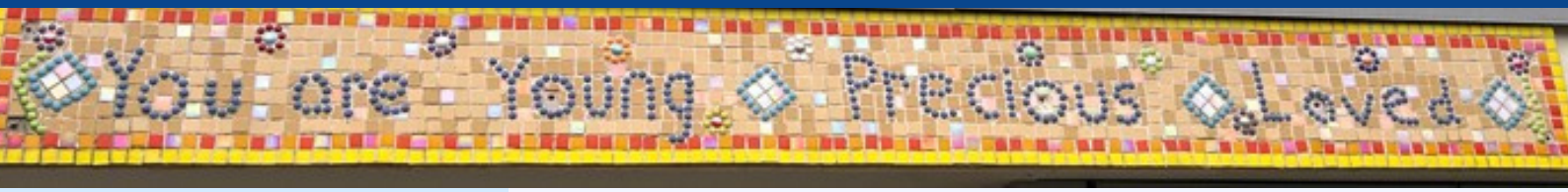
Our Lady's News
The RUAH



Friday 23rd
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@ourladyscowley.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,
As I sit in my office on a very wet Friday to think about what I should write for this week's message, my mind wonders to all of the great things that our school has achieved this half term. Our school looks wonderful as the walls are filled with the children's work showing that our RUAH curriculum is at the heart of our school and the children are achieving very well- as usual! It was lovely to see lots of parents at our Bookie Breakfast this morning. We hope you enjoyed the time to read with your child in the comfort of their classrooms whilst enjoying a cuppa and some breakfast. During our whole-school assembly this morning I reminded the children of the importance of phonics and reading and that it is one of life's essential skills. The more practice we have, the better readers - and then writers - that we become.

Thank you to everyone who supported the PSA fundraiser "crazy hair day." The effort that has been made is amazing! We raised £123.80 to go towards our school. We had a great laugh in assembly watching everyone walk in with crazy hair - including staff! Mr Reeves was a mirror image of John Travolta, Mr Box resembled someone from Lord of the Rings and Mrs Wootton, Miss Jones, Mrs Cluett, Miss Crouch along with several others look like disco queens with glitter, sparkles and coloured hair. Humour was very evident in our school today!

Our mission from the Gospel this week was to show gratitude. We have been trying to fulfil that mission this week and I asked the children to make sure that they showed gratitude at home too - I hope to hear that they have been doing this! As a school community, we are very grateful for everyone who comes to our school every day and this includes, children, parents, staff, extended family and friends. It is always great to see everyone walking in so happy.

Next half term promises to be another exciting term filled with lots of activities in the lead up to Christmas - yes, it's that time of year again!! Please keep checking Class Dojo for key dates. We also have our open days for children starting Nursery or Reception next year - please help us to spread the word about our school!
Have a wonderful half term and enjoy spending time together as a family.
With best wishes, Ms Davies and all the staff.

News from the classrooms

🎤 SOS! Our Lady's Superstar 🕺 🪩

WOW! What an incredible evening at Oxford Town Hall. We could not be prouder of our wonderful children following Tuesday night's fantastic ABBA concert.

Our performance of SOS was certainly one to remember! From our superhero entrance to the fantastic singing, the children really did save the day. Who knew Our Lady's had so many superheroes hiding amongst us? ABBA would have been proud!

The children were absolutely fantastic and represented our school exceptionally well. From their enthusiasm and energy on stage to their behaviour, kindness and respect throughout the day, they were a real credit to our school community.

There was so much laughter, excitement and fun along the way (and perhaps a few teachers who enjoyed the singalong a little too much!). It was an absolute joy to share such a special experience with the children, and we certainly made the most of every moment.

Most importantly, the children demonstrated RUAH in abundance, showing Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour in everything they did. Their kindness, positive attitudes and the way they supported one another made us just as proud as their performance.

We are incredibly proud of every single child who took part. They truly did themselves, their families and Our Lady's proud!

A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support and for helping to make the evening such a wonderful success. ❤️







🌾 Lime Class: Farming Through the Ages! 🐑

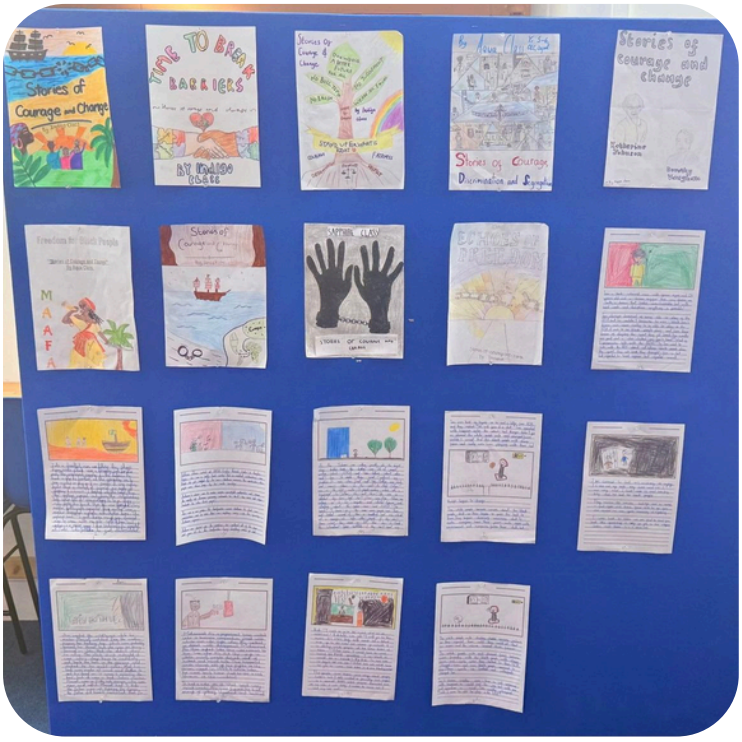
Lime Class have been exploring how farming changed from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. We brought our learning to life through role-play, with arable farmers planting crops, pastoral farmers caring for animals and our very own hill fort overlooking the fields! 🏰 We then tested our knowledge by answering questions in our books.

Well done, Lime Class, for being fantastic historians! 📚🌾



Respect, understanding, affection, humour

News from the classrooms



📚Stories of Courage and Change! ✨

Sapphire Class has been working on something incredibly exciting, and we couldn't resist sharing a little sneak peek.

Our book, Stories of Courage and Change, is coming together beautifully. It is filled with the children's thoughtful, powerful and creative writing, inspired by everything they have learnt. We have also proudly displayed the finalists from our book cover competition, showcasing some truly fantastic designs and the amazing creativity of our children.

It has been wonderful to see the pride, effort and enthusiasm Sapphire Class has put into this special project. The children have worked incredibly hard, and we can't wait for them to see their writing in a real, published book.

What a fantastic achievement and a treasured keepsake they can look back on for years to come. 🌟



✍️ Writing Our Biographies: Floella Benjamin!

During English, Indigo Class have been busy planning their biographies about Floella Benjamin, the famous actress, singer, television presenter, author and politician. We can't wait to read their fantastic writing and learn more about her inspiring life and achievements!

🏗️ Strong or Weak? Let's Find Out! 💨

Reception have been busy little engineers, exploring how different materials can make a structure strong or weak!

The children built towers using paper cups and bricks before putting them to the test with a fan and their very own huffs and puffs! 🌬️🐺

There was lots of excitement as they made predictions, tested their ideas and discovered which towers could withstand the wind. What fantastic hands-on learning!







Supporting Pupil Wellbeing and Mental Health

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here we highlight simple activities, creative ideas, and safe approaches to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS

Evidence shows that time in nature can benefit children's mental and physical health, learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Nature does not need to be rare, grand, or far away to matter. Common, small, and local spaces can offer valuable opportunities too. Despite competing demands on children's time, many say being in nature makes them happy.

2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS

Children's outdoor play has reduced significantly in recent generations, with independent play and roaming also becoming less common. Reasons can include alternative play options, worries about safety and risk, fewer suitable play spaces, busier roads, and increasingly structured routines. Understanding these barriers helps adults respond with practical, realistic ways to make outdoor time easier and more appealing.

3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

Children can benefit from being in natural spaces even when engaging with nature is not the main activity. Think about everyday pursuits that could be moved outdoors, such as reading, playing cards and board games, arts and crafts, hide and seek, exercising, eating, or chatting. Involve children and young people in creating their outdoor space – for example, an upturned box can become a table, while cushions wrapped in strong bags can make temporary outdoor seating.

4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY

Too much screen time can be unhelpful, but technology can also support nature connection, particular for older children and young people. They can use a camera to document the wildlife they find, create art projects, or record natural sounds. Apps can help identify birdsong, plants, insects, or stars. Older children and young people may also enjoy citizen science projects, where their observations contribute to real environmental research.

5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES

Green spaces are brilliant for exploration, adventure, creativity, and problem-solving. Adventures can be small and local, such as hunting for insects, looking for natural colours, or spotting patterns. They can also be bigger, including hill walks, den building, rock pooling, or watching the sunset. These experiences can create moments of awe and leave lasting memories.

6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME

Even small spaces can help children connect with nature through play and creativity. Seeds can be grown in windowsill boxes or hanging baskets, while herbs, strawberries, flowers, and cherry tomatoes often thrive in containers. Bird feeders, nest boxes, and insect hotels can support local wildlife. Indoors, garden magazines, leaves, and natural textures can inspire imaginative art, storytelling, and play.

7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD

Holidays and weekends can offer children and young people the opportunity to visit country parks, nature reserves, waterways, woods, and the coast. These places may create memorable "Wow!" moments, such as rock pooling, exploring forests, pond dipping, or simply visiting somewhere new. Local activity centres may also offer taster sessions in canoeing, climbing, or archery, helping children and young people try outdoor activities safely.

8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN

Teenagers may be less interested in adult-led activities designed for younger children. They often respond better to challenges, independence, skill building, and meaningful responsibility. Wildlife surveys, photography, outdoor cooking, whittling with safe tools, den building, or conservation tasks can feel more purposeful. Allowing controlled risks can support confidence, judgement, and a stronger connection with nature.

9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE

Natural spaces enable unstructured play and exploration. Adults don't need specialist knowledge to help children enjoy nature and wildlife. Start by noticing what can be heard, smelled, and seen in a garden, school grounds, local park, or on the way to the shops. Encourage walking at a slower pace, looking for birds, leaves, insects, clouds, colours, and patterns, so that nature becomes part of daily living.

10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS

Taking certain small risks in nature can in fact be valuable for children. Getting wet, muddy, or even stung by a nettle can help them understand the consequences of nature, cope with discomfort, build confidence outdoors, and assess situations more safely in future. Adults can support them in these moments by setting clear boundaries, supervising appropriately, teaching safety, and preparing children for all sorts of weather and natural spaces, while still allowing their curiosity, independence, and resilience to grow.

Meet Our Expert



Kate Whitehead leads on Connecting Children with Nature for Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. With a background in ecology and sustainable development, and a passion for education, Kate works to facilitate between the environmental, education, and health sectors, collating research and best practice to support schools to unlock the multitude of benefits nature can offer.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Let's Celebrate

Learner and Salesian of the week

	Learner	Salesian
Sunshine	Jakeu	Kiana
Buttercup	Grace	Yitong
Sunflower	Abdullah	Isma
Coral	Simran	Mohamad
Ruby	Edward	Basim
Scarlet	Derek	Valentina
Lime	Arlie	Tisenia
Olive	Brodie	Oluebube
Emerald	Emma	Maryam
Indigo	Graciella	Anna
Aqua	Laura	Year 6
Sapphire	Filip	Year 6
Bartholomew	Alfie	

Let's Celebrate

Caught being kind

Name	Class
Aitzaz	Emerald
Arif	Emerald
Thebora	Emerald
Scarlett	Emerald
Franek	Emerald
Chaya	Coral
Celina	Aqua
Ismail	Lime
Graciella	Indigo

Attendance Award

Top attendance this week		Top attendance (per phase) this term
1.	Buttercup - 98.9%	UKS2 - Sapphire
2.	Sapphire - 98.5%	LKS2 - Olive
3.	Lime - 98.1%	KS1 - Scarlet
4.	Olive 97.3%	EYFS - Sunflower

KIDS EAT FREE IN OCTOBER HALF TERM !



KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE
Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA
Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN
Kids Eat Free October 9th - 31st via Perks App

BANANA TREE
Kids eat free this october with an adult

BELLA ITALIA
Children eat for £1 with any adult main

BILLS
Kids Eat Free Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

BREWDOG
Kids eat free this Oct with **KIDS EAT FREE** bookings

CAFE ROUGE
Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO
Kids eat FREE during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE
Kids eat free Sun 18th Oct - Sun 1st Nov 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES
Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FARMHOUSE INNS
2 Kids eat free during the October Half Term

FLAMING GRILL
1 Kid eats free weekdays this October half term

FRANKIE & BENNYS
Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FUTURE INNS
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS
Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTER
Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

HUNGRY HORSE
2 Kids eat for £1 this October Half Term

IKEA
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS
Kids eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE
Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MARSTON PUBS
kids eat for £1 during the october half term

MORRISONS
Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM
Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN
2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO
Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA
Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS
Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS
Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TESCO
Kids Eat free weekdays with an adult purchase

TGI FRIDAYS
Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK
Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TOBY CARVERY
Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

TRAVELODGE
2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY
Kids eat free with a £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS
Kids eat free via the village app

YO! SUSHI
Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

ZIZZI
Kids eat free weekdays in school holidays

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Dates for your diary

Monday 26th-Friday 30th Half Term	
November	
Wednesday 3rd	Reception Admissions open for 2027
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 18th	Open Morning for 2027 Admissions 13.30-14.30
Friday 20th	Open Morning for 2027 Admissions 13.30-14.30
Thursday 26th	Cinema Night 15:10-17:00 Years 1-6

December	
Friday 11th	Christmas Bazaar
Monday 14th	Learning Showcase 08:45-09:15
Tuesday 15th	Advent Service 10:00-11:00 Reception Class Nativity 14:00-15:00
Wednesday 16th	iRock Concert 09:00-10:00 Christmas Dinner Day 🎄
Thursday 17th	Nursery Christmas Concert 11:00-11.30 KS1 Nativity 14:00
Friday 18th	End of Term 🎄 Nursery closes at 11.30 Reception-Year 6 closes at 12.30
January 2027	
Tuesday 5th	New Term begins

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