



# STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"*

Term 4 Newsletter

Friday 4th April 2025

## Dates for your Diary

- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Non School Uniform Day – £2 Cash Donation & End of Term – 1:30pm Finish
  - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Term 5 Starts & New School Dinner Menu
    - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Class and Year 6 Leavers Photographs
      - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Reception Vision Screening
        - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Term 5 Ends
          - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Inset Day
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Term 6 Starts, Year 1 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
  - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Bikeability
    - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Trip to Reading Museum
  - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Reception Trip to Sutton Courtenay Nature Reserve
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June – School Choir Performance at Boundary Park. Time TBC.
  - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July – End of Term 6 – 1:30pm Finish

For the full academic year term dates, please click here:

[Term Dates 2024-2025](#)

*Just a friendly reminder...*

Sickness & Absence – Please notify the school office every day of your child's absence. Please call to leave a message on 01235 814718 (option 2) by 9:00am. Clearly state your child's full name, class and the specific reason for absence. Please can Dojo messages not be used to report your child's absence as these do not always reach the office.

Driveway Safety - The school driveway is regularly used by vehicles between 9:00am – 3:00pm. Therefore it would be appreciated if you could please use the pedestrian paths and crossings whilst on site during the day. Also please ensure your child/ren do not play along the pedestrian crossing or the road in front of the vehicle gate.

Medical Appointments – Please try and arrange medical and dentistry appointments out of school hours. If your child does need to be absent during the school day for an appointment, please inform the school office.



# Should I keep my child off school?



## Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.

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### Attendance Graph

Every school day counts.

The top 4 classes for attendance in term 4 are:

- 1) Nepal & Egypt: 96.7%
- 2) UK: 96.3%
- 3) Brazil: 95.2%

The top 3 classes for attendance this academic year are:

- 1) Egypt: 96.7%
- 2) India: 96.5%
- 3) Nepal: 96.1%

Congratulations to the 79 pupils who received their bronze attendance badge and the 44 pupils who received their silver attendance badge this term!

# School Dinners

Please click the link below to view the new school dinner menu from term 5:

[School Dinner Menu](#)

The kitchen also have new dairy free and gluten free menus:

[Dairy Free Menu](#)

[Gluten Free Menu](#)

Term 5 will start with week 1's menu



Nursery spaces available from September 2025:

30 hours (8:45am – 2:45pm)

Mornings (8:45am – 11:45am)

Afternoons (12:15pm – 3:15pm)

Tour: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – 9:30am

Due to a limited amount of space booking is essential!

Please call the school office on 01235 814718 to secure your place.

[Nursery Application Form](#)

To register your interest, please complete the application form above and return to:

[reception.2594@stephen-freeman.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:reception.2594@stephen-freeman.oxon.sch.uk)

Spaces available during Term 5.  
Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 8:45am  
£5.00 per session  
Please book by emailing:  
[laurawiblin@stephen-freeman.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:laurawiblin@stephen-freeman.oxon.sch.uk)



**AFTER  
SCHOOL  
CLUB**

Spaces available on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from Term 5.

3:15pm – 6:00pm

£12.00 per session

Please book by emailing:

[laurawiblin@stephen-freeman.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:laurawiblin@stephen-freeman.oxon.sch.uk)

Please follow the link below to order branded and non branded school uniform from Trutex:

[Stephen Freeman | Trutex Schoolwear  
Didcot](#)

Roxana Payne  
Manager  
01235 211011  
admin@myschoolwear.co.uk



My Schoolwear Ltd

Orders can be collected from Trutex, 14 Cockcroft Road,  
Didcot, OX11 8LL

## Rainbow Explorers

What an action packed half term we have had at Rainbows, from taking delivery of Living Eggs, learning the lifecycle of chickens, frogs and butterflies, learning new stories, learning about animals and their babies, making and eating bread, exploring the environment, to welcoming our mums to Forest School! The term has been very busy and super amazing.

Everyone in Rainbows, including the adults, were very excited to become chick Mummies for two weeks when the Living Eggs arrived in their incubator. We were all able to observe the chicks hatching and were very keen to hold them once they were all fluffy and cute. It was a privilege to be able to share the experience with the children, and I hope the daily chick update on Dojo enabled the experience to be shared with parents too. As the weather has been better we have had lots of fun outside, the sandpit is proving very popular again this year, I am sure you can tell each day whether your child has been in the sand pit by the amount of sand you are finding in their clothes! The children continue to show how much they are enjoying their time at Rainbows by coming in with big smiles on their faces and exploring the space with thoughtfulness and care. Let's hope Term 5 continues as Term 4 has ended...Happy Easter everyone.



## Reception

Term 4 has been all about growing and plants. We have all planted a bean and observed how it changed each week, from first the seed, to the roots and tiny shoot and then a stem with leaves. We have also planted an avocado, lots of flowers and tried unsuccessfully to grow carrots! It has been nice to see the bulb grow into flowers. We have learnt how to care for the plants and try not to over water them. As our plants were growing, we learnt the names of the different parts and painted pictures of different flowers. We looked carefully at Van Gogh's Sunflower painting and used a tutorial to draw our own versions then added colour with paint or pastels.

We went on our first school trip to the local flower shop, where the children were well behaved and polite. We walked sensibly to the shop and got to ask questions about flowers before buying a flower. We are now looking forward to our big school trip in Term 6, when we will be going to Sutton Courtenay Nature Reserve. We were also really lucky and got to visit the Nursery as they had eggs, which turned into chicks. We were very brave and were able to hold the chicks carefully.

In Maths, we have learnt about doubles to double 5. We can recognise when a number is a double because both numbers are the same. Our recall of doubles is getting very speedy. We have also started to recognise odd and even numbers. We know that when an amount is split into two equal parts and has an 'odd block' its is odd and when it has an 'even top' it is even.

You could continue to work on this with your child at home.

In Drawing Club, our imaginations are going wild with what the codes will do to our pictures. We are continuing to use our phonic knowledge when writing sentences and we're becoming more confident at having a go and using our Fred fingers. We are now working really hard on using finger spaces.

We have been enjoying the warmer weather that spring has brought, this has meant we have been doing lots of play and learning outside. Please make sure your child has a named sun hat in school.



## Year 1

In Year 1 this term we have been enjoying our topic 'Moon Zoom'. We have written letters to Beegu and created fact files about planets; did you know Jupiter is the biggest planet? The children have been inspired by the artist Sarah Cox and created their own papier mache planets ready to be added to our solar system. The children have loved learning about the solar system, astronauts and space travel in History and Science.

Also, we have been lucky to have extra forest school sessions and the children always enjoy them - especially the hot chocolate and biscuit! Finally, this term always feels special with World Book Day; so many fantastic costumes, pyjamas and storybook boxes. We really enjoyed meeting and listening to a real life author, Jo Cotterill and buying books at the Roving Book Shop. An amazing term, well done Year 1!



## Year 2

What an exciting term we've had in Year 2! We travelled back in time to 1666, when the Great Fire of London started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The children became history experts, learning all about how the fire started, why it spread so quickly, the impact it had on London and the changes that needed to be made to the city.

We had an exciting workshop where the children learned what it was like to live and work during 1666, they were able to have a go at lots of different activities, such as: candle making, making ink and writing with a quill, making soap, hammering leather to make bookmarks, creating scent bags and necklaces to repel illnesses. The children role played pulling down houses to create firebreaks, marching as soldiers and using gunpowder to cause explosions. In the afternoon, they pretended to dig through the remains of the city to work out which shops and workplaces had been destroyed. We had such a fun day!

In our English lessons, we've been writing newspaper reports about the fire and also a diary entry in role as a rat called Boxtor. In art, we've been thinking about perspective, thinking about making things bigger or smaller to show distance. We created some amazing Great Fire of London inspired art using our new skills. In science, we've been learning about habitats, thinking about how different animals have adapted to live in different biomes.



## Year 3

In Year 3 this term, we have been geographers and have been learning all about the journey of the river and its features. Children have immersed themselves fully into this topic by completing experiments and watching and listening to the sounds of the river. We even travelled to Henley River and Rowing Museum, where the children got to go on a river walk along the River Thames to see the features in the real world as well as watching a river lock in action!

We have spent the last week completing our non-chronological reports on the river and showcasing our amazing knowledge. We have also been lucky enough to spend time celebrating our golden ticket winners with extra playtime, class parties and much more!



## Year 4

Year 4 have had a fun filled term learning about the Vikings and Battle of Hastings in 1066. We have learnt about life in Britain during the Viking period and how this changed when William the Conqueror became king. We spent the day becoming chefs and attempting a vegetable soup, the children were fantastic at peeling, chopping, blending and stirring the soup! The soups were certainly delicious and we think we may have some new soup fanatics.

We have finished the term on a trip to Oxford Castle and learnt all about the motte and bailey style castle, looking out at the views over Oxford. We had glorious weather, and the children impressed us all with their knowledge and behaviour!

This term we were lucky to have our Forest School sessions and enjoyed afternoons of fun including playing in the mud kitchen, having hot chocolates and building cars with the tyres! We all deserve a good rest and lots of yummy Easter eggs!



## Year 5

This term in Year 5 we have been studying crime and punishment through History; How crimes have changed as the world has advanced and how punishments have changed to reflect the times.

We have been particularly interested in Tudor crime and punishments, with the children writing their own reports on the trial and execution of Anne Boleyn. Many Year 5 children participated in bikeability earning their level 1 and 2 badges, some even learning to ride independently for the first time which is an incredible achievement! The children also got to experience a day in the life of the Tudors with a special guest from the Oxford Museum who brought artefacts, costumes and replicas from the Tudor era for children to wear, examine and use. We also visited the Ashmolean

Museum in Oxford where we took part in an Egyptian detective workshop and explored the medieval exhibitions, where the children recognised some of the artefacts from our crime and punishment lessons. We have been incredibly impressed with how the children have applied all of their learning this term and continue to display our learning skills, even as we approach the end of this term. We were really pleased with the children's assessments and the amount of home learning that has been completed this term Thank you! The children also enjoyed a range of activities for world book day and it was wonderful to see them all so engaged with reading and exploring a wide range of books. Some children created models of characters or scenes from their favourite books which are displayed in the library. We hope you have a wonderful Easter holiday, I would like to finish by saying thank you and good luck to Mrs Angel-Murray as she leaves Stephen Freeman on her next adventure, we all wish her the very best of luck. Mr Leader.



## Year 6

This term in Year 6 has flown by! We have all worked so hard and learnt so much. The children have made some great progress and are looking forward to the holidays. We have had several highlights this term:

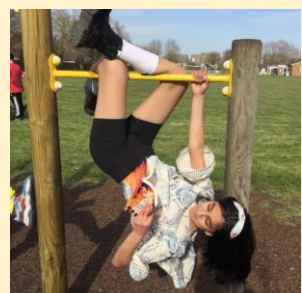
World Book Day was wonderful, and we had so much fun dressing up as beloved characters or getting cosy in our pyjamas.

We have also had two very successful IMPS days this week and the children have learnt some life-saving skills that they will be able to use for the rest of their lives. We were very impressed by the listening skills they displayed, confidently acting out real-life scenarios in a sensible and mature way.

Finally, on Thursday we concluded our week-long investigation into 'What are the best conditions for micro-organisms to grow?' As scientists, the children have worked in groups to setup and observe two samples of bread. They selected the conditions in which they wanted to test, such as a humid environment and a cold environment, making sure to keep the other variable the same. It's been lovely to see them so engaged with this; eager to check on their bread and make daily observations to note any changes/ growth of mould.

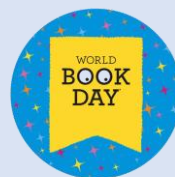
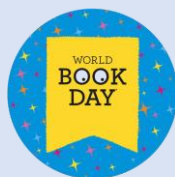
When we get back, we have only a few weeks to go until children take their SATs (which we feel they are very much ready for) so please do keep an eye on Dojo as we will be posting information on there. Booster lessons will continue as they are next term; they have made a tremendous impact upon pupil outcomes and progress, and we want to thank you to all the children for attending and to the parents/ carers for facilitating this.

We are very proud of the hard work each child has put in this term and wish you all a relaxing, well-earned Easter break.





World Book Day was brilliant! The children loved meeting Jo Cotterill and enjoyed hearing all about writing books.



There were also some great costumes and lots of interesting sets of pyjamas!

Congratulations to our amazing winners of the 'Book in a Box' competition. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Janes found it almost impossible to choose the winners as there were so many incredible entries.

Well done to Jesse in Year 1, Elana in Year 3, Eliza in Year 5 and Harry in Year 6.



A big thank you to the PTA team who arranged the Wonderlicious golden ticket chocolate bar sale and the Mother's Day gift shop this term.

Both events were hugely successful. The chocolate bars and gifts looked incredible. We hope the children enjoyed their chocolate and prizes and all the Mums and Nans etc enjoyed their gifts!



# GOODBYE

Mrs Angel-Murray will be leaving Stephen Freeman at the end of this term. Having worked here for over 12 years, it is impossible to begin to thank Mrs Angel-Murray for the enormous impact she has had on the staff, pupils and families of Stephen Freeman. We would like to wish her well in her move to Sutton Courtenay Primary School.

# HELLO

Please welcome Mark Janes as the new school caretaker. Mark joined the school community at the start of term 4 from St. Birinus School. He has already made an impression on the outside areas and has his paintbrushes ready for the Easter break!



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Want to learn FLUTE or RECORDER at school? Please register your interest before the end of this week as there is limited space available and Miss Bennett (Music Lead) would like to get this up and running for the start of next term.

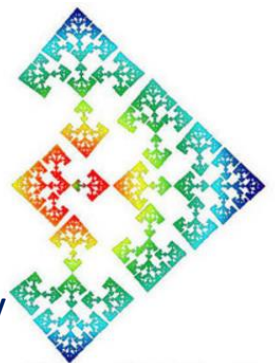
It is for children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) and will take place on a Wednesday lunchtime in the library. The children will have lunch in the first sitting and then go to the library. Timings will be confirmed when we have final numbers. It is £6.80 per lesson.

Follow this link to sign up!

[Registration - Oxfordshire Music Service](#)

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies within the Trust:

- Headteacher (DGS)
- English Faculty Leader, maternity cover (SBS)
  - Site Manager (SBS)
  - Teaching Assistant (SBS)
- Class Teacher (All Saints Church of England Primary School)
  - Teacher (Stephen Freeman)



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For further details and how to apply, please follow the link:

[Staff Vacancies](#)



Stephen Freeman would like to wish all our families a wonderful and well deserved Easter break. We hope you all enjoy the seasonal festivities and come back ready for term 5 on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**HAPPY EASTER!**

# Advertisements



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- 12-15 years | 1,000 - 2,000 words | Prize: £250, plus £150 book tokens for your school
- 16-21 years | 1,500 - 3,000 words | Prize: £1,000

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL


VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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4-4.45pm - Reception - Year 3  
4.45-5.30pm - Year 4-6

Cholsey Pavilion, Station Road, OX10 9PT

To book please scan the QR code below or visit [southandvale.gov.uk/TermTimeActivities](http://southandvale.gov.uk/TermTimeActivities)



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