



Horspath Church of England Primary School  
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OXFORD  
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Tel/Fax 01865 872702  
email: [office@horspathschool.org](mailto:office@horspathschool.org)  
Headteacher: Ms Helen Barnard  
Chair of Governors: Mrs Emily Elias

Friday 15 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy week with a couple of particular highlights. The two performances of *Pirates of the Curry Bean* were hugely entertaining for the cast and their audiences. Many hidden character attributes and skills were revealed and I hope that some of the children will have discovered a new interest in drama and comedy. I also hope that those of you able to attend enjoyed Sports Day. Ruby was the winning team, closely followed by Diamond and Sapphire! Each of our pupils is unique and these special events help children demonstrate Horspath's school vision of Let Your Light Shine.



Horspath School is an academy which is a part of the River Learning Trust which is an exempt charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with registered company number 7966500 and its registered office is The Cherwell School, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford OX2 7EE.



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### **Y6 Leavers' Service - 9.30am, Tuesday 19 July**

The parents and carers of pupils in Y6 are warmly invited to join the Leavers' Service in St Giles' Church on Tuesday morning. Pupils in both Year 6 and Year 5 will attend the service and should arrive in school wearing school uniform. As you can imagine, we will miss the Year 6 pupils hugely but wish them every success in the next exciting chapters of their lives.

### **Goodbyes**

We are also very sad that a few children from other year groups will be leaving along with a number of highly valued members of our staff team. We thank them all for their considerable contributions to the school community and wish them the very best in their future endeavours. Mrs Leworthy will continue her teaching training in a different school, in line with normal practice. Mrs Leese, who completed her training at Horspath and impressed so much that she was employed to provide maternity cover, will be joining a newly-built school much closer to home. Mrs Cranston is also leaving and as she has been here such a long time deserves her very own section of the newsletter, which has been written by Mrs Bailey.

### **Mrs Cranston**

Some of you may already be aware that Mrs Cranston is retiring at the end of the summer term. She has been a valued member of Horspath School staff for 22 years and will be sorely missed.

Mrs Cranston's two daughters both attended the school and before she was employed in June 2000 to work as a teaching assistant, she used to listen to readers in the afternoons and cover when other teaching assistants were absent – all as a volunteer.

During her time here, she has worked across the school and seen many teachers and other support staff come and go. I have been trying to work out how many children she will have worked with and assuming there are 20 new children each year for 20 years, she will have learned approximately 400 names – I expect she can remember most of them!

Mrs Cranston was the school librarian for a long time and really enjoyed this position. The children would look forward to their Wednesday afternoon session in the library sharing a story with her and choosing a new book. She was instrumental in instilling a love of books in children and widening their repertoire of authors and genres by encouraging children to try something different.

For the last 15 years, Mrs Cranston has supported the Year 6 children on their residential trip to Yenworthy Lodge, giving her time freely. This is a huge commitment and shows how dedicated she has been to the children of Horspath School. I know when I went for the first time, I would not have had such an enjoyable time if she hadn't been there showing me the ropes and helping make sure the children were up and organised for the day ahead.

On a more personal note, I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Cranston for the past 17 years. She has truly been a dedicated and loyal member of staff and someone that I can call my friend.





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### Heatwave - currently forecast for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

Children cannot control their body temperature as efficiently as adults during hot weather because they do not sweat as much and so can be at risk of ill-health from heat. Heat-related illness can range from mild heat stress to potentially life-threatening heatstroke. The main risk from heat is dehydration (not having enough water in the body). You can find out more about the symptoms and treatment of heat exhaustion and heatstroke here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/heat-exhaustion-heatstroke/>

The intention at the time of writing is to keep the school open, although if the weather forecast changes and risks increase, we will review this decision. Any further communication on this matter will be via ParentMail. On Monday and Tuesday children do not need to wear school uniform. They should wear loose, light-coloured clothing to help them keep cool and sun-hats with wide brims to avoid sunburn. However, on Tuesday children in Years 5 and 6 should arrive in school in uniform and can change following the Leavers' Service. No child should wear crop-tops, or very short shorts or dresses to school. Children should arrive in school wearing sunscreen (at least factor 15 with UVA protection) and bring a large bottle filled with cool water, which they will be able to refill at school. We will encourage them to drink more than usual so that they remain hydrated and we will minimise the time they spend in full sunshine outside.

### Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 19 July 9.30am, Year 6 Leavers' Service  
2.00-3.00pm, coffee, cake and chat at St Giles' Church
- Wednesday 20 July 1.30pm, End of term
- Tuesday 6 September 8.50am, Beginning of term

### After-school activities

In September, we hope to resume a range of after-school activities including drama, art, yoga, Lego and hockey. Look out for further information at the beginning of September.

### PTA

The PTA Team writes: On behalf of the PTA we would like to thank you for all the support you have given the events that we have organised this school year. We have held raffles, cake sales, ice cream sales and provided refreshments at the school play. From this we have raised about £3000 to support transport for school trips, contributed to Art Week and started contributing to the equipment required for Forest School activities. As we finish the year, we would like to thank all the parents who have supported these events and made them happen. We rely on the support of parents in all our activities. If anyone would be interested in joining the group, we will be meeting in September to plan the year's activities. We wish all the Year 6 students our best wishes as they move to their new schools. Good luck and have fun!

The school would like to thank the hardworking PTA Team too!





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**RLT Parent and Pupil Survey letter - please see attached.**

You may recall that in May pupils, students, parents and carers at schools within River Learning Trust were asked to take part in a survey. This was completed at the same time as a survey for all RLT staff and governors. Please find an overview of the results attached.

Keep cool and stay safe this weekend.

With kind regards,  
Helen

