



Our Lady's News

The RUAH



Friday 9th
October 2026

We are here to help. If you are struggling and need support, please contact your child's class teacher or speak to a member of school staff at the school gates.

If you have concerns about a child, please contact our school's safeguarding team without delay:

safeguarding@ourlady-scowley.co.uk
or
visit the safeguarding page on our school website.



Graded outstanding in all areas in our Diocesan inspection in December 2024.

A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of our Year 6 children at the open evening at Greyfriars Catholic Secondary School last week. I particularly enjoyed watching our children setting fire to methane gas in the science labs – all well controlled of course! Greyfriars has truly transformed over the last 5 years; it takes a lot to impress me with educational standards but I can honestly say that it is a completely different school now and we are very proud to have such a strong partnership with it.

I don't normally advertise how well our school is doing because for us, high educational standards should be routine because that is what our children deserve. Every Autumn Term, I receive a report from the government that analyses our data for Early Years (Reception), Year 1 phonics, multiplication tables check (Year 4) and end of year 6 tests. It is with immense pride to share that our school has some of the best results in the whole of Oxfordshire. Not only that, we are significantly above national standards. Furthermore, the report compares us with 50 other schools in the country that have similar characteristics. Yes you guessed it, we are 'significantly above' all of them. This is testament to the hardwork of our staff as well as the important partnerships that we have with parents. Yes we have high standards and expectations in terms of children's learning, but we also have high standards in the personal development and formation of our children so that when they leave our school, they have the skills to help change the world and be amazing citizens. That's what makes our school a very special place.

Parents' evenings are next week and will be a great opportunity for you to see the changes that we have made to the sensory room, the front entrance and the new fiction-library/music room. Not only that, you will see all lots of the children's work on display in their classrooms and around the school. The Book Fair will also be here so please bring some cash with you!

I look forward to seeing everyone throughout next week.

With very best wishes

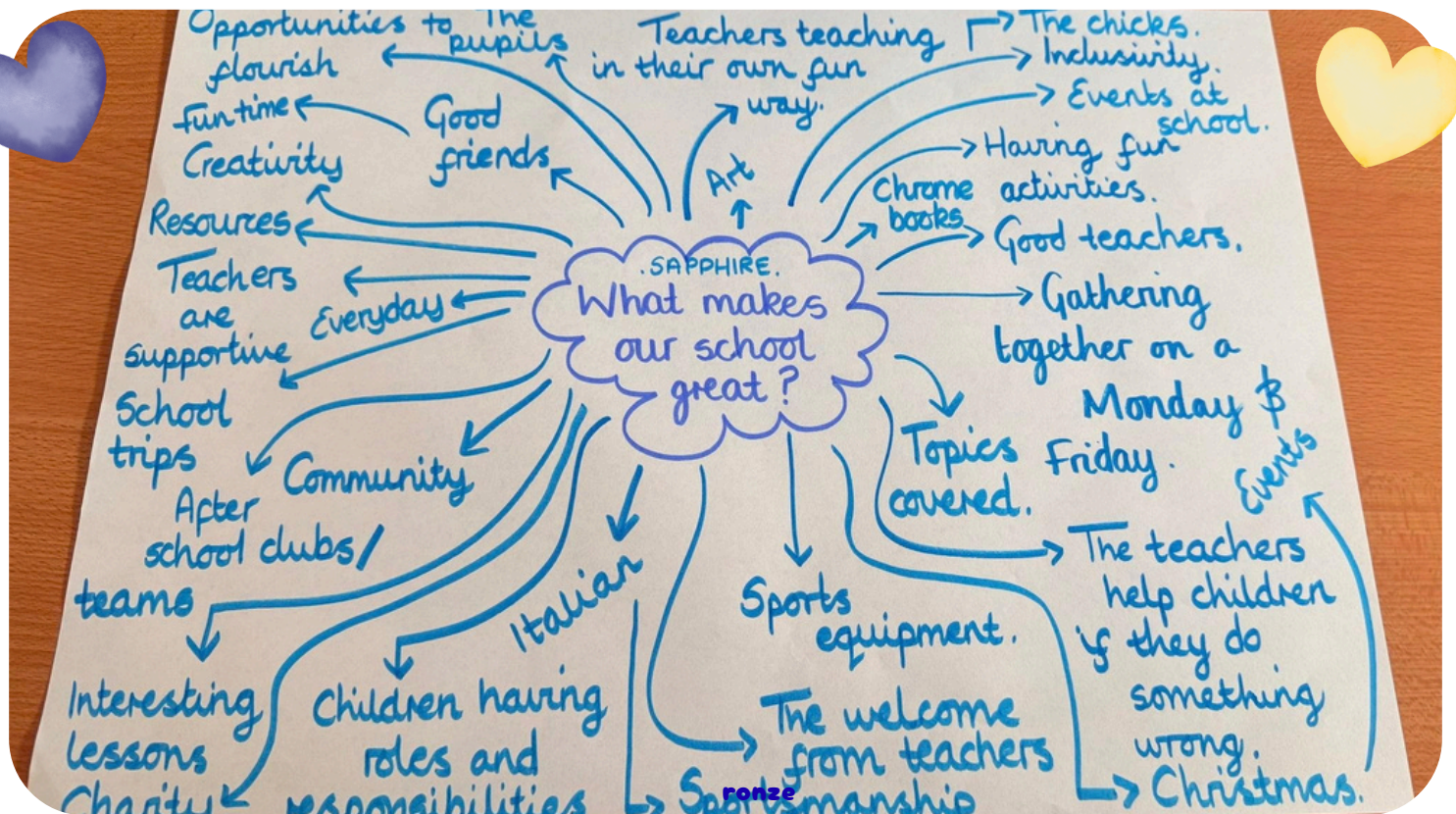
Ms Davies and all the staff

Respect, understanding, affection, humour

News from the classrooms

Why We Love Our Lady's! 💖 ✨

Sapphire Class had such a lovely conversation this afternoon, reflecting on all the wonderful things that make Our Lady's such a special place to be! From friendships and happy memories to kindness, exciting opportunities and our strong sense of community, the children shared some thoughtful reasons why they love our school. It was wonderful to hear their ideas and celebrate everything that makes Our Lady's such a happy and welcoming place to learn and grow. 🏡💖😊



From Stone to Bronze! 🏺



In Lime We have been thoroughly enjoying our topic lessons! Yesterday, Lime Class moved on from learning about the Stone Age to exploring the Bronze Age. We compared the similarities and differences between the two periods, thinking about housing, tools, religion, farming and food.

The children enjoyed sharing and discussing their ideas with their table groups and demonstrated some fantastic historical thinking.



(Some of us chose to smile for the photo, while others preferred to stay focused on their learning!)



Respect, understanding, affection, humour

News from the classrooms



Aqua Class



Concert Preparations in Full Swing! 🎵

With cardboard, colour and a little ABBA magic, Year 6 have been busy transforming our junk modelling materials into fantastic concert props! There has been lots of creativity, laughter and teamwork as the children brought their wonderful ideas to life.

One of the highlights has been seeing the whole year group working together so brilliantly sharing resources, helping one another and celebrating each other's creations. It has been a lovely reminder of the joy that comes from creating something as a team.

A special thank you to Fateh, Aaron, Caleb and Valentino for being such fantastic helpers when it was time to tidy up the classrooms. Your support was greatly appreciated!

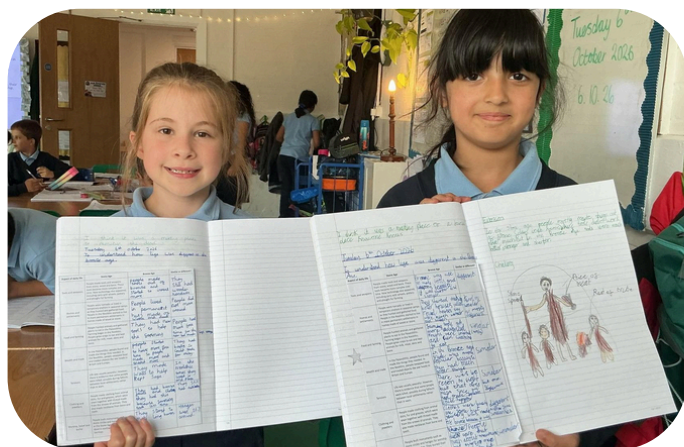
Our very own Dancing Queens and Super Troupers are getting ready to take to the stage watch this space! 🌟🎵



Bronze Age Detectives in Emerald Class! 🏺

Take a look at these brilliant pieces of work from Emerald Class during yesterday's History lesson!

The children have moved on to learning about the Bronze Age and focused on identifying similarities and differences in daily life between the Stone Age and Bronze Age. They carefully compared aspects such as homes, tools, food and farming, and shared their ideas thoughtfully with their classmates. Well done, Emerald Class!

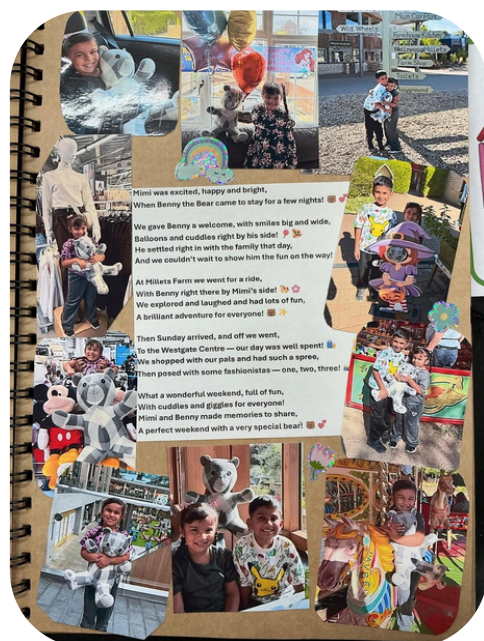


Benny Bear's Amazing Adventures! 🐻

Benny Bear returned to nursery after another fantastic adventure! He has now been on three exciting trips away from Sunshine Nursery.

A huge thank you to Milo, Amelia-Rose and Romeo for taking such great care of Benny Bear and sharing their adventures with the class. The children loved telling their friends about the fun they had and are growing in confidence when speaking in front of others.

Every child in Sunshine Nursery will have the opportunity to take Benny Bear on their own special adventure. 🐻🌟





Let's Celebrate



Learner and Salesian of the week

	Learner	Salesian
Sunshine	Musa	Tarcicius
Buttercup	Ayaat	Arad
Sunflower	Ilyas	Egon
Coral	Simran	Hanaa
Ruby	Hunaif	Lily
Scarlet	Siún	Nathan
Lime	Jeremiah	Ellohim
Olive	George	Lewis
Emerald	Moises	Arif
Indigo	Manha	Tayyib
Aqua	Caleb	Aurora
Sapphire	Aziel	Corey
Bartholomew	-----	Noah

Attendance Award-
RUBY



Caught being kind
SEE NEXT WEEK



A few notices

The Playground

For site security, our playground will need to be locked from approximately 3.20pm every day for safeguarding reasons. Please make sure that you vacate the premises as soon as possible at the end of the school day.

Thank you

Communication

We send out information through Arbor and/or Class Dojo - you must make sure that you have both of these apps so you are kept fully up-to-date- with school events, information and notices. We will be sending First Aid incidents via Arbor starting Next week

Parent Code of Conduct

Our school has a code of conduct for parents that we expect everyone to follow. Our staff must not be subject to verbal aggression; we expect everyone to be spoken to in a professional manner. This also includes how parents respect each other and conversations about incidences must be brought directly to the class teacher for any issues to be resolved.

Healthy Lunches

Please remember that children should have a healthy packed lunch. This means that children should have:

sandwich
(wholemeal bread if possible)
fruit
drink

Please remember that we are a nut-free school and children should not have Nutella or any other food items that contain nuts in their packed lunches. The government has recently released new nutrition standards for schools and so we will be monitoring children's food at lunch times. We also expect children to bring home any rubbish from their packed lunches so that parents can see what they have/have not eaten.

Dates for your diary

October

Monday 12th – Friday 16th

Book Fair all week

Tuesday 13th

Parents Evening–Book via Arbor

Thursday 15th

Parents Evening–Book via Arbor

Thursday 20th

PFMAC Concert at Oxford Town Hall

Friday 23rd

Bookie Breakfast 08.30–09.00
PFA Crazy Hair Day £1 donation

Monday 26th–Friday 30th Half Term

November

Friday 6th

Open Morning for 2027 Admissions
09.30–10.30

Saturday 7th

Open Morning for 2027 Admissions
09.30–10.30

Wednesday 11th

Matilda Theatre Trip

Friday 13th

Children in Need Pyjama Day

Monday 16th– Friday 20th

Anti-Bullying week

Wednesday 18 th	Open Morning for 2027 Admissions 13.30–14.30
Friday 20 th	Open Morning for 2027 Admissions 13.30–14.30
Thursday 26 th	Cinema Night 15:10–17:00 Years 1–6
December	
Friday 11 th	Christmas Bazaar
Monday 14 th	Learning Showcase 08:45–09:15
Tuesday 15 th	Advent Service 10:00–11:00 Reception Class Nativity 14:00–15:00
Wednesday 16 th	iRock Concert 09:00–10:00 Christmas Dinner Day 🌲
Thursday 17 th	Nursery Christmas Concert 11:00–11.30 KS1 Nativity 14:00
Friday 18 th	End of Term 🌲 Nursery closes at 11.30 Reception–Year 6 closes at 12.30
January 2027	
Tuesday 5 th	New Term begins

Internet Safety



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®