



EYFS pupils enjoying the snow earlier this week

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful festive break with family and friends. It's been lovely to see the children return full of energy and smiles, even though the first week back has been a little tricky with the flurry of snow and the icy conditions caused by those low temperatures around the school site. Thank you for your support as we've worked together to keep everyone safe.

We welcome back Mrs Ashby this term after her medical procedure last term. We know how much Larch class appreciated Mrs Conlon being with them and thank her for leading the class so well during term 2. Miss Mendonça and Mrs Evans have begun their roles as our Interim SENDCo and Chestnut class teacher respectively.

As part of Monday's INSET training day, we officially began our OPAL journey with an introductory training session for all staff. Over the next 18 to 24 months, we will be working through an action plan to transform lunchtimes into richer, more creative experiences. In the coming weeks, children will start to notice some quick wins such as new zones, loose parts and opportunities for imaginative play, while bigger projects will follow as the programme develops. We will also be sharing ideas for donations of loose parts and asking for help with larger projects later in the year, so please keep this in mind if you or your workplace might have useful materials. This is an exciting step forward and we can't wait to see the difference it will make for our children. More information relating to this exciting project in the coming months.

You will also find sent with this newsletter a joint letter from the Governors and myself about an upcoming change to the number of children being admitted into Reception in September 2026. This is a decision the Governors have been discussing for some time, as recent Reception year groups have not been full. Next year we will only admit 30 children, so there will be one class instead of two. This reflects the lower number of children nationally and within the Borough and is an important step to help us plan for the future. Naturally, this will give us more space to use around the school, which is a positive outcome. Do make sure you take a moment to read the letter for more details.

EYFS pupils demonstrating wonderful learning through play. In the vets and sorting independently



We wish Mrs Denning and her husband, Jon, lots of happy times as Mrs Denning begins her maternity leave next Wednesday. We are looking forward to sharing their baby news very soon!

Mr Beavan

Quotes of the week

"Honesty is my favourite value as it's good to be honest"
Jessie, Reception

"My favourite value is positivity since everybody can learn nicely"
Medina, Reception

"I like phonics as it helps us to learn to read and I like reading"
Ziva, Reception

"I got a pride sticker for my presentation in Maths and my diary entry"
Zach, Year 6

"I have demonstrated our school value of the Wessex Way because I was very considerate of others and was very respectful in my work"
Eva, Year 6

"In PE I demonstrated the school value of positivity for being very positive"
Elisa, Year 6



Diary dates coming up



Sunday 11th January

41st Annual Swimarathon – Braywick Leisure Centre – 4pm to 4.55pm

Monday 12th January

FS2 Visit from Feathers & Fur

Wednesday 14th January

Y1 Workshop from Chertsey Toy Museum

Wednesday 4th February

Y1 to Y6 – Share my Learning – 2.45pm to 3.15pm

Thursday 5th February

Y1 Assembly to Parents & Guardians – 9am (upper school hall)

Good News Certificates



FS2: Amari and Ethan M

Year 1: Ellie and Casper

Year 2: Lottie and Medi

Year 3: Oliver and Sebastian

Year 4: Jude and Imogen

Year 5: Eliana and Sam

Year 6: Frankie and Aleena

Attendance

Lower School: Alder winners with 100%

Upper School: Pine winners with 96%

School attendance this week

94.6%



Last week = 95%
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



The beginning of the year is often when people look for new beginnings and commitments. We discussed how life is filled with opportunities and how they can lead to fantastic futures which you may not know about yet. Sometimes you have to be brave and come out of your comfort zone.

Swimarathon

Mrs Cox has once again organised a team to take part in the Maidenhead Lions Club Swimarathon this Sunday. Our swimmers will be in the pool from 4pm to 5pm at Braywick Leisure Centre, and we would love to see families come along to cheer them on.

This is an event we have proudly supported for many years, reinforcing our commitment to keeping children active and promoting good physical and mental health. Sponsorship is split equally, with 50% going to the Lions Club and 50% to our school. If you would like to sponsor the team, please follow this [link](#):

Thank you for your support and encouragement, it really makes a difference.

Year 4 brass sessions start

Year 4 have started the Berkshire Music Trust Into Music scheme, learning to play pBones, which are brightly coloured plastic trombones designed for beginners. Miss Grey is leading the sessions, and the children loved their first lesson making buzz sounds through the mouthpieces.

Thank you to the PTA for funding this project again and to everyone who supports PTA events. Your support makes these fantastic opportunities possible.

Character Curriculum

This week's Character Curriculum linked perfectly to our value of finding opportunities as we start the year. We explored how feeling disappointment is natural and something we should expect. The children discussed how to look for positives in situations and the importance of picking ourselves up and trying again.

Dealing with disappointment



- Recognise - Feeling disappointed is okay
- Be kind to yourself; this is normal
- Disappointment can be because you expected too much
- Look for alternatives / positives
- Let someone else help you with your disappointment
- Learn from your experience



IMPORTANT NOTICE



School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council have had an increased number of complaints regarding traffic issues around the school pick up and drop off across our Borough schools.

Officers from our Transport and Road Safety teams have been out assessing and observing the issues and have reported two common factors at all our school sites;

1. poor driver behaviour
2. lack of pedestrian road safety skills.

During their visits to schools they have witnessed drivers stopping on the School Keep Clear Markings, letting children get out of the car onto the middle of the carriageway, parking on the pavement and blocking the footway for pedestrians, parking on double yellow lines, parking on white zigzags at a pedestrian crossing, rushing children across roads, crossing roads without paying attention, looking at their phone and not guiding their children.

All residents deserve a safe environment to pick up and drop off their child at school. If everyone takes personal responsibility for their behaviour around the school gates, a safe and secure environment is created.

How to create a safe environment for pick up and drop off at school

Road traffic laws are not optional they are legal requirements to keep all road users safe.

Drivers

1. **SchoolKeepClearmarkings** – DO NOT STOP on the yellow zig zags, not even for one second. The markings are placed outside school entrances to keep a clear space for pedestrians to cross the road without obstruction.



2. **Letting children out of the car** – Do not let children out of the car onto the carriageway. This is extremely dangerous. Always ensure children alight onto the pavement and in a suitable space that does not block pavements, driveways or contravene the road traffic laws.



3. **Pavement parking** – Driving along pavements and obstructing the pavement is against the road traffic law. Parking on the pavement obstructs the only safe space that pedestrians can walk. Park with all 4 wheels on the road. If there is insufficient space on the road to park then you must move until you find an appropriate space.

4. **White zig zags** – It is against the road traffic law to stop on the white zig zag markings even for a second. Stopping here carries an immediate 3 points on your licence and a £100 fine. These markings are found at controlled crossing places to ensure clear unobstructed view of the crossing for the safety of pedestrians.



5. **Dangerous manoeuvres** – carrying out three point turns and reversing into spaces where children are trying to cross the road puts everyone in danger and creates frustrations for other road users.



6. **Double yellow lines** – double yellow lines are put along the carriageway to stop vehicles obstructing the road. Parking on the double yellow lines obstructs the flow of traffic and causes frustrations for other road users.

Pedestrians

1. **Road Safety Skills** – Using the basic Green Cross Code every time you cross the road and showing your child how to look for a safe place to cross the road and then crossing with good observations will keep you and your child safe. Being distracted by mobile phones or choosing unsafe places to cross the road puts yourself and your child in danger. It also teaches your child unsafe practices.
2. **Crossing places** – Finding the safest place to cross a road. Teaching your child where and how to cross the road is essential for their safety. Use crossing facilities where possible; zebra crossing, refuge islands, traffic light controlled crossings. Where no crossing point is available find a spot where you have an unobstructed view along the road and stay patient until there is a clear gap in the traffic before stepping onto the road. The School Keep Clear markings are in place to provide a clear space to cross into school.



By complying to the road traffic laws and the highway code, a safer, calmer environment is created for everyone.



THE GREEN CROSS CODE

Practise your Green
Cross Code every day . . .



THINK . . find a safe place to
cross.



STOP behind the kerb.



LOOK and **LISTEN**



all around for traffic.



When it is safe, go straight
across the road - do not run.



PANTS *productions presents*
SPINDERELLA

Disclaimer: it won't be as good as this poster.

Family shows 14.30 Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February. Adults £7 and Children £4
16+ performance 19.30 Saturday 7th. All tickets £8.50

Tickets are available from the Community Centre Office
manager@coxgreen.org.uk | 01628 636715
Book early to avoid disappointment.