



# Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Courage

Hope

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January 2026 Newsletter 89

## Willow Class Trip to Oxford



As part of their geography learning, Willow Class have been exploring the city of Oxford, and last Wednesday they enjoyed a truly memorable and fun day out. We place great importance on taking children beyond the school environment, as these real-life experiences bring learning to life and provide opportunities that children do not always get the chance to experience.



The day began at the Martyrs' Memorial before the children continued to the Weston Library, walked beneath the Bridge of Sighs and discovered Halley's House. As they explored the streets, the children searched carefully for clues, encouraging them to slow down, look closely and really notice the details of Oxford's historic buildings.

*"It felt like we were detectives looking for secrets in the buildings,"* said one child.

Along the High Street, they explored university buildings before arriving at St Mary's Church. Here, the children heard the famous story of how C. S. Lewis, after attending Evensong, stepped out



into the snow covered street and turned a corner. In the lamplight, he noticed a door set into a wall. The door had a knocker shaped like a lion's head, inspiring Aslan, and the porch above it was supported by two carved fawns, later reflected in the character of Mr Tumnus.

*"I liked standing there knowing that was where the idea for Narnia started,"* shared another child.

After lunch, the class visited the Bodleian Library for an engrossing and fun guided tour. Seeing such an iconic place helped the children make meaningful links between geography, history and literature.

*"I couldn't believe how old the books were, it felt like being inside history,"* commented one

pupil.

Throughout the day, the children were a credit to the school. Staff and members of the public at several locations commented on their excellent behaviour, politeness and curiosity, which was wonderful to hear.

Trips like this are an important part of our commitment to widening experiences and enriching learning beyond the classroom. Please do visit again as a family, the Bodleian Library is free, and the children are now experts! It was a day full of learning, discovery and lots of fun, and one the children will remember for years to come.



We've been asked to remind everyone that **no parking is permitted in the preschool car park at any time.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Year 6 Inspirational Person Lucy Bronze

Our year 6 SVAs choose an inspirational person each week to talk about, last Friday Tilda explained her inspiration person with such confidence and eloquence, I wanted to share across the wider school community - here is what she said, "My inspirational person is Lucy Bronze because in 2021 she was diagnosed with ADHD and autism. She calls these her 'superpowers' and says that they aid her football focus. Lucy has since become an ambassador for the National Autistic Society. In 2022 she won the Women's Euros with the Lionesses and in 2025 she lifted the cup again. Lucy has shown that being neurodiverse doesn't hold you back. It makes you UNSTOPPABLE! That is why Lucy Bronze is my inspirational person."



A powerful message, shared brilliantly. Tilda's thoughtful recognition of neurodiversity is a powerful reflection of the inclusive teaching and open conversations that take place in our classrooms every day. Through carefully chosen texts, discussions, assemblies and PSHE work, children are encouraged to understand difference, celebrate strengths and talk confidently about neurodiversity in a positive and respectful way. This consistent approach helps pupils not only recognise diversity in the wider world, but value it within themselves and others, seeing difference as something that empowers rather than limits.

## School uniform

From September 2026, changes introduced through the Department for Education's guidance alongside the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill will limit schools to a maximum of three branded uniform items (excluding ties). These changes are intended to reduce the cost of uniform for families and support children's wellbeing by removing unnecessary financial pressure, while still allowing schools to retain a clear sense of identity. As a school, we would like to involve parents in deciding which branded items we keep, and which could become optional. As a reminder, our PTA runs a well-established second-hand uniform scheme, offering good-quality items at low or no cost. This is a brilliant way to keep uniform affordable and sustainable, and we encourage all families to make use of it where possible. To help us plan ahead, we would be grateful if you could share your views by answering a few questions on the link: <https://forms.gle/1cqsmC2L4kwy97V37>

Please note that branded book bags are not specifically named in the DfE guidance, which focuses primarily on clothing items; however, we welcome your views on whether these should remain optional. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Your feedback will help us make fair, informed decisions that support all families in our school community.

## Website update

Our website provider has recently undergone some changes, which has meant we haven't been able to update or use the site as we would normally. The good news is that everything should be resolved by the beginning of next month, and we're looking forward to being fully up and running again. Please watch this space for updates, thank you for your patience.



### **Term 3**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Term starts

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Silver Birch Class residential

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Silver Birch Class return

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Willow Class Oxford trip

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Doughnuts!

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 7.15pm PTA Meeting at Highwayman – all welcome

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 3.20 Term ends

**February holiday** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **Term 4**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 Term starts

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2pm Holy Communion Easter Service (all welcome)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Open Celebration Worship and class cups (all welcome)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 1 pm Term ends

**Easter holiday** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **Term 5**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Term starts

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Bank Holiday Monday (no school)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 1.30 Pentecost followed by Maypole and Country Dancing (all welcome)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 at 3.20 Term ends

**Late Spring holiday** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **Term 6**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 INSET Day

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 Term starts

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 2.30 Celebration Worship in church (all welcome)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 9am Open Celebration Worship and Class Cups (all welcome)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 1pm Term ends

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 INSET Day