



Horspath Church of England Primary School  
Blenheim Road  
Horspath  
OXFORD  
OX33 1RY  
Tel/Fax 01865 872702  
email: [office@horspathschool.org](mailto:office@horspathschool.org)  
Headteacher: Ms Helen Barnard  
Chair of Governors: Mr James Askew

29 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families enjoyed the break from school over Easter. If eggs and chicks already feel like distant memories, talk to Beech Class! As part of their work this term on the life cycles of animals and plants, the children in Beech Class have been incubating eggs which have now hatched into beautiful, fluffy chicks. The children (and staff) have been fascinated to watch the chicks peck their way out of their shells and slowly emerge, bedraggled, into the world. Next week, the chicks will go on their travels around the classrooms for everyone to meet and handle them. The chicks are ours and we do need to find loving homes for them by the end of next week. If you are able to offer a home or know someone who would love to have one (or two!) and are ready to take them by Thursday 5th May, please let the school know as soon as you can. If you do not already have experience of raising chicks and chickens, please see this guide from the RSPCA before offering a home.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/faranimals/chickens>



### After-school activities

It has been lovely to see some of the children participating in after-school activities this week. Places are still available. Please read the 8 April newsletter for further information but contact details follow:

- Choir on Mondays: Miss Fisher at [cfisher@horspathschool.org](mailto:cfisher@horspathschool.org)
- Little Masters Art on Tuesdays: Gerri at [gerri@littlemasters.co.uk](mailto:gerri@littlemasters.co.uk) or 07976739131
- OCAC Athletics coaching on Thursdays: Bryan Walker at [bryan.walker@oxfordcityac.com](mailto:bryan.walker@oxfordcityac.com)
- Chance to Shine Cricket (Thursdays in Term 6): [cricket@horspathschool.org](mailto:cricket@horspathschool.org)





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Our athletics coach, Bryan Walker, explains that OCAC has opened the activity to all ages and will run it across both Terms Five and Six, for a total of 10 weeks. When you contact him, could you let him know whether your child will attend in Term 5 (£20), Term 6 (£30), or all 10 weeks (£45). All prices are per child. There are some places remaining across all 10 weeks, so if friends or siblings are interested, please do reach out. However, he warns that the session on 26 May may need to be cancelled. Please note that Cricket will also be taking place on Thursdays in Term 6 so children will be unable to do both!

### **Contacting teachers and urgent messages**

Before the COVID-19 virus pandemic impacted school routines, parents and carers did not have access to teachers' email addresses. We request that messages for teachers are once again sent via the school office: this is because teachers have very limited access to their inboxes during the school day. Any urgent messages should be telephoned or emailed to the school office. Please do not leave any urgent messages on the answering machine and please include the word URGENT in the subject line of emails so that these can be prioritised for reading. For non-urgent matters, please allow 48 hours for staff and teachers to respond to emails, and messages on Class Dojo and Google Classroom, and please do not expect them to email over the weekends or periods of holiday. Many thanks for your kind understanding.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

These will continue to be held fortnightly at 2.30pm on Fridays, beginning next Friday, 6 May with a virtual assembly. On Friday 20 May we will trial resuming the 'non-virtual' assemblies in the school hall but maintain a Google Meet link, so that parents and carers unable to attend in person will continue to be able to join us. Fingers tightly crossed that this will work!

### **RLT 2022 Parents and Carers Survey**

As a parent or carer of a child in a school which is part of the River Learning Trust, Paul James, the Trust's Chief Executive, would be very grateful if you could [complete this survey](#) by 9am Monday 23 May. It should take approximately 2-3 minutes. Paul's letter with further information is attached.

### **Tempest photographs**

If you ordered photographs to be delivered to school, please look out for these in your children's bags today. If you ordered them to be posted directly, you are likely to receive them within a fortnight.

### **Should I keep my child off from school?**

Please find attached a poster that summarises the exclusion periods for infectious diseases.





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### **Autism parenting one-day workshop**

This may be of interest to you or someone you know, so do pass the information on. Autism Champions are holding their next one-day workshop for parents of children with autism, Power to Parent, on Saturday 7 May 2022. Please see the poster attached for further information. Feedback from previous sessions is reported to be outstanding and 90 families have completed this course: 100% of them would recommend it and 86% of them said the workshop either improved their ability to parent a lot, or completely transformed their ability to parent their autistic child/ren.

### **Mental Health Awareness Training for parents and carers**

In case of interest, Oxfordshire Youth is delivering online Mental Health Awareness Training specifically for parents and carers of young people. The sessions are FREE for Oxfordshire residents and further details can be found on the poster attached.

This Mental Health Awareness Training for parents and carers aims to aid understanding of relevant topics surrounding young people's mental health today. The training also explores how parents/carers can talk to their young people about the struggles around ill mental health and where they can seek support. For further information or to book on a training session, please click on the link below. To ensure a free ticket is purchased please enter just the first part of your Oxfordshire postcode (e.g. OX4) into the box which says 'Enter promo code':

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-online-mental-health-awareness-session-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-296887668007>

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend! We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 3 May.

Best wishes,  
Helen

