



Newsletter #05

Friday 2nd October 2026

Web: www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Email: office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Phone App: Search "School Jotter"

[Standard Termly Reminders](#)

This week...

This week, **Year 6** enjoyed a fascinating visit from PC Michael Dix, who spoke with the children about community behaviour, the importance of following the law, bullying and staying safe on social media. While the children were enthralled by PC Dix's demonstration of his police kit; including handcuffs, a baton, and pepper spray, the key takeaway of the session was that a police officer's most powerful tool is always their voice! A huge thank you to PC Dix for sharing his time and valuable insights with us.



Assembly

This week we talked about **'What it is to be a role model'** and picking the right role model, someone with the best values. We explored role models who aren't famous. And finally, for the courageous, telling us of a person in the school who they would like to be like. The children were very forthcoming with this and there was a lot of pride in the hall when children discovered that they were a role model for someone else. We also talked about the fact that younger people can be role models to you also.

On Thursday this week, we took part in a whole school **Invacuation/Lockdown** practice. This is a standard drill, there was no other reason for it. It used to be an annual drill but will now be carried out roughly 3 times a year. The children were very sensible and were able to demonstrate that we could react very quickly as a school to any arising issues from the outside.

Cyber Security Talk Links

Following our recent TVP Cyber Security talk, we wanted to share a couple of useful links with you.

Police CyberCheck - Step-by-step guidance to improve your cybersecurity:

<https://cybercheck.southeastcyber.police.uk/c5298/20260923>

Other useful links, including General Advice for Families, Devices and parental controls, Social media and apps and Gaming:

<https://cybercheck.southeastcyber.police.uk/individual/foundation/useful-links>

Parent Governor Election

We are pleased to announce and welcome our new Parent Governor, **Laura Youngman**.

Thank you to Ariel, Ben and Laura for taking the time to participate in the election process and putting yourself forward for this important role. Your interest and commitment to our school is very much appreciated.

A big thank you to Daz from Didcot Town Football Club for donating us some footballs and cones last week! The children will enjoy playing with these during break times!



Dates for Autumn Term

Please keep checking these dates for any additions or amendments!

Monday 5th October	Individual Pupil Photos - all children to come to school in school uniform. If it is their normal PE day, please send a pair of trainers for them to change into.
Tuesday 6th October	- Year 1 Snakes and Frogs Talk (in school) - Nursery Book Sale, 3-3.20pm on KS1 playground (see Notices section below)
Wednesday 7th October	- Year 1 & 3 PC Ben Talk by PC Mike Dix (in school) - Nursery Book Sale, 3-3.20pm on KS1 playground (see Notices section below)
Thursday 8th October	Aureus School Open Evening, 4.30-7.30pm (refer to Aureus School website)
Tuesday 13th October	Year 5 Planetarium - Refer to letter here
Thursday 15th October	- Year 1 & 2 PERFORM Drama Workshop, in school - PALS AGM, 7.30pm in school (all welcome)
Tuesday 20th October	Parent Meetings, see Notices section below
Wednesday 21st October	Parent Meetings, see Notices section below
Thursday 22nd October	- PALS Non Uniform Day (in memory of Gill) - see Notices section below 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. Refer to letter here
Wednesday 11th November	Year 3 Life in Britain Workshop, in school. Refer to letter here
Thursday 19th November	Roving Bookshop in school (more details to follow)
Friday 18th December	Last day of term - normal finish time

Notices

Attendance Please email the school office. <u>Do not email the year group.</u>	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. <u>Email is preferable as we are finding it increasingly hard to understand due to unclear messages and poor telephone signal.</u> 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.
Individual and Sibling Photos Monday 5th October	Individual (and sibling) photos will be taking place next week on Monday 5th October. <u>All children</u> will need to come to school in their uniform on this day. If it is their normal PE day, please send a pair of trainers for them to change into.
Nursery Book Sale Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th	Nursery class is holding a book sale on the KS1 playground on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October after school to raise money for some new resources for Nursery, Class 1.

October	Donation suggestion of 50p per book. Please come and support us with any spare change you have! Many thanks.
Parent Meetings - w/c 19th October	Parent Meeting booking links were emailed out through ParentPay on Wednesday this week. Please use the link to book an appointment for your child. If you have more than one child in school, you will have a different link for each. Meetings will take place in person, at school. Please note: If you do not receive a confirmation email once you have made your appointment, check your SPAM/Junk folder. For any queries, please contact the school office.
PALS Non-Uniform Day Thursday 22nd October	To honour Gill and raise funds for a school memorial to her, PALS is hosting a bright colours non-uniform day on <u>Thursday 22nd October</u> . We invite all children to come to school in bright clothing to celebrate her life. A voluntary donation of £2 would be greatly appreciated.
Donation Request	Mrs Addison is looking for some rocks/pebbles like in this photo, for a project in school. If you have any that you might be able to donate, please bring them along to the school office. Many thanks! 
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>



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 9:45 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

You're Invited!

Open Mornings
September 2026 – June 2027: 9am-10am

Book Now!



Aureus School
Cultivating ambition; high standards for all.

Scan to book a place



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

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	
	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	 Whole grain
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  Added plant protein
	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	 Chef's Special
	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					

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.

Cycle to
School Week
5th - 9th
October

*Free after school
refreshments at Foals
Meadow, Oxfordshire.*

as part of the Cycle to School Week 2026.

Drop by our Marketing Suite after school (until 4.30pm)
for complimentary refreshments plus
a free snap band when you visit
on **Thursday 8th and Friday 9th October.**



TILIA
HOMES

Foals Meadow, Lady Grove, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 9BS



Matthew Barber
Listening. Serving. Taking Action.

Christmas Card Competition

Only draw within the space above. No glitter, stickers or digital designs please.

First Name _____ Surname _____

School/Group _____ Age _____

Please return to matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk or post to PCC Christmas Card Competition,
Orchard View, Church Street, West Hanney, OX12 0LW by 12 noon on **Friday 27th November 2026**.

Email address _____

To notify the winner and runners-up. This can be a school/organisation email address if preferred.

Christmas Card Competition Rules

As your Police & Crime Commissioner I send lots of Christmas cards and I'd love my card to be designed by a child from our area.

After receiving hundreds of entries last year I'm excited to launch my 2026 Christmas Card Competition for primary school-aged children across Thames Valley.

The competition is open to all children up to the age of 11 and the winner's design will be featured on the front of the card.

Please create your entry on entry form enclosed (more copied can be downloaded and printed at www.matthewbarber.co.uk/christmascard) using pencils, pens, or paint, but please avoid glitter, stickers and digital designs.

1. All entries must be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday 27th November 2026.
2. Please send hard copies by post to PCC Christmas Card Competition, Orchard View, Church Street, West Hanney, OX12 0LW, or good quality digital photographs or scans to matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk by **Friday 27th November 2026**.
3. Please ensure you include an email address in order to contact the winner and runners-up. This may be a school or organisation email address if you prefer.
4. The winner and runners-up will be notified no later than Monday 1st December 2025.
5. The designs will also be published online and on social media, along with the name and school/organisation of the winner and runners-up.
6. Originals sadly cannot be returned.
7. Entry is limited to one per child.
8. By submitting an entry to the competition, participants agree that their artwork can be used as the Christmas card for Matthew Barber and that it can be reproduced in local media and local literature, online and on social media.
9. The winner will receive a professionally printed version of their artwork.