

Newsletter 13 – Monday 17th June 2024

It is a busy and exciting time of year with end of term activities, transition and taster events and opportunities for next year all being planned and prepared for here in school. In the wider world, the Euros and the general election have provoked lots of interest and debate amongst the children. We have been learning about the election and the plans and ideas of the different parties in our Monday morning whole-school assemblies and we are planning to hold a mock election in school (a secret ballot of course!) before Thursday 4th July.

Olympic medallist visiting Ewelme



We are very excited to announce, with the Paris Olympics just a few weeks away, that we will be welcoming an Olympic medallist to Ewelme for our whole-school assembly next week: Katie Grieves.

Katie represented Team GB as part of the Womens' Eights rowing team at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympic games in Beijing, London and Rio. She and her team reached the final of the Womens' Eights competitions at all three events and won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio games.

She will bring her medal to show the children, talk to them about her career as an Olympic athlete and answer their questions. The children will also get the chance to have their photos taken with her and the silver medal if they would like to do so.

Year 2 have been 'running to Paris' as part of their PE lessons with Mrs Seymour and as, a prize for making it the full distance, will receive books full of ideas and activities to practice their sporting skills and stay active at home over the summer holidays.

Summer reading challenge 2024

Children across Oxfordshire can take part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2024 at their local Oxfordshire Library from **6th July to 7th September 2024**. This year's challenge is all about creativity, from dance to drawing and junk modelling to music. At Benson Library they will be running activities every Monday afternoon from 3pm, all totally free.

Children will be encouraged to read at least six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. As they read, they collect stickers (some smelly) and rewards. If they complete the challenge, they will be rewarded with a Marvellous Makers medal and certificate.

We are hoping to arrange a visit to school for a special assembly when a local librarian can tell children more about the challenge.



Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Delivered in partnership with libraries





Cricket

It was great to get our weekly cricket coaching under way, as well as the after-school session run by the coach as well. I apologise for the cancellation last week of the session but we hope to get back into the normal schedule again from this Friday.

There remain available a limited number of spaces for the after-school club if you would like to sign your child up. It runs 3.30-4.30pm on Fridays, is open to all in Years 1-6 and can be booked via ParentPay.

Forest School

Year 5 and 6 have started their forest school sessions for this term and I've heard fantastic reports from Rachael about their enthusiasm and team work.

We are currently discussing plans for next year and we are hoping to continue offering Forest School for all year groups. Further information will be shared with you once arrangements and plans have been confirmed.

Many thanks again to the parent volunteers whose willingness to give up their time to help out make these sessions possible.



Transition and taster days

We have organised a range of transition and taster events for the final few weeks of term to ensure our new starters for reception in September, the Year 6s moving on to secondary school and the children in other year groups moving to new teachers, all feel happy and confident about the new school year ahead.

For *new reception starters*, we are holding taster mornings on Tuesday 25th or Wednesday 26th June (families have been contacted to let them know which morning their children should attend), a meeting for parents/carers on Thursday 27th June and a picnic for families on the school field on Friday 19th July.

Year 6s have a selection of dates depending on which school they are moving on to:

- Icknield Community College: Taster days on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th July and buddying sessions with a Year 10 on Wednesday 19th and 26th June and Wednesday 3rd July.
- Wallingford School: Transition day on Thursday 4th July.
- Didcot Girls' School: Taster days on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th July.

The *current reception children up to Year 5* will be having their 'moving up morning' on Thursday 4th July when they will spend time with their new classmates and teachers ahead of September.

End of term shows

Once again we are putting on an end of term show to parents/carers and other family members at the village hall. The show is called 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' and has been written by our very own Mr Tayler-Codd.

The dates of the performances are:

- Dress rehearsal: Pre-school attending and tickets available for parents/carers who wish to bring younger (pre-school age) siblings, 1.15pm at Ewelme Village Hall
- Show 1: 6.15pm on Wednesday 17th July at Ewelme Village Hall
- Show 2: 6.15pm on Thursday 18th July at Ewelme Village Hall

The Village Hall has an audience capacity of 120 for each performance, 240 across the two evening performances.

Therefore, in the first instance, we are making 3 tickets available per family. This quota includes children who are not participating in the show (e.g. younger siblings).

Use this [online form](#) to request tickets for the shows above. Please ensure you have made your request by Friday 5th July.

If there are still tickets available after Friday 5th July, these will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis to those who wish to request additional tickets. We will be in touch about how you can request additional tickets, should you require them, on or soon after 5th July.

Please note, some tickets are also available to request for the dress rehearsal on Tuesday 16th July at 1.15pm. Ewelme Village Pre-School will also be attending this performance and tickets are reserved for pre-school age siblings and their parent/carer(s). Younger siblings are, of course, welcome to attend the evening performances instead but we wanted to offer this option as well in case it is easier for some families.

Tickets are free for all the performances but if you wanted to make a donation to the school of £5 per set of 3 tickets to help cover the cost of hiring the hall, then this would be greatly appreciated. These donations can be made using the bank details below:

Barclays Bank
Account name: Ewelme Primary School
Sort code: 20-01-09
A/c number: 00548111

Dates for the diary:

Click here to see the school's online calendar: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

Wednesday 19th June – 1st buddying session for Y6's going to Icknield

Monday 24th June – Katie Grieves (Olympic rower for Team GB) visiting school for assembly

Tuesday 25th June – 9.30-11.30am: New reception children taster day, Group 1

Wednesday 26th June - 9.30-11.30am: New reception children taster day, Group 2

Wednesday 26th June – 3.30-4.30pm: 2nd buddying session for Y6's going to Icknield

Thursday 27th June – 9.30am: New reception parents meeting in school hall

Thursday 27th June – PM: Reception vision screening

Friday 28th June – CAMO Day at R.A.F. Benson (Y5/6 attending)

Tuesday 2nd July – Chaucer trip to Odds Farm

Wednesday 3rd July – 3.30-4.30pm: 3rd buddying session for Y6's going to Icknield

Thursday 4th July – Wallingford School transition day

Thursday 4th July – Moving up morning

Monday 8th July – Sports Day

Tuesday 9th July – Icknield Taster Day 1 and Didcot Girls' transition day 1

Wednesday 10th July - Icknield Taster Day 2 and Didcot Girls' transition day 2

Monday 15th July – Sports Day back-up

Tuesday 16th July – 1.15pm: End of term show dress rehearsal at village hall

Wednesday 17th July – Cycling proficiency test

Wednesday 17th July – End of term show performance 1 – 6.15pm

Thursday 18th July - End of term show performance 2 – 6.15pm

Friday 19th July – 11.30am-12.30pm: New reception families' picnic on school field

Monday 22nd July – Openbox theatre show for all children at village hall: 'Twisted Tales'

Tuesday 23rd July – 9.00am: Y6 Leavers' Service at church

Wednesday 24th July – 12.15pm: End of term 6

Monday 2nd September – INSET Day

Tuesday 3rd September – INSET day

Wednesday 4th September – 8.45am: Start of 2024/25 autumn term

Please visit the school website to view full term dates for 2023/24 and 2024/25:

<https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2023-24.pdf>

<https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2024-25.pdf>