



Newsletter #02

Friday 12th September 2025

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

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

Phone App: Search "School Jotter"

[Standard Termly Information](#)

More thank yous...

During the summer holidays the lovely volunteers from DHL came to help with the mammoth job of keeping the site tidy. They weeded and cleared the entire front courtyard over a few days, creating and disposing of bags and bags of garden waste. Thank you to every one of them!



Curriculum Update (Long Read- as promised last week)

For parents who were with us last year, we hope you will have heard your child talking about enquiry questions, states of being, challenges. But what does that actually mean? Throughout last year, the school was trialling a new approach to our curriculum. The results from the trial were phenomenal. The buzz around school, enthusiasm for learning and connections the children made in their learning was clear. As a result, this year, the school is fully embarking on this enquiry curriculum. See below for more information.

Curriculum Approach

We use the Curious City Curriculum which inspires and guides our teachers to create contextually relevant enquiry-led experiences. This enquiry-led approach is enabling our school to create a bespoke, locally focused curriculum that goes beyond the National Curriculum 2014.

From Foundation Stage to Year 6, pupils develop their substantive (know of) and disciplinary (know how) knowledge. They encounter curious and creative learning opportunities which are progressively planned, matched to cognitive development and expose learners to the wider world in carefully planned stages. Each enquiry is designed to provide just enough guidance whilst enabling teachers to inspire learners with local people, places and stories relevant to the school's locality. Cross-curricular learning objectives are woven into enquiries, placing an emphasis on 'being' rather than 'doing'. Our pupils are historians – they don't simply 'do' history; they are scientists – they don't just 'do' science. Enquiries allow pupils to seek answers to questions that are too big to answer straight away. In doing so, they will experience different states of being and recognise the essential links between them.

Some areas of study, including English and Maths are taught discretely and we use a number of proven, evidence-based schemes of work to provide high-quality learning experiences.

States of Being

States of Being (below) enable learners to focus on and/or combine powerful knowledge in different enquiries. Each knowledge-engaged state symbolises an aspect of the curriculum, helping learners to master both the know of and know how of a subject, not just remember it. For instance, we want our learners to be Scientists, not just learn about science. As children get older, we help them cross-pollinate states. We want learners to discover for themselves that they can be an Author, Scientist, Geographer and Philosopher at the same time and that some adults combine these states to become Archaeologists, for instance. We want our learners to see the interconnection between what they are learning and how this knowledge is applied.

Education (Complete PE), Religious Education (Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE) PSHE and SMSC (Jigsaw PSHE). Where possible, links are made but, more often than not, they are stand-alone experiences.

We place high priority on ensuring children's physical and mental wellbeing are met. We understand that children will not be successful learners unless they are emotionally secure, therefore we carefully design our curriculum to meet and respond to children's physical and mental wellbeing needs, so that they are as valued and important as academic development.

We carefully monitor children's progress with their personal development, and our well planned and thoughtful approach to SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development, helps to ensure that every child is well cared for and supported.

How can I support my child?

- Ask questions - rather than asking your child what they did today, ask them what they learned, what they have been (e.g. scientist), how they worked towards answering their enquiry questions.
- Support your child's learning - reference the curriculum newsletters for key vocabulary and supporting books to read.
- Build on your child's learning - is there somewhere you could visit locally to support the enquiry? Do you have a member of your family/friends with a profession who could talk to your child about the question? Could you visit the library to find books to support the enquiry?

Throughout the year parents will be invited into school to witness the incredible work of your children. Please keep checking Google Classrooms and newsletters for more information about these dates. We are also working on a Parent Information Evening where you will see the curriculum in action, find out more information and have the chance to ask questions - more information on this coming soon!

Celebrating Success

Over the school holidays, Felicity from Class 11 performed a whole week with Stagecoach in 'The Wizard of Oz'. She was cast as The Lion and she was "roarsome"! Well done Felicity.



Dates for Autumn Term...


Please keep checking these dates for any additions or amendments!

Tuesday 16th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycle Training (selected pupils) - remember bikes and helmets!
Wednesday 17th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5 & 6 Police Talk from PC Michael Dix, in school• Year 6 PGL Meeting, 3.15pm in Year 6 classrooms
Monday 22nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reception & Year 1 PERFORM Drama Workshop, in school
Tuesday 23rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycle Training (selected pupils) - remember bikes and helmets!
Thursday 25th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 First Aid Training, in school - more details to follow
Friday 26th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 First Aid Training, in school - more details to follow
Tuesday 30th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycle Training (selected pupils) - remember bikes and helmets!
Thursday 2nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School CENSUS Day - more details to follow
Friday 3rd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Poetry Day, activities in school

Monday 6th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Photos
Tuesday 7th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 and Year 3 PC Ben Talk, in school • Cycle Training (selected pupils) - remember bikes and helmets!
Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 PGL Residential
Tuesday 14th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 3, 4 & 5 Author Visit and workshop, Sue Palmer
Tuesday 21st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Meetings 4.30-8.00pm, in school - letters • Cycle Training (selected pupils) - remember bikes and helmets!
Wednesday 22nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Meetings 3.30-6.30pm, in school - letters to follow
Thursday 23rd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of Term 1
Monday 3rd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Autumn Term 2
Monday 10th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu Immunisations for all children in Reception - Year 6
Tuesday 11th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle Training TEST DAY (selected pupils) - remember bikes and helmets!
Friday 14th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Diabetes Day Non Uniform Day - more details to follow
Thursday 20th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roving Bookshop in school, more details to follow
Thursday 11th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 19th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of Term 2

Notices

Attendance	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Parent Meetings	<p>Parent Meeting Letters went home with your oldest child at the start of this week. Thank you to those that have returned them already. Please return these to the class teacher or via the postbox in the courtyard/Reception by Monday 15th September.</p>
Extended Schools Term 1 Billing	<p>For families with children attending the Breakfast and After School Club, the outstanding balance for Term 1 sessions has now been added to your ParentPay account. In accordance with the Extended Schools Terms and Conditions, payment is required at the beginning of each term. Many thanks.</p>

School Jotter 3 	<p>Over the summer holidays, you may have noticed that our website underwent an update! Please ensure to download and install the new School Jotter 3 App from Google Play or the Apple App Store.</p> <p>Once installed, select <i>Guest Login</i> and then search for Ladygrove Park Primary School. Ensure that Notifications are enabled.</p> <p>Once installed, you can remove the old School Jotter app.</p>
Lunch Menu Amendments	<p>There have been some slight amendments to our school lunch menu. A copy of the menu is below but can also be found on our website here - https://www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk/parents/school-lunches</p>
Year 6 Liddlington Residential	<p>A reminder to send your medical forms back for the Liddlington Residential if you haven't already and a reminder that there are a couple of parents who are yet to pay the balance. Please do so over the weekend. Many thanks.</p>
External Clubs and Activities	<p>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</p>
A polite message from Ann	<p>A polite message from Ann, the lovely lady who looks after the community gardens area & roundabout along Avon Way/Tyne Avenue:</p> <p>The soil/grass areas became so hard everywhere over the summer but the grass area, close to the community garden at the entrance of Brunstock Beck, was full of deep cracks. We decided to take action and fill the holes in and top it up with stones, soil and grass seeds, in the hope with some rain it will remove the danger to all!</p> <p>We have put a sign and some string lines around this area to ask that children/adults/dogs refrain from walking on it whilst the grass grows. Please can we ask that you are respectful of this over the coming weeks.</p>

Admissions to Secondary School (Academic Year 26/27)

Year 6 parents can now apply online for secondary schools and the closing date is **31st October 2025**. 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>

Have your circumstances changed over the summer? Your child and school may be entitled to extra funding.

How will this help my child? It will help your child to have extra equipment and resources. Applying for this funding is voluntary but if you do not apply we will not receive this extra funding which could help your child.

From April 2015, the threshold figure which forms part of the tax credit free school meal eligibility category is £16,190. Pupils whose parents/carers receive the following support payments are entitled to free school meals (assuming the parent does not receive Working Tax Credit). Under the current criteria, children who receive, or whose parents receive one or more of the following support payments are entitled to receive free school meals and eligible for two/three year old funding.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Checking if you are eligible for any of the above is simple. All you need to do is speak to the ladies in the school office privately and we can check to see if your child is eligible using your national insurance number and date of birth.

Autumn Term 1
2025

WEEK ONE

01/09/25
22/09/25
13/10/25

MONDAY



Macaroni
Cheese

Tomato and
Lentil Pasta

Vegetables of the Day

Apple
Flapjack

Option One

Option Two

Vegetables

Dessert

TUESDAY

BBQ Chicken Pizza

Cheese & Tomato Pizza

Vegetables of the Day

Summer Lemon
Cake

WEDNESDAY

Roast Chicken, Roast
Potatoes & Gravy

Quorn Roast, Potatoes,
& Gravy

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit
Platter

THURSDAY

Spaghetti
Bolognaise

Vegan Bolognaise

Vegetables of the Day

Chocolate Brownie

FRIDAY

Fish fingers with Chips

Cheese & Bean Pasty
with Chips

Vegetables of the Day

Cookie

WEEK TWO

08/09/25
29/09/25
20/10/25

Mexican Chilli and Rice

Lentil and Sweet
Potato Curry
with Rice

Vegetables of the Day

Vanilla Sponge

Option One

Option Two

Vegetables

Dessert

Pasta Bolognese

Vegan Bolognaise

Vegetables of the Day

Jelly

Roast Chicken, Roast
Potatoes, & Gravy

Quorn Roast,
Potatoes & Gravy

Vegetables of the Day

Freshly Chopped
Fruit Salad

Meat Balls served with
Rice

Vegi Meatballs with
Rice

Vegetables of the Day

Peaches and
Ice Cream

Fish fingers with Chips

Cheese and Tomato
Quiche with Chips

Vegetables of the Day

Vanilla
Shortbread

WEEK THREE

15/09/25
06/10/25

Smokey Bean Burger
with Potato Wedges

Cheese Slice with
Potato Wedges

Vegetables of the Day

Pear Cake

Option One

Option Two

Vegetables

Dessert

NEW Green Thai Chicken
Curry
with Rice

Five Bean Curry
With Rice

Vegetables of the Day

Cheese and Crackers

Roast Chicken, Roast
Potatoes & Gravy

Quorn Roast
Potatoes & Gravy

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit Medley

NEW Greek Macaroni
Pastitsio

Broccoli Vegetable Pasta

Vegetables of the Day

Jam and Coconut Sponge

Fish fingers
and Chips

Vegetarian
sausage with
Chips

Vegetables of the
Day

Oaty
Cookie

MENU KEY



Added Plant Protein



Wholemeal



Vegan



Chef's Special

ALLERGY INFORMATION:

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.

Open Evening

Thursday, 9th October 2025

4:30pm – 7:30pm

You're
Invited!



Aureus School

Cultivating ambition; high standards for all.

You're Invited!

Open Mornings

September 2025 & October 2025



Aureus School

Cultivating ambition; high standards for all.



Open Evening 2025

Thursday 25th September: 4:30pm - 7:30pm

No booking necessary

Open Mornings 2025

Monday 6th October: 9:15am

Tuesday 7th October: 9.15am & 10:15am

Wednesday 8th October: 9:15am & 10:15am

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Booking essential

We look forward to seeing you

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

To book a place please
scan the QR code





ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

Inspiring Excellence through Care, Courtesy and Commitment

Ridgeway
Education
Trust
Excellence Through
Partnership



Open Morning School Tours

9am-10:15am

Tues 23rd, Wed 24th September 2025

Tues 7th, Wed 8th October 2025

Wed 15th, Thurs 16th October 2025

*Our SENDCo will present about our general SEND provision at SBS for 15 minutes at the end of the tours on **23rd September** and **7th 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 1st October 2025

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

LEARN TO PLAY THE GUITAR

with Oxfordshire County Music Service

Families on certain benefits can apply for free music lessons by completing the 'help with payment' section of the sign-up form.

From
£7.00

per lesson
(depending on
group size)



Sign up or find more
information at
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest)
[/musicinterest](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest)

Piano lessons by Melia Music

meliamusic.co.uk



Why learn the piano?

First off; **FUN!!!**

Piano is a fantastic instrument that combines musical enjoyment with cognitive development. Playing the piano encourages the use of mathematics in a creative environment, while listening to and learning music helps reduce stress and anxiety.

Individual lessons foster a strong rapport between myself and the student, building confidence and motivation. Performance opportunities such as school assemblies and graded exams further enhance self-assurance and provide a sense of achievement. These valuable skills are transferable to many areas of life, including future job interviews.

Research shows that piano playing enhances coordination—initially using one hand, then both together—building over time.

Who is 'Melia Music'?

I'm Tarn, a local piano teacher with a primary teaching degree and 20 years of experience working in schools. My passion is sharing the joy of music-making with students of all ages. I tailor each lesson to suit the individual, ensuring an engaging and enjoyable learning environment.

Why in-school lessons?

In-school lessons help improve focus and concentration, benefiting other academic subjects. I use a flexible rolling timetable to minimise disruption to your child's school day and being in school means their learning has no impact on your family schedule.

Your child will have opportunities to perform in front of peers and collaborate with others, fostering a love for sharing music and creating a supportive musical community.

Ready to start?

Head on over to meliamusic.co.uk

or send me an email at

tarn@meliamusic.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.