

Newsletter 3 – Tuesday 31st October 2023

Here we are at the start of the second term and it is definitely starting to look and feel a lot more like autumn! Please remember that we try to take the children over to the school field at lunchtimes throughout the colder and wetter months so it is really important that they have a coat, jumper and welly boots in school every day from now on.



Forest School

Year 3 and 4 had their six Forest School sessions for this year in the first autumn term and had a great time, demonstrating lots of resilience, team work and imagination. They visited the nature pond on site, learnt about lighting fires, cooked marshmallows and explored all the resources and activities provided.



Year 2 will be the next group to take part in weekly Forest School sessions, starting next week (Tuesday 7th November). As the weather gets cooler and wetter over the next few weeks it becomes increasingly important that the children are appropriately dressed for their Forest School sessions.

Year 2 should wear a white polo shirt and school sweatshirt or cardigan as normal on Tuesdays but can come into school wearing appropriate trousers (i.e. jogging bottoms, water proof trousers etc.). They should bring changes of foot wear (i.e. walking boots, wellies or sturdy trainers) and any other items for Forest School in a separate bag that can be kept on their peg.

What should I wear to Forest School?!

See right for further guidance about what your children could wear for Forest School.

Layers!!! it's not about the amount of layers the child has on to keep warm and dry but the type of fabrics the layers are. Cotton layers will soak up sweat and will leave the child cold. Even on cold wet days a child can get hot and sweaty under their waterproofs. Merino wool and/or polyester blend materials are durable and great for warm base layers with excellent wicking performance.



Note: all Forest School clothes should be clothes that parents and guardians do not mind getting dirty.



Head: depending on the season; a warm hat for Winter and a sun hat for the Summer.



In the Summer, remember sunscreen too!

Long sleeved top – best to wear in Summer and Winter, to keep warm, and protect from scratches, bites, sunburn and ticks.



Waterproof top and trousers or all in one suit is an essential part of FS kit to keep children dry and warm to allow them to stay out for the session duration and concentrate on their activities. In warmer months, this layer may not be practical.

Long trousers for Summer and Winter, to keep warm and to protect from scratches, bites, sunburn and ticks. In the Winter, a base layer leggings underneath will add warmth



Hands: waterproof gloves are great, to keep hands warm and dry if playing with mud / water. Thin woollen gloves are a good idea for dry days to keep hands warm and allow better dexterity.



Feet: a good pair of waterproof walking boots are better than wellington boots; they are warmer, better ventilated and they fit better, for climbing, manoeuvring and running. If wellington boots are the only option, multiple pairs of socks should be worn in the winter to keep little feet warm! In the warmer months, it is still important for children to wear full shoes for protection.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023


Royal British Legion poppies are now available to buy from the visitor foyer outside Mrs Denton's office, simply pop a donation into the tin. Also watch out for Year 5 and 6 volunteers, who will be selling other British Legion accessories, such as slap bands and key rings, on the playground at the end of the day between now and November 11th.

Multi-skills festival

The week before half term, Key Stage 1 competed in our annual 'Multi-skills Festival', organised by Mrs Seymour and run and supervised by our fantastic Year 5 and 6s.

The children took part in a variety of sporting activities, designed to develop core physical skills such as throwing, catching and running as well as their team work and resilience. The results are below. Congratulations to Thames who earned the most points this year and were crowned multi-skills champions for 2023!



	House	Passing Wheel	Running	Obstacles	Bean Bag throwing	TOTAL POINTS	POSITION
	Chilterns	34	64	24	29	151	3
	Ridgeway	30	70	23	30	153	2
	Swyncombe	18	37	30	23	108	4
	Thames	47	60	42	26	175	1

Flu immunisations

Don't forget that this year's Flu Immunisations will be taking place in school on **Thursday 16th November**.

Parents are required to respond via the website below **even if you do not want your child to take part:-**

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

To identify the school please use the code **OX123197**

Autumn term parents evenings:

Week commencing 13th November will be our first round of **parent-teacher meetings**. For further information please check the email sent separately or follow the links below:

Chaucer class (Mrs Smith – Reception and Y1): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR-eDjBpPAb0kxCEbUrWM8fh0-XxlDaGy8Xdtja6DpIT-kg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Roet class (Mrs Rowley – Year 2):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenSKViojuJoYljQfhH1WxDgwsift1U4H9scTU1cnDKe7RLKQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Burghersh class (Miss Lea – Year 3 and 4): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWgUa-u7DyHArdaeGOOZWwUXYnsDsNmKXuxu_9VxQpFrNd5ew/viewform?usp=sf_link

De La Pole class (Mr Codd – Year 5 and 6):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSet6oTsiTqcXyVjqEozg5kgW4KVQZPcOB3WSpRBqx88bHXvag/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please note: the glitch with these forms that a couple of people pointed out, where people had to choose a slot on days they didn't want, has now been fixed by Mrs Denton.

Parking outside of school



Please ensure that you do not park on the yellow zig zags outside of school or on the gravel drive by the breakfast and after school club entrance. This is for the safety of children and families entering and leaving school. Children walking or cycling down the slope by the playground need a clear view of any oncoming traffic and this view is impeded by cars parked on the yellow zig zags. The gravel drive is used by staff who do not usually move their vehicles during busy pick up and drop off times. Having cars pulling forwards or reversing off this drive during busy times is a safety hazard.

I know that the 'Keep Clear' markings have become faded and I will be asking the council if these can be repainted. There is parking available at the Cow Common car park and on Parsons Lane, as well as along the road through the village from the pre-school and Kings Pond.



Peripatetic piano lessons

A number of children across school take part in weekly 1:1 piano lessons with a visiting peripatetic teacher from MJ Music Services Oxford. If you are interested in signing your child up for piano lessons, you can register your interest and obtain a new starter's form by emailing MJmusicservicesOx@gmail.com.

Kilvrough residential parent's meeting

Don't forget that, if your child will be attending the Year 5/6 residential trip to Kilvrough in February, Mr Codd will be holding an information meeting for parents and children at 3.15pm on Wednesday 8th November.

Staffing update

We were very sad to see Chelsea Nunn leave Ewelme before half term and, of course, wish her the very best of luck with her families' move to Scotland. We are very grateful for all of her hard work in Chaucer class, supervising lunchtimes and running our after-school club.

We are pleased to have appointed two new members of staff. Megan Davies has already joined our team and is working as a lunchtime supervisor and as a teaching assistant in Chaucer class in the afternoons. She will also be working in our after-school club two days a week. Susannah Hampson will be joining us from Monday 13th October, working as a teaching assistant in Chaucer class Monday-Thursday and also working in our after-school club on a part-time basis.

I am sure you will all make them both feel very welcome.

Dates for the diary:

Further dates will be added as events are arranged and/or confirmed. *Click here to see the school's online calendar:* <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

Saturday 4th November – Winter series Cross Country race 2 at MECE, 10am start

Tuesday 7th November – First Forest School session for Y2

Wednesday 8th November – Kilvrough residential parent's information meeting

w/c Monday 13th October – Parent-Teacher meetings

Thursday 16th November – Flu immunisations

Friday 17th November – Children in Need

Monday 20th November – School council meeting

Friday 24th November – Non-school uniform (in exchange for FOES tombola prizes)

Saturday 2nd December - Winter series Cross Country race 3 at MECE, 10am start

Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 7th December – last swimming session for Y5/6

Tuesday 12th December – Final Forest School session for Y2

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 14th December – Pantomime at Oxford Playhouse

Tuesday 19th December – 4pm: Christingle service in church, all parent/carers invited

Wednesday 20th December – Last day of term 2 for all, 12.15pm

Thursday 21st December – Monday 8th January – Christmas holiday

Monday 8th January – INSET day

Tuesday 9th December – Start of term 3 for children, 8.45am

Please visit the school website to view full term dates for 2023/24: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2023-24.pdf>