

This week...

We want to thank Dr Cole for her visit to **Year 6** this week, where she shared an insight into what her job as a scientist looks like to help us engage further with our enquiry of 'How Are Lives Saved?'. As a specialist who undertakes research into what can go wrong with the heart and venal system, she showed us what healthy arteries and veins look like and why this is important so our blood can get to each part of our body. She helped us deepen our understanding of the circulatory system. Dr Cole also brought some examples of the material she uses in the lab for the children to have a look at.



Flu Immunisations took place in school on Monday. For those that consented, you would have received an email from the Immunisation team confirming your child had their vaccine.

If you missed the consent form and you would like your child to have the vaccine, the form is now open again and you will be able to choose a local community clinic to take your child to. Here is the link to the consent form -

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=OX139750>

Year 6 Information Evening

Thank you to the Year 6 parents who attended the evening this week. It was good to be able to talk to you personally about the challenges and opportunities presented in Year 6. If you weren't able to make it, the presentation is written in detail and is on our website - <https://www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk/resources/5e5f933d-6e5c-44fb-8172-c4aa10902c82>

Year 6 parents are now making their choices for secondary school. As Didcot develops and expands, it is vital that you look at your options. The secondary school offer is evolving. The Open Evenings held at these prospective schools are listed in the Dates for the Diary section below. Please visit their websites for more information.

Assembly

In the first full week back we spent more time looking at why we come to school. We asked the children why schools exist and why we need to attend. They were very astute and talked about the need to learn, to develop their skills and to understand how to collaborate effectively in life. We then went further to look at success. If school is aiming for children to be successful, what is the definition of success? We found that this might be different for each individual: awards, recognition, but also happiness and being able to appreciate the world. We wrapped up by looking at the importance of helping others and how this actually brings long term happiness to yourself. We showed the children that this is why the yellow '**responsibility**' rule has now been expanded to '**co-operation**'. Our definition of this is that the children work on nurturing their relationships with others as well as having a collective or community responsibility.

Pupil Responsibilities

This week, using a democratic class voting system, we selected our first Year 6 House Captains (for the Autumn Term). The Year 6 candidates were brave to undertake their speeches in front of the whole school. This year we tightened the speech criteria, giving them certain rules for the speech. They all did incredibly well and we are proud of the courage as well as the number of candidates (the majority of year 6)! The Autumn Term house Captains are:



Beech

Ruby (Class 15)
Mack (Class 15)



Oak

Savannah (Class 15)
Dylan (Class 15)



Willow

Hannah (Class 15)
Max (Class 15)

School response to summer heat

Thank you to Dr Miyako Warrington, a climate specialist and one of our parents, for attending last night's governor's meeting to present options for the school's resilience against heat. We continue to work on this issue with a focus on sustainability. With her specialisms, Dr Warrington is able to spearhead this with us and we are excited to tell you that we will also be aiming to involve the children. There will be real purpose in their work, aiming for the school to remain cooler without extra damage to the local environment.

Parent Governor Elections!

A letter has been emailed today via ParentPay about becoming a Ladygrove Park Parent Governor. This letter is also on our website alongside the Qualifications and Disqualifications of a parent governor document -

<https://www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk/key-info/governors>

You can nominate yourself. Each nomination must be signed by the candidate stating they are willing to stand. We need no more than a 250 word personal statement saying why you would like to be a governor. If we have more than two governor nominations, ballot forms will be sent home on Tuesday 29th September. Further details are in the letter sent alongside this newsletter.

All nominations to be emailed to the school office by **9am on Monday 28th September 2026**.



**GOVERNOR
ELECTIONS**

What is a governor?

It's important to understand what you might be signing up for. It's a noble and voluntary role which does have a few commitments attached. You will join a highly capable, rigorous, collaborative and detail oriented team.

Timings: you need to be available for 6 full evening meetings a year, at least 3 committee meetings, have flexibility to occasionally visit the school during the school day to understand its workings and be contactable to staff.

Skills: you need to be able to ask searching questions to help verify what we do but you also need to be ready to support staff (because the job is hard)! You need to have a broad focus/wide picture approach, it isn't a role for someone who wants to change things specifically for their own child.

Resilience: you need to be ready to assimilate a lot of information. We ensure school is portrayed as a fun and motivating place of learning for children but what sits behind this is: policies, procedures, audits, data, regulations, scheduling and collegiate working. If you haven't been put off by this- amazing! The successful candidate will initially be rewarded with an in-depth tour and induction of the school, its processes, the challenges and the overall aims of the school.

TVP Cyber Security Talk - Wednesday 23rd September, 5pm

We are delighted to invite you to a **Thames Valley Police Cyber Security Talk**, taking place in school next week on **Wednesday 23rd September at 5pm**.

The session, which will last around one hour, will focus on **'The Digital Dilemma – Keeping Children Safe Online'**.

With children spending more and more time online, we know that keeping them safe in the digital world can sometimes feel challenging. This informative session will offer practical advice and guidance to help parents and carers support their children to stay safe, make informed choices and enjoy the benefits of being online.

If you would like to join us, please complete the Google Form by the end of the day today - Friday 18th September.
 Google Form Link - <https://forms.gle/ocf7bQRKAWNy3kLa9>
 Due to hall capacity, we are limited on numbers, so please secure your place as soon as possible!
 We hope you'll be able to join us for what we hope will be a useful and informative evening for all parents and carers.

Dates for Autumn Term

Please keep checking these dates for any additions or amendments!

Wednesday 23rd September	TVP Cyber Security Talk to Parents and Carers, 5pm (see above)
Thursday 24th September	- Reception Phonics Session for Parents, 8.40am - Year 6 First Aid Course, in school. Refer to letter here. - DGS Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm (refer to DGS website)
Friday 25th September	- European Day of Languages, activities in school - Year 6 First Aid Course, in school. Refer to letter here.
Tuesday 29th September	Year 6 Police Talk regarding behaviour, in school
Wednesday 30th September	SBS Open Evening, 5.30-8.00pm (refer to SBS website)
Thursday 1st October	School CENSUS Day (see Notices section below)
Monday 5th October	Individual Pupil Photos - children to come to school in school uniform. If it is PE day, bring a pair of trainers to change into.
Wednesday 7th October	Year 1 & 3 PC Ben Talk, in school
Thursday 8th October	Aureus School Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm (refer to Aureus School website)
Thursday 15th October	Year 1 & 2 PERFORM Drama Workshop, in school
Tuesday 20th October	Parent Meetings, 4.30 - 8.00pm - details to follow
Wednesday 21st October	Parent Meetings, 3.30 - 6.30pm - details to follow
Thursday 22nd October	Last day of term - normal finish time
Saturday 31st October	Year 6: Deadline for Secondary School applications (see below)
Monday 2nd November	Start of Autumn Term 2 - All children start school: 8.40am FS-Y6
Monday 9th November	Year 3 Life in Britain Workshop, in school. More details to follow
Wednesday 11th November	Year 3 Life in Britain Workshop, in school. More details to follow
Thursday 19th November	Roving Bookshop in school
Friday 18th December	Last day of term - normal finish time

Notices

Social Media	Any inappropriate or disproportionate comments regarding the school or any of the pupils, parents or staff, on social media sites such as Facebook are not in the best interests of the whole school community. Parents should be aware that even flippant comments can be vastly misinterpreted when in print and are often shared beyond your online friendship
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	groups, negatively affecting others. Any concerns you may have should always be sent through the appropriate channels by speaking to the classteacher, senior leaders, headteacher or office staff, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
Attendance Please email the school office. Do not email the year group.	If your child is not in school, you must notify us by leaving a message on our answer phone or by emailing office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk before 9am on each day of their absence. Email is preferable as we are finding it increasingly hard to understand due to unclear messages and poor telephone signal. Please state clearly and concisely your child's full name, class and their reason for absence - <u>being specific about the illness or medical needs</u>. You must inform the school in advance by email above, if you need to take your child for an educational setting visit, religious observance or similar. These absences will need to be pre agreed by us. No birthdays, cheaper holidays, altered holiday arrangements or similar will be agreed. In line with strict government legislation, they will be recorded as unauthorised on your child's attendance record.
Data Collection Sheets	Thank you to all those that have returned the Data Collection Sheets already. If you haven't yet returned the form, please do so as soon as possible. Even if there are no changes, please sign and return the form. Please note that Nursery and Reception children will not receive a form as they have only just started. Many thanks.
Autumn Term Clubs	Thank you to all those that signed up for clubs last week. Emails have gone home today through ParentPay confirming if your child has a place or not. Our clubs are always very popular! If a club is oversubscribed, priority will be given to those that have not yet attended a club this academic year and then names will be selected at random.
School CENSUS Day - Thursday 1st October	National School CENSUS Day is when a snapshot of school data is taken and the information is used to calculate our future funding. We would like to encourage all children in KS1 and Foundation Stage to take up a universal free school meal on this school day in order for us to get our maximum funding. We have swapped the Thursday and Friday menu choices this week. On Thursday 1st October, the menu will be: Fish fingers with chips or Cheesy Broccoli Frittata with chips, and an oaty cookie. On Friday 4th October, the menu will be: Greek Chicken Pitta or Greek Spinach & Cheese Whirl with herby rice, salad and Jam & Coconut Spong with custard. Meals need to be ordered in the usual way on the day during registration. KS2 children can also order this meal, payment made as normal via ParentPay, unless you are entitled to benefit related Free School Meals.
External Clubs and Activities	If you are looking for external clubs and activities taking place in the local area, or for any upcoming holiday camps, please visit this page on our website - https://www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk/parents/external-clubs-activities

Admissions to Secondary School (Academic Year 27/28)

Year 6 parents can now apply online for secondary schools and the closing date is **31st October 2026**. To ensure your child transfers to the school that you consider most appropriate, you must apply before the closing date.

Remember to:

- **Apply online and on time.** Without an on time application you will not get an offer on national offer day on the 2nd March 2026. It will also reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school in the 2nd allocation. Deadline for applications is 31st October 2025.
- **Addresses:** If you are moving house or have recently moved please make sure you upload proof of address – tenancy agreement or a contract of exchange document.
- **Preferences:** Provide more than one preference.
- **Remember to add details of siblings.** Please note that if you are applying for a place at DGS and have a son at St Birinus,

this counts as a sibling and vice versa.

Please visit secondary schools websites for information about 'virtual' tours/parent meetings.

[Click on this link for easy access to the OCC website.](#)

For transport information click on this link <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/travelling-school>

Oxfordshire Music Service - Youth Folk Group

The Youth Folk Group run by Oxfordshire Music Service has been running for a couple of years now. We have a core group of young players but would love to welcome more!

It's open to all young people from school years 6-11 who are comfortable playing simple tunes, chords or rhythms on any instrument or voice. In a typical session, the group will play a warm-up song together, then work on learning a song/tune by ear (supportive materials can be made available), before splitting into advanced tune players and singers/beginners to cater to as many of our players as we can.

The first gathering of the year will be on Saturday 19th September, 1:45 – 3:45pm at The Centre for Music in Barton and will meet once per half term after that. The cost is £18 per session but we offer financial help for families on low incomes or in receipt of certain benefits – families can apply for this by completing the 'help with payment' section of the sign-up form.

We aim to be as inclusive as possible so do get in touch if there is anything we can do to support a child to attend:
katie.harris@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Here is the link to find out more and sign-up: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/FolkGroup

You're Invited! Aureus School Open Events

Aureus School extends a warm welcome to all families interested in getting to know our school better. Come and explore what our school has to offer and learn about our educational approach.

Please go to our website to register for open mornings.

Open Evening Thursday 8 October - there is no need to pre-register for this - please just come along on the day!

www.aureusschool.org/3774/youre-invited-aureus-open-events

You're Invited!

Book Now!

Open Mornings

September 2026 – June 2027: 9am-10am

Aureus School
Cultivating ambition; high standards for all.

Scan to book a place



Open Evening 2026
Thursday 24th September 2026
4:30pm - 7:30pm
No booking necessary



Open Mornings 2026
Monday 5th October: 9:15am
Tuesday 6th October: 9:15am
Wednesday 7th October: 9:15am

Duration: approximately 1 hour
Booking essential



*To book a place please
scan the QR code*



We look forward to seeing you

Didcot Girls' School, Manor Crescent, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 7AJ



ST BIRINUS SCHOOL
Inspiring Excellence through Care, Courtesy and Commitment



Open Morning School Tours

9am-10:15am

Tues 6th & Weds 7th Oct 2026
Mon 12th & Fri 16th Oct 2026
Tues 20th & Wed 21st Oct 2026

*Our SENDCo will present about our general SEND provision at SBS
for 15 minutes at the end of the tours on 7th and 21st October
NB - this is not an opportunity to discuss individual student needs*

To book a tour, please scan QR Code or visit

www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/openevents

We kindly request one adult per family for the tours



OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 30th September 2026

5:30pm-8:00pm

Headteacher talks to take place at 6pm and 7pm

NO BOOKING NECESSARY

admissions@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk • 01235 814444 • www.st-birinus-school.org.uk

AUTUMN MENU 2026

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MENU KEY:
WEEK ONE 01.09.26 22.09.26 13.10.26	Option One	Macaroni Cheese	 Phat Pasty Pork Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	 Spaghetti Beef Bolognaise	Fishfingers with Chips	 Whole grain
	Option Two	Tomato Pasta	Mexican Bean Roll with Potato Wedges	 Roasted Quorn, Roast Potatoes, & Gravy	Vegan Bolognaise	Cheese & Bean Pasty with Chips	
	Sides	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	
	Dessert	NEW Banana Mousse	Orange Drizzle Cake	 Fruit Platter	 Apple Flapjack 	 Cookie	
WEEK TWO 08.09.26 29.09.26 20.10.26	Option One	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Summer Mixed Salad 	 Beef Chilli with Rice & Sweetcorn & Cucumber Salsa 	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Greek Chicken Pitta with Herby Rice & Salad	Fishfingers with Chips	 Plant based
	Option Two	Rainbow Pizza With Summer Mixed Salad 	Mild Mexican Quorn Chilli with Rice & Sweetcorn & Cucumber Salsa	 Quorn Roast Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Greek Spinach & Cheese Whirl with Herby Rice & Salad	NEW Cheesy Broccoli Frittata with Chips	
	Sides	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	
	Dessert	Vanilla Sponge	Ice Cream	 Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad	Jam & Coconut Sponge with Custard	 Oaty Cookie 	
WEEK THREE 15.09.26 06.10.26	Option One	Sweet Potato Curry with Rice	 Beef Burger with Potato Wedges & Rainbow Slaw	Roast of the Day, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	 Beef Pasta in Tomato Sauce 	Fishfingers with Chips	 Added plant protein
	Option Two	Chickpea Curry with Rice	Vegetable Burger with Potato Wedges & Rainbow Slaw	Quorn Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetable Pasta in Tomato Sauce	Cheese & Spinach Whirl	
	Sides	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	
	Dessert	Peach Cake	Cheese & Crackers	 Fruit Medley	Apple Cake 	 Vanilla Shortbread	
AVAILABLE DAILY:		Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar					 Chef's Special

If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.

PLAY AND LEARN



Come and
talk to us
about:



Feeding and
sleeping



Child
communication



School
readiness



Back to
work



Money or
housing worries



Becoming
a parent

Play, learn, explore and make new
friends!

Join us for our Childminder
Connect sessions, held once a
month from Tuesday 22nd
September 9:30-11.

A great opportunity for
childminders and the children in
their care (aged 0-5 years) to
enjoy fun activities, build
friendships, share ideas, and
learn about the support

Didcot available.



Northern Community Centre, Dan Read Parade,
Great Western Park, Didcot, OX11 6BD



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**FAMILY
HUBS**



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PLAY AND LEARN



Come and
talk to us
about:



Feeding and
sleeping



Child
communication



School
readiness



Back to
work



Money or
housing worries



Becoming
a parent

Play, learn, explore and
make new friends!

Join us every Monday
(starting 12th October)

from 9:30am to 11:00am

for fun activities for
children aged 0-5 and their
grown-ups.

Didcot



Didcot Methodist Church,
Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RQ



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COUNTY COUNCIL**