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Halsey or Mrs Watson.

Help with Willow Equipment
This Sunday (15th Nov) at 1pm we would like some help to build the new playhouse which has arrived for Willow Class. If you are able to help, please contact the office.

Ash and Willow Cake Sale – Friday 20th November 3pm
Next Friday, Ash and Willow Class will be holding a cake sale to raise money for Children in Need. Please bring along some pennies at the end of the day to buy some cakes to support this charity.

Headlice
We have several cases of headlice in school at the moment – please check your child's hair and treat if appropriate.

Reading Volunteers
We are looking for volunteers to come and help by listening to children read. If you have any free afternoons (or know of anyone who could help), please come and chat to Mrs Watson or email the office.

Art Week – Magazines and cardboard boxes needed
We will be holding another Art Week in a few weeks' time and we are in need of lots of colourful magazines and small cardboard boxes (shoe boxes and cereal boxes would be ideal). If you have any at home, please send these into class with your children next week. Art Week will be in two weeks' time and the children will have art afternoons working on different projects which you are welcome to come and view on Friday 4th December at 3pm in the Lin Cooper Building.

Dr South's Christmas Trees, Wreath and Centrepiece Kits
ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday 22 November
Once again, we are selling beautiful, premium Nordmann Fir (non-drop) trees from a sustainable plantation in Scotland at brilliant prices, along with wreath and centrepiece kits.
For information, pricing and ordering visit https://tfods.org/order-your-christmas-tree/
or email drsouthschristmastrees@gmail.com
For further enquiries, please contact **Sophie Miller (07962 303921).**
Skip the garden centre queues and support a wonderful cause!

Wreath Making and Film Night - Friday 27 November 3:15pm
Book your place before Monday 24 November
Under the creative guidance of Lynne Bustin, everyone will craft their own exquisite 10" wreath and/or a winter candle festive table centrepiece, using fresh greenery. All supplies and refreshments are inc. 16+ only please. Children are invited to the school hall to watch a child-friendly Christmas film – whether their grown-up is wreath making or not.
Wreath Making Tickets: £25 to make a wreath, £15 for a centrepiece, or £35 to make both. 16+ only please. Invite friends and family!
To book your place: Please email drsouthsfriends@gmail.com **BEFORE Monday 24 November**.

Film Night Tickets: Held in the school hall, tickets are £3.50 per child or £10 for all siblings. The film title will be released along with further information later this month. Payment for the Film Night can be made via Parent Pay.

This week we congratulated:
Willow Class: Jack, for working well with his friends to build a pretend bonfire; Amelia, for fabulous sentence work when describing the rabbit's feeling;
Ash Class: Tom, for excellent reasoning and estimating in Maths; Joseph, for his incredible thoughtful sentences with great use of adjectives;
Oak Class: Raphael, for showing positivity and focus during Maths when learning about arrays; Holly, for showing creativity and inspiring others with her poetry verses in Literacy;
Beech Class: Lucas, for explaining really well some tricky maths concepts to his peers; Lea, for superb effort in everything this week.

Our Christian value for the term is thankfulness. Ask your child about Diwali.

Dates for the year

We have a church service most terms which all families are welcome to attend.
Our May Day celebrations are at the end of May and this is a whole day event for families to attend if they wish.
Sports Day is for the whole school and begins at 9am and last until approximately 1pm. Parents are welcome to watch and enjoy a picnic lunch with their child after the races if they are able to.

Term 2

20/11/2026 Ash and Willow Cake Sale
23/11/2026 Art Week
27/11/2026 FODS Wreath making and film night
4/12/2026 Christingle Service – 2.15pm at the church
4/12/2026 Art Exhibition in Lin Cooper building at 3pm
10/12/2026 Willow nativity performance 9.15am at school
11/12/2026 Beech Class assembly 2.30pm in the hall
18/12/2026 Christmas carol service 2pm at St Nicholas Church
18/12/2025 End of Term 2

Term 3

4/01/2027 Start of term
12/2/2027 Soup lunch and talent show – Village Hall from 1.00pm
15/2/2027 Half term week

Term 4

22/2/2027 Start of term
4/3/2027 World Book Day
15/ 3/2027 Parents consultations
18/3/2027 Parents consultations
25/3/2027 Easter service at church 2pm at St Nicholas Church

Term 5

12/4/2027 Start of term
26/4/2027 Beech Class Residential
3/5/2027 May Day School closed
28/5/2027 May Day celebrations 9.30 – 3pm approx.
31/5/2027 Half Term week

Term 6

7/6/2027 Inset – School Closed
8/6/2027 Start of Term
17/6/2027 Sports Day
1/7/2027 Key Stage 1 production 1.30pm in the village hall
8/7/2027 Key Stage 2 production 1.30pm and 6pm in the village hall.
19/7/2027 Leavers' Service 1.30pm at St Nicholas Church
19/7/2027 End of Term
20/7/2027 Inset – School Closed
21/7/2027 Inset – School Closed

Don't forget – you can always check term dates at: https://dr-souths.co.uk/term-dates/