

Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 24th April**

Current Topic: **'We Are Environmentalists'** Current Value: **Excellence**



Attendance Award— Classes with the highest attendance this week are:

EYFS— Chicks 97.5%

KS1— Robins & Parrots 97%

LKS2— Owls 99%

UPKS2— Toucans 95.8%

End of Week House points totals:

Spitfire — 151

Lancaster — 137

Hurricane — 180

Wellington — 217

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:  
 Eadie (Parrots) Millie (Toucans)  
 Jameson (Eagles) Jack (Peacocks)  
 Oscar (Peacocks) Connie (Peacocks)

Stars of the Week

EYFS

**Chicks:** Teddy Butters for spotting number patterns and subitizing in maths

**Ducklings:** Esmee Gurnell - for being an amazing Ducklings, Esmee has really settled in well and is already working really hard.

Year 1 and 2

**Penguins:** Reggie: For always being ready to learn and focused on activities. Sharing thoughtful answers and is a great role model. Well done! Nina: For being enthusiastic to learn, sharing thoughtful answers and working well independently showing great focus.

**Robins:** Thomas: For always demonstrating all of our school models and for being an amazing role model in class. I am very proud of you! Tommy: For showing enthusiasm and sharing lots of knowledge about seasonal weather patterns. I am super proud of you!

**Parrots:** George: For being an excellent role model and always trying his hardest particularly in maths. Alex: For showing great perseverance and applying his understanding of 2-digit addition and subtraction when problem solving.

Year 3 and 4

**Owls:** Ryder: For his fantastic story writing in free write time. Lily: For the amazing dandelion artwork as part of Month of the Military Child.

**Kingfishers:** Evie: For settling in wonderfully to her first week at Gateway. Oisin: For his creative contributions in all of our learning.

**Doves:** Daisy-May: For always staying involved and on task. Austin: For amazing work in Geography.

Year 5 and 6

**Eagles:** Zac: For showing excellent engagement with your learning, you've made thoughtful and valuable contributions in lessons and demonstrated strong focus throughout. Emily: For fantastic engagement in lessons and your thoughtful contributions to class discussions.

**Peacocks:** Harry: For showing excellent support to his peers at the memorial garden when planting flowers. Matty: For showing resilience with his Maths work with simplifying fractions.

**Toucans:** Molly: For persevering to solve a maths problem to translate a shape using coordinates in all four quadrants. Medine: For always giving 100% in all areas of the curriculum and for being a thoroughly lovely member of Toucan's Class.

Wraparound Care

**Breakfast Club:** Eva: for always coming into school with a positive attitude and looking out for others .

**Afterschool Club:** Aaric: For always being polite and engaging so nicely in all activities and being a really kind friend to all.

### An update from Mrs Anstee

I would like to take this opportunity to gently remind all parents and carers of the importance of maintaining respectful and polite communication with school staff at all times—whether in person, over the phone, or through written messages.



Our staff are committed to supporting every child and family in our school community, and they deserve a workplace that is safe and free from intimidation or confrontation. We ask that all interactions reflect mutual respect and courtesy. Positive communication helps us work together effectively and ensures the best outcomes for our pupils.

We also encourage all families to review our Parent Code of Conduct, which is available on the school website. This outlines the expectations for behaviour and communication within our school community. <https://www.gateway.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/documents.asp?id=569>  
Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for everyone.

### An update from Mrs Gardner

This week I have delivered an assembly on Resilience. During the assembly, we talked about what resilience really means. It's not about avoiding difficult emotions—it's about facing challenges, working through them, and growing stronger as a result. Military children often demonstrate this every day as they navigate moves, new schools, and time apart from loved ones.



We reflected on how resilience looks in different contexts:

In military life, where service personnel must adapt and persevere

In school, where pupils face learning challenges and personal growth

In everyday life, where we all learn to say: "I can't do it... yet!"

A highlight of the assembly was recognising how our entire school community can support one another. By fostering a sense of belonging and connection, we help every child feel valued and supported—especially those from service families.

### An update from Mrs Summers

What a wonderful week! I had the pleasure of accompanying Peacocks class to RAF Brize Norton to do some planting in a memorial garden. Our hosts had put lots of thought into each activity and even picked a purple plant to be added to represent Gateway.



To top it all off, I've been very lucky to attend the Hill End residential with year 4. How lucky am I! It's been a fabulous few days and I'm so proud of the resilience shown by all.

## EYFS

This week it has been wonderful to be able to take the children to the forest in the sunshine. We found some amazing millepedes and some super long worms. There were lots of very friendly ladybirds who kept landing on us. The children all showed great observation skills and used gentle hands to look after their new friends.

In Maths this week we have been talking about odd and even numbers - ask the children how they know that the number is even.

In Phonics we have been learned 2 new digraphs ai and ee which the children are experts at using..

As part of The Month of the Military Child, we have been thinking about belonging and the different groups that we belong to.

Next week we will continue our adventures in the garden - please can we remind everyone, to send in wellington boots to leave in school.

We are all looking forward to spending even more time outside in the sunshine.



## Year 1 and 2

This week Key Stage 1 has loved the sunshine! We've spent as much time outside as possible, including: outdoor continuous provision activities, a tree hunt, ball skills PE lessons and visits to the trim trail! We have also enjoyed presenting a weather forecast to our friends, using technical language and showing off our Geography skills! In Maths, Year 2 has continued to work hard on bridging 10 when adding or subtracting 2, 2 digit numbers. They have now applied this knowledge to tricky word problems. Year 1 has begun their journey into adding and subtracting within 20. They are beginning to use number lines to show their working out. In English, we have spent time learning about subordinating conjunctions and apostrophes for possession. Next week, we will start to plan our own story about a mysterious creature that needs help. As it starts to warm up, please do send in a sun hat for your child and ensure they have sun cream on for the day. Have a wonderful weekend.



### Year 3 and 4

We have had a wonderful week here in Lower Key Stage 2! At the beginning of the week we enjoyed History Day! We learned all about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age exploring agriculture and farming, social structures and trade. We also enjoyed a DT day where we explored gears, pulleys and levers. We made prototypes of the three mechanisms and chose which one we enjoyed using the most and why.



Year 3 got up to some exciting activities at the end of the week whilst Year 4 enjoyed Hill End. We began with time in forest school building dens, nature painting and exploring the wildlife. As it is Month of the Military Child we created dandelion artwork using pastels and even created collages! Later on in the week we begin using maps and compass skills. We put those skills straight into action by exploring orienteering. We navigated the school site using our maps, tracked down the control markers, and cracked the codes in record time. We loved every minute of it!



Year 4 have been having an amazing time in Hill End this week. They have demonstrated all of the school values whilst learning survival skills to build dens and fire lighting. We have explored the beautiful surroundings and learnt about the importance of looking after nature. They have shown resilience and team building whilst carrying out a variety of team building challenges impressing staff at their communication and support with each other. We really are having the best time.

### Year 5 and 6

Another fantastic week across year 5 and 6. Year 5s were able to take part in a fantastic Cricket session on Wednesday – with the most beautiful weather. They were really engaged in the session and all showed focus and determination when practicing three different types of catches, two handed, one handed and a one-handed bounce. They were then able to take part in several team games which focused on the basic rules of cricket. Toucans also had another fantastic guitar lesson, building on the skills they learnt in their first lesson and incorporating new strings into their session.



In English this week, Children have been writing a balanced argument as to whether Dooby is a good or bad leader. This question has caused much debate as he is a very unusual character. Please do ask your child about Dooby and see if you think the same! In maths, children have been simplifying fractions, thinking about factors and the highest common factor for both numbers. Whilst this has been challenging, lots of children have worked really hard to think about their times tables and how to use this knowledge effectively.



In afternoon learning, Children have been looking at a case study of Mount Etna, researching this very known volcano as well as exploring the idea of why people would want to live near a volcano and the benefits and disadvantages of this. Children have also continued to explore series and parallel circuits during science. Children had the opportunity to create a parallel circuit and enjoyed experimenting with the individual components.

## Dates For The Diary

**Monday 4th May** — May Bank Holiday — School Closed

**Tuesday 5th May** — EYFS Vision Screening

**Thursday 7th May** — Sharing Assembly to Parents — 2:45pm

**Friday 8th May** — David Attenborough Day

**Monday 11th May — Thursday 14th May** — Year 6 SATs Week

**Wednesday 20th May** — Mingle In The Mess 8:30-9:30am

**Friday 22nd May** — GSA Non School Uniform Day — Donate a Coloured Item For Rainbow Raffle — More Information to Follow

**Friday 22nd May** — End of Term 5 — Finish 3:15pm

**Wednesday 10th June** — Mingle In The Mess 8:30-9:30am

**Wednesday 17th June** — Sports Day — KS2 AM — EYFS KS1 PM — Please can all children come in PE kit for the day and wear a coloured t shirt that represents there house colour

**Friday 19th June** — Colour Run and Rainbow Raffle from 3:30pm





Introducing COMPASS – Peer Support for Military Families with Children with SEND



Are you a military family caring for a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? You're not alone.

COM-

PASS is here to provide a supportive community where you can connect, share experiences, and find practical advice from others who truly understand your journey. This group is open to serving personnel and their spouses or partners.

Wheth-

er you're seeking emotional support, information, or simply a friendly chat, COMPASS offers a safe space tailored to the unique challenges faced by military families.



Join COMPASS today and become part of a caring network that helps you navigate SEND with confidence and hope.

For more information or to get involved, email us at [BN-](mailto:BN-COM-)

[COM-](mailto:PASS@mod.gov.uk)

[PASS@mod.gov.uk](mailto:PASS@mod.gov.uk) or join our private Facebook group: 'Children of Military Parents Accessing SEN Support (COMPASS)'.

We also hold weekly 'Coffee & Catch-

Up' sessions for parents during term time, every Wednesday from 11:00 to 13:00 at Flat 12, Ely Close. Feel free to pop along for a chat – it's a welcoming space for both mums and dads.

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES PEER SUPPORT GROUP**

A friendly space for parents to connect, share experiences, and enjoy a coffee and catch-up

☕ Every Wednesday | 11:00am – 1:00pm

📍 Flat 12, Ely Close Outreach Hub, Carterton

• ♥ Families Welcome ♥ •

- ♥ A relaxed, welcoming environment
- 👥 Peer support from like-minded parents
- 📅 Opportunities to share experiences and advice
- 📅 School holiday & seasonal activities
- 💻 Online support via a secure Facebook group

**Get in Touch**

✉ [bnz-compass@mod.gov.uk](mailto:bnz-compass@mod.gov.uk)

📘 Children of Military Parents Accessing SEN Support (COMPASS)

Knowledge empowers you ♥



Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

## Free Photography Competition for Arts Week

The theme is "where we live"

There are 3 age categories

Primary school, secondary school & adult



Send us your photo of a scene in Carterton by 30<sup>th</sup> May

In jpeg format to [ConnectingCarterton@gmail.com](mailto:ConnectingCarterton@gmail.com)

Subject heading 'Photo Competition 2026'

Provide your: name, mobile number, email, age category

Photo location and your photo title



Winning entries displayed and prizes awarded on 7<sup>th</sup> June  
At the Carterton Arts Week Exhibition 2-4pm in the WI Hall

# Secondary School Transition Workshop



Starting secondary school can feel like a big step. This workshop offers support for young people moving from Year 6 to Year 7 in September 2026. Helping them build confidence, talk about worries, and feel ready for the change.

Only £40  
for all 4  
sessions

Dates: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

**Time**  
3.30pm-4.30pm

**Location**  
The Fellowship Aston  
OX18 2DU



 [WWW.RAINBOWTREESPATHWAY.CO.UK](http://WWW.RAINBOWTREESPATHWAY.CO.UK)

 01993659025

 [HELLO@RAINBOWTREESPATHWAY.CO.UK](mailto:HELLO@RAINBOWTREESPATHWAY.CO.UK)





# LEGO BRICK BASED CLUB

Build \* Connect \* Grow

Lego Brick Club is a fun and supportive space where creativity comes to life. Through Lego-based activities, young people are encouraged to build friendships, develop communication skills, and strengthen problem-solving abilities. All while enjoying the joy of building together.



✓ 9.30-am - 10.30am

✓ Carterton Library

✓ Saturday 13th, 20th & 27<sup>th</sup> of June & 4<sup>th</sup> of July

✓ £40 for all 4 sessions

More Information



01993 659025



[www.rainbowtreespathway.co.uk](http://www.rainbowtreespathway.co.uk)



This May half term, Earth Trust invites families to Spring on the Farm, a hands-on Springtime adventure for curious young nature explorers. Step into the role of the farmer and help with real jobs on the farm – filling water buckets, topping up hay for the cows, and feeding the sheep. Meet the calves and lambs already thriving on the farm and discover what it takes to care for animals at this busy time of year! Explore the fields and gardens to uncover the minibeasts and wildlife that flourish here, thanks to the nature-friendly way we farm around the Wittenham Clumps.

Spring on the Farm is designed especially for families with children aged 2-8, and makes for a relaxed and joyful alternative to busy holiday attractions

For more information follow the link below

<https://earthtrust.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=831146f42019bf4d5effcec92&id=beb3d71268&e=19e6b9008c>



# **AFTER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB**

*at Waterstones Witney*

ARE YOU AGED 8-13?

DO YOU LOVE READING?

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN AN AFTER-SCHOOL  
BOOK CLUB ONCE A MONTH?

POP INSIDE AND SPEAK TO A BOOKSELLER TODAY!





May  
Half Term  
2026



LASER TAG

SCIENCE



VIRTUAL REALITY

# The WOW Camp



MINECRAFT



ANIMAL WORKSHOPS



STREET DANCE



ROBOTS



INFLATABLES

St Hugh's School, SN7 8PT

26th - 29th May 2026



[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)



SCAN TO BOOK!



Schwarzman  
CENTRE FOR THE HUMANITIES

SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2026

# Where curiosity begins: Open House at the Schwarzman Centre

A free festival celebrating humanity with performances,  
pop-up events, bite-sized talks, and plenty more to see...

Plan your day at  
[schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/openhouse](https://schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/openhouse)

FREE  
ENTRY

Image: ZooNation



# What's waiting for you at Open House?

From 10am on **Saturday 25 April**, the new **Schwarzman Centre** opens its doors for Open House – a **free all-day** celebration of culture and big ideas.

From pop-up cabaret and high-energy dance to joyful circus and live music, the Schwarzman Centre comes alive with movement, sound and performance.

If you prefer quieter moments, you can settle in for powerful spoken word, choral experiences, or wander through immersive exhibitions spanning AI art, Oxford-made film and historic musical instruments. Along the way you can meet academics and artists, discover something unexpected, and find plenty of space to pause, eat, think and explore.

There's so much to see, hear, and do; we can hardly keep it in the building!

To plan your day, visit [schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/openhouse](https://schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/openhouse) or scan the **QR code** below.



**ES DEVLIN AND  
NICO MUHLY**



**REFIK ANADOL**



**SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE**



## Find us

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6GG

**What3words:** ///robe.labs.dated

Es Devlin and Nico Muhly: 360 Vessels is supported with thanks to Bloomberg Philanthropies. Our theatre programme for Open House is supported with thanks to Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

# AYLMERS CIRCUS



A MUSICAL CIRCUS SPECTACULAR  
**MAKING A SCENE**  
STARRING NANCY TROTTER LANDRY

**FRI 26 - SUN 28 JUNE** | COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE, STROUD  
**SAT 4 JULY** | THE THEATRE, CHIPPING NORTON  
**SUN 5 JULY** | REDGRAVE THEATRE, BRISTOL

**AYLMERSCIRCUS.CO.UK**