



SUMMER 2025 ODBST NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME FROM THE CEO

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9



Dear Parents, Carers, School Staff, Governors and Trustees,

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Whether you are teaching in classrooms, supporting behind the scenes, guiding our schools strategically, or partnering with us as families at home, your contributions matter deeply. Together, you have helped create the conditions in which our children and young people can flourish.

This year has been full of joyful, meaningful experiences across our schools. From sports days and concerts to trips, community events, and creative learning in classrooms, there has been so much to celebrate. These moments not only enrich the lives of pupils but also build the culture and connection that define our school communities.

Our regular newsletter continues to reflect this wonderfully. It captures the spirit, energy, and commitment that runs through everything we do and is a testament to the outstanding work taking place across our trust.

We are also very pleased to share that Key Stage 2 and Early Years outcomes across our schools are strong. These results are the result of sustained hard work by dedicated staff across all levels, teaching, support, leadership, and trust-wide teams. They also reflect the power of collaboration and our shared commitment to the success of every child.

Looking ahead, next autumn marks a significant ODBST milestone as Chiltern Hills Academy becomes our first secondary school. Many of our primary schools feed directly into Year 7 at Chiltern Hills, and joint working has already begun. We are excited about the opportunities this brings to strengthen the all-through experience for pupils and their families.

continued...



We also look forward to welcoming Cold Harbour School joining the ODBST as we continue to grow our presence in Milton Keynes. This will help to develop our northern hub, fostering further collaboration and support across the area.

This year has not been without challenges, nationally and internationally. Through it all, your continued support, resilience, and commitment have been vital. As we now look to the summer break, I hope you find the chance to rest, recharge, and spend valuable time with loved ones. Each year, it becomes more important that we all take time to renew our energy and well-being.

Education remains one of the most meaningful and powerful endeavours any of us can be part of. Thank you for being part of it, and for all that you do to help our children thrive.

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

— William Butler Yeats

Wishing you all a peaceful, joyful, and restorative summer break,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs Puisse".

Chief Executive Officer, the ODBST

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A message from the Chair of Trustees



As we come to the end of the academic year, I am taking the opportunity to write to you on behalf of the Trustees of ODBST.

It almost goes without saying that this has been a year of changes and many challenges, again! There has been a new direction from a change of government but finances remain difficult. As Trustees we see in the reports that we receive how schools are meeting these challenges.

A number of schools have had great results from Ofsted and likewise, excellent outcomes for church schools that have received SIAMS visits under the revised format for the first time.

The recent SATs results have been very good and with our monitoring through the year, we know how much effort has been put into reaching targets and achieving these results. I am sure that you are as delighted as we are and we congratulate you for your efforts.

There is more to what we do than academic outcomes and once again I think we have excelled in developing our 'eco schools' strategy and with our work around inclusion, as highlighted by our leadership conference. Safeguarding continues to be at the heart of what we do. We also know how the improvements in attendance ultimately improves the life chances of our children and young people.

As Trustees we say a particular thank you to Michael Phipps and Rosie Harper who will be leaving us in the summer after being with the Trust since the beginning. We have welcomed some new trustees and, in particular, the new Bishop of Buckingham, Dave Bull, who will be joining the board in September.

There is more to do and we continue to look for the trust to grow sustainably and retain the special ethos that we have.

We especially hope that all staff at our schools have a restful and restorative summer break.

Michael Mill

Chair of Trustees

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What has been happening at Chenies this term?

We have had a super busy term packed full with a carnival, celebrations, an Eco conference, concerts, workshops, a residential, a production in addition to the amazing trips for our pupils.



We were delighted to take part in the School's of Chesham Carnival along with 12 other local schools. This year the theme was Childrens' Books and we chose The Rainbow Fish. Our pupils, staff, parents and carers had a fabulous time and we walked away with a highly commended award for our float.

We had a fun packed sports day, which saw our Red House win overall this year. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in attendance. The children had lots of fun taking part in all the activities and races. They were so encouraging of each other and really did encompass a great team spirit.

Our school enjoyed their Transition Days to their new classes on Tuesday, 1st July. We also welcomed our new Reception children who came in for the morning to play and get familiar with their class and the school. Our Year 6 children enjoyed their Bucks and Herts Transition Days to their new Secondary Schools.



We loved taking part in the ODBST Eco Conference and were so proud of Alfred (Year 2) and Megan (Year 3) who represented our school so well. We were really inspired by the other schools' presentations and Alfred and Megan couldn't wait to share their favourite bits with the other Eco warriors and the school when they returned.

Our KS1 Monet class have been doing weekly Gardening Club and Forest School this term. They have been out for a local walk, had a wonderful trip to Windsor Castle and were lucky enough to watch the soldiers rehearsing for a special ceremony.



Hockney class (Year 3/4) took part in the singing extravaganza 'InConcert' with 8 other schools from the area. We were the smallest school at the event as well as the youngest group of children. Everyone performed brilliantly and we are very proud of them.

Continuing on the musical theme, some of our Hockney students took part in a weekend Bucks Music Trust event at the Amersham Music Centre where they got to showcase their French Horn talent; they love their weekly French Horn Lessons with Mrs Silsby. Hockney class have also been enjoying their swimming lessons.

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What has been happening at Chesham Bois this term?

On Thursday 22nd May, our Year 4 pupils sang with children from 5 other local schools in a music concert at King's Church, Amersham. The children performed 8 songs, 7 of which were from well-known musicals, including The Little Mermaid, Matilda, Bugsy Malone, Moana and Hercules. We were incredibly proud of their wonderful performance and hope those who came to support the children enjoyed their performance as much as we did.

Thank you to Jan Martin for joining us for the evening to support the children and thank you to Miss Mitt for her hard work in organising the event!



We are absolutely delighted to share that we won the award for Best Walking Float at the carnival!

This success belongs to everyone who contributed their time, energy and creativity. To our fantastic Friends of Chesham Bois - thank you for your tireless organisation and coordination. To all the parent supporters who volunteered, donated materials, and cheered us on - your dedication made all the difference. To our wonderful teachers who supported our children

throughout the procession - your commitment shines through. And to our amazing children, your enthusiasm, hard work, and joyful participation brought our float to life in the most vibrant and impressive way.

Seeing our whole school community come together for this project was truly special.

Photos courtesy of Leon Watkins.



On Monday 9th June our Year 5 class walked to Chesham Mosque, to follow up on their learning of the Islamic faith. During their visit they learned so much including the history of Chesham Mosque and the functions of the different parts of the Mosque. We also learned about Eid, Ramadan, and the Five Pillars of Islam.

Year 5 were very respectful, engaged, listened, and asked lots of interesting questions. Their teachers were very proud of them (and that they managed the 6km walk to and from and still had the energy for PE in the afternoon!).

Thank you so much to Hammad and the team at Chesham Mosque for allowing Year 5 to visit and for sharing your knowledge with the children.

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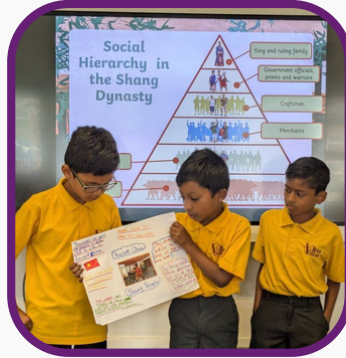
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What has been happening at Christ the Sower this term?

This term has been busy , with lots of opportunities for learning and exploration.

Ancient World Day at CtS was an immersive celebration across the school, with each year group stepping into a unique ancient civilization. From making oracle bones in Year 4's journey through Ancient China, to Greek vase painting and



Olympic fun in Year 2. The day was full of hands-on history. Year 5 explored the Aztecs with sunstone creations, EYFS tasted Roman treats and built the Colosseum, and Year 1 decoded the secrets of pyramids and Egyptian numerals. Year 3 uncovered Mayan mythology by designing their own gods, while Year 6 got stuck into Mesopotamian life through clay tablets and ziggurat leaflets. It was a lively dive into global history, sparking curiosity and creativity in every corner of the school!

This term, EYFS visited Mead Open Farm for a hands-on learning experience, feeding goats and lambs, followed by meeting and petting the bunnies. Year 1 headed to Whipsnade Zoo, where they saw a wide variety of animals linked to their curriculum work. Year 6 visited Niftylift to prepare for themselves for STEM Week.

We marked Earth Day this term with a whole-school focus on the life and legacy of Sir David Attenborough. Across all year groups, pupils learned about his role in raising global awareness of wildlife and conservation, and discussed his recent messages about climate change and the need for urgent environmental action. These conversations helped children understand how human behaviour affects the planet and what we can do to make a difference.



To celebrate his work and our shared responsibility for the Earth, pupils and staff collaborated on a display called "Many Petals, One Planet." The display combined work from every class and highlighted individual actions that contribute to protecting the environment, such as recycling, reducing waste, and respecting nature.

Later in the week, pupils took part in a school-wide "Trash Mob," an outdoor clean-up where teams collected single-use plastics from various locations including the school field, playground, Grange Farm and Medbourne. It was a way to show our commitment to sustainability, and pupils were proud to see the visible impact of their efforts.

This Earth Day celebration also supported our ongoing work toward environmental recognition, contributing to the school achieving the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction for the second consecutive year. This is a testament to our long-term dedication to sustainability and eco-conscious learning.

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What has been happening at Curzon this term?

This term we welcomed Sushma as part of RE learning about Hinduism. Sushma brought in Indian artefacts and musical instruments to show us, and the children listened to a variety of stories and music. Some of the music was quite rhythmic and they joined in enthusiastically with instruments, moving and dancing around the hall. A highlight for many was the food tasting activity. Many new foods were tried. Thank you to Sushma for bringing her knowledge and enthusiasm to Curzon

and to the PTA for funding this workshop to enhance our RE curriculum.



We had a wonderful Science Week last week. On Monday, we welcomed Oxford Science who held workshops for all classes, wowing the children with a planetarium. We also welcomed Dr Karen Marshall who inspired our Year 5, 6 pupils with careers in STEM.

Year 5 and 6 have been away on their residential this term. As well as the excitement of staying away from home, the pupils enjoyed activities ranging from Nightline to crate stacking. We are proud of how all our pupils used their Curzon value of courage to cope with so many new challenges.

It was wonderful to see so many of our community at our school fete- current families, former Curzon families, new families, members of the local churches and governors. The event was a huge success, and our thanks go to the PTA for their time and effort. Some of our pupils even organised and ran their own stalls.



We welcomed back Jake from iSingPOP. Once again, in a very short space of time, pupils learnt songs and dances with a Christian theme. After just 2 days, they gave a wonderful and very uplifting performance to parents.

Upper KS2 pupils took part in a musical extravaganza with pupils from other local and ODBST schools. They sang a range of songs from musicals, including some very moving ones which made the audience quite emotional.



Curzon is celebrating its 175th birthday this year! Although the original buildings are no longer here, there has been a school on this site since 1874. We have lots of celebrations planned including a party for the children in school, a pop-up Curzon

Museum and a special tea party for former pupils and staff at Penn House. If you attended Curzon and left before 2006, or know someone who did, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office on office@czn.odbst.org

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What has been happening at The Downley this term?

What a great end to a year at TDS. The meadow has been mown to start the development work for our new MUGA and we are excited to see the changes on our return in the Summer.



A group of children, led by a group of Year 6 boys, went out litter picking this half term. The Year 6 boys had taken it upon themselves to clear the school grounds during their lunch breaks and requested that they extend their work to the local community. We are so proud of their commitment to this role!

Year 4 were rocking out like proper rockstars celebrating the end of their multiplication check and gaining 15th place in the county on Timestables Rockstars...well done team!

STEAM week returned to TDS this year. It was a huge success and we aim to make next year's week even more eventful. We also enjoyed celebrating World Culture Day on the 21st of May. Children were invited to wear traditional clothes or colours that represent their cultural heritage or the colours of their country's flag. It was a lovely day and great to celebrate the wide range of cultures that we have at The Downley School.



A group of children interviewed Lord de Clifford live from the Houses of Parliament this half term. They asked some probing questions!

Our events this Summer have been exceptionally well attended. From school fairs and concerts to year group performances that showcase all our learning from this academic year. Each class presents to their parents and to the years below as part of the transition process. It's a lovely opportunity to capture the highlights and reminisce on the great experiences we have shared in our school teams.



Our Year 6 children had plenty of fun and games on their residential where they had the opportunity to challenge themselves with a range of new sports/outdoor adventurous activities including fencing, abseiling, and raft building. Now they have returned, they are busy putting the finishing touches to their performance and recruiting for the new Pupil Leadership Team. We say a very fond farewell to them - they are a great bunch of children and we know that they will make themselves proud in their next stage of learning!

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What has been happening at Elmtree this term?

As the summer unfolds, our school has been buzzing with excitement and community spirit. From commemorations to celebrations, here's a look at some of the wonderful events bringing Elmtree community together.



Our school marked VE Day with heartfelt activities to honour the bravery and resilience of those who lived through World War II. Pupils participated in assemblies, wore red, white and blue, and enjoyed a traditional street party! It was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on our history and come together as a community.



The Chesham Carnival, officially known as the "Schools of Chesham Carnival", is an annual community event. It features a procession of themed floats created by local schools, marching bands, and a fairground with stalls and attractions in Lowndes Park. The vibrant Chesham Carnival saw enthusiastic participation from several of our children and families. Students and staff proudly marched in colourful costumes, based on, 'The Day the Crayons Quit,' showcasing creativity and school pride. The carnival was a fantastic way to celebrate local culture, strengthen community ties, and have fun under the summer sun.

Our annual Sports Day events were full of energy, teamwork, and friendly competition. From sprint races to javelin, pupils displayed incredible determination and sportsmanship. Parents and carers cheered on from the sidelines (and some even took part in our parent races!), making it a joyful day that highlighted the importance of physical activity, healthy lifestyles and community spirit.



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What has been happening at Great Horwood this term?

To mark national writing day, pupils at Great Horwood unleashed their imaginations in response to a very unexpected visitor - a dinosaur on the loose! The dinosaur caused chaos on the school grounds, children across the school took on the role of journalists and eyewitnesses, producing incredible news reports, diary entries, wanted posters, character descriptions and more.



In June, Years 5 and 6 had a fantastic time at Rock UK for their residential trip. They spent three days enjoying activities such as paddleboarding, high ropes, zip wire and much more. This all took place amongst the beautiful Stanwick Lakes. All the children voted paddleboarding as their favourite activity, closely followed by the climbing towers and the zip wire. It was a fantastic adventure that they will never forget.

This term, Maples class combined their science topic, Food and Nutrition, with an English writing opportunity focused on explanation texts. Pupils learned all about healthy eating and then wrote their own explanation texts titled How to Eat Healthily. Once published, their audience was the Acorns and Seedling Class. They shared their writing by reading aloud and informing their younger peers about what eating healthy is, why it matters, what food we should eat, and practical tips for maintaining a healthy diet.



Seedlings and Acorns have been enjoying their home produce this term. We made rhubarb crumble with the rhubarb from Demelza's garden. We dug up all our first early potatoes and cooked them with some mint from the forest school and then we ate them all up. All of our onions have been pulled up and now they are drying in the sun. At the end of term everyone will take one home and then come back to school after the summer with the news of what they cooked with their onion.



As part of our superhero topic this half term, Conker Class had an exciting visit from some real life heroes, our local police officers. The children were fascinated to learn about the vital role the police play in keeping our communities safe. A special story read aloud by one of the officers captured everyone's attention, but the highlight of the day was getting up close to a real police car, complete with flashing lights and a very loud siren.

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What has been happening at Longwick this term?

It has been a busy and exciting time, with pupils across the school taking part in unforgettable learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.



Year 6 recently had an unforgettable residential trip to Croft Farm, packed with adventure, teamwork, and new experiences. The first day began with buggy building, where pupils worked in teams and practised problem solving and using their communication skills to construct their designs. This was followed by fencing, the climbing wall and abseiling. So many overcame their fears and pushed themselves to new heights. The day was rounded off with a disco.

The following days were just as exciting. Pupils took part in kata kanuing, a fun and challenging water activity that required balance, coordination and teamwork.

One of the highlights was the campfire evening, where everyone gathered to share stories, toast marshmallows, and enjoy some well-earned relaxation.

The trip ended with a team water challenge in the lake, where pupils worked together to complete a series of tasks in and around the water. It was a brilliant way to round off the week, with lots of splashing, cheering, and laughter.



Earlier this term, EYFS welcomed a very special delivery as part of their life cycles topic, a batch of living eggs! Before long, the eggs began to crack, and we were lucky enough to witness the magical moment when the chicks emerged. Over the following days, the children helped care for the fluffy new arrivals, learning about their needs and how to handle them gently.

As the chicks grew, so did their appetite, and their size! They quickly outgrew their first box and had to be moved into a larger space. The children continued to



observe their development, noticing changes in their feathers, behaviour, and even their personalities.

Eventually, we reached a bittersweet milestone. Three of the chicks had to leave us, as they were identified as boys and unfortunately couldn't stay at school. We said goodbye with lots of cuddles and well wishes.

That left us with seven chicks, and we all hoped that they could stay as permanent members of

our school community. To help make that happen, the children worked hard to write persuasive letters to Ms Nugent, explaining why the chicks should be allowed to remain. Their writing was thoughtful, heartfelt, and full of brilliant reasons, and it worked! We kept the chicks! Thanks to Mr Pitkin's hard work, the chicks now have a brand-new chicken coop in the school garden. He spent a whole week building a safe and secure home where they can roam, rest, and grow.

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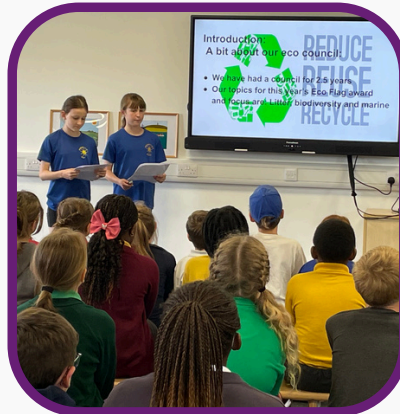


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What has been happening at Padbury this term?

We have made it to the end of the year! Well done, everyone! There have been some challenges this year, but we have continued to push on and achieve in many different areas!



In this year's Phonics check, 100% of children passed, securing their phonic skills successfully into Year 2. In the Multiplication check, 100% of children scored above 21. 45% secured the top grades. The average score was 23.5%. This has been no mean feat this year. It has come about through the sheer hard work and determination of the adults working with the children to secure these skills. Thank you to all involved in helping make this happen.

KS2 outcomes are not out at the time of writing this but the year 6 children were so focused during their SATS week this year that I am incredibly proud of how hard they have worked to secure their next steps into secondary education.

This year we launched the Junior Duke for our Yr 3/4 children to develop our character education programme. The children loved it and rose to the challenge of completing the activities to gain the Junior Duke of Edinburgh Award. We will continue this next year, moving the children through the different levels.



Last term I reported back on the progress of our allotment. In Spring we were able to complete the raised beds and fill them with topsoil. We now have the most stunning allotment with each class growing different fruits and vegetables. All children have been involved in planting, watering, harvesting, and eating the fruits of our labour! We opened our Allotment during the Padbury Open Gardens Weekend in June, and the local community was impressed and commented on how lovely it was to see the school making a significant contribution to the community as well as learning about growing food. Thank you to Mrs Kelly, Mrs Grace, Miss White and Mrs Bulley for leading the charge on making this magic happen.



A huge thank you to the Eco Council and Mrs Bulley for organising, leading and completing the Green Flag with Distinction award this year. The Eco Council worked on 3 areas: Litter, Marine life and Biodiversity. We also have managed to secure the Gold Award from Buckinghamshire Council on how we are trying to reduce Single Use Plastics in school. A great achievement. Well done all.

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What has been happening at St John's this term?

As the summer term draws to a close, we have been reflecting on a series of events from sport and music to reading and performance; our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm.



For sports week, children took part in a wide range of activities including archery, lacrosse, Danish longball, and even a whole-school dance-off. The week began with a celebration of sporting successes: our girls' football team were crowned league champions, while KS1 pupils placed second in the local Golden Welly competition. Years 5 and 6 also enjoyed a joint rugby session with Monks Risborough Primary, promoting collaboration between schools.

A highlight was our themed Quidditch Day — pupils were sorted into Hogwarts houses and took part in fast-paced matches. Hufflepuff soared to victory!



Our newly unveiled reading area is already proving a popular space. The project was shaped by children's own designs, submitted as part of a school-wide competition. Key features include a book hospital, peer reading recommendations, and a calm, welcoming atmosphere that promotes reading for pleasure. It's been an excellent way of involving children in shaping their learning environment.

This term, we launched a new initiative to ensure every pupil at St John's has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument before leaving our school. All Year 3 and Year 4 pupils are now receiving ukulele lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher. We are looking forward to seeing pupils develop musically and grow in confidence as part of this programme.



One of the term's most memorable events was our 200th Anniversary Pageant, held to commemorate the bicentenary of St John's Church. This promenade performance told the story of the church's history and its place in our local community. The event brought together staff, children, families, and volunteers. A group of children, the 'Pageant Writing Room', wrote original scripts, bringing the past to life. Teachers and teaching assistants directed and choreographed each performance, supporting children with creativity and care. The day was a fitting tribute to our school's and church's shared heritage.

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What has been happening at St Mary's this term?

This term has been filled with exciting adventures as our Year 6 and Year 4 pupils stepped well outside their comfort zones and demonstrated great resilience in the face of new challenges.



Our Year 6 children returned from their residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes absolutely buzzing with excitement and pride. Over three days, they tackled activities that they had never imagined themselves doing. From conquering the high ropes course to navigating canoes across the lake, every child pushed their boundaries and discovered strengths that they didn't know that they had.

Meanwhile, our Year 4 pupils faced their own adventure at Go Ape where the treetop obstacle course presented a thrilling challenge. Although the morning started with some apprehension, children soon found themselves cheering with delight as they soared down zip lines.



There have been celebrations on the sporting field this term. Our Year 6 pupils made us incredibly proud by winning the district rounders' festival! But their victory was about more than just the final score, the tournament organisers specifically praised our children, highlighting how they competed with great integrity and respect for their opponents, officials and teammates.

Our youngest athletes showed tremendous enthusiasm at the Year 2 multi-skills tournament where they had the exciting opportunity to try a wide range of sports. This year's sports day was a fantastic celebration of effort and perseverance. Across all year groups, children gave their absolute best in every event. The atmosphere was filled with encouragement and support with pupils cheering on their classmate and celebrating everyone's achievements.



This term, we have been amazed by three of our pupils who have taken it upon themselves to raise money for charity through their own creative fundraising efforts. Lyla, Amelie and Oliver have all got personal reasons for wanting to raise money to support different charities, so Lyla and Amelie have held bake sales and Oliver

has had a lemonade stand. These three remarkable young people remind us all that integrity and developing a caring heart starts early and we are so very proud of them.

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What has been happening at Thomas Harding this term?

This term, the children of Thomas Harding Junior School have participated in so many enriching opportunities. These have allowed the children to apply their knowledge in real-world settings, thereby deepening their understanding and enhancing their learning journey.



Year 4 visited London Zoo to explore the tropical habitat of monkeys, sloths, and exotic birds. The trip helped with understanding the broader lessons of ecology, sustainability, and how every species plays a critical role in our world.

This month, our Year 6 pupils embarked on their highly anticipated residential trip to Woodrow, a fantastic opportunity to further develop both personal and



social skills in a real-world setting. The trip focused on fostering independence, teamwork, and problem-solving. From obstacle courses to problem-solving exercises, pupils worked in groups to overcome physical and mental challenges. These activities were designed to promote trust, communication, and cooperation, essential skills for both school and life. The trip was a resounding success, with children developing life skills that will serve them well into the future.

During activity week, the children had the incredible opportunity to visit Chiltern Hills Academy for a Science Experience Day, where they were able to engage in interactive, hands-on activities that brought their science lessons to life. The event was aimed at deepening their understanding of key scientific concepts through real-world applications, and it did just that!

After all the hard work and dedication leading up to the SATs, our Year 6 students were treated to a well-deserved day of fun and adventure at Legoland Windsor! This special trip was a way to celebrate their incredible effort, teamwork, and perseverance during this important milestone in their academic journey.

This month, our pupils had the chance to immerse themselves in history with a fascinating interactive learning experience about the Romans, titled The History of The Page. This engaging session allowed pupils to dive deep into the Roman Empire, exploring its legacy and influence on modern life in a hands-on, exciting way! Year 4 experienced history through activities, artifacts, and role-playing, making the ancient world come alive in the classroom.

As we wrap up another exciting school year, we want to take a moment to thank our dedicated children, supportive parents, and hardworking staff for making this year a success.

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What has been happening at Woodside this term?

Year 6 have had some particularly memorable experiences as they prepare for their transition to secondary school. Their residential trip to Mill on the Brue was a huge success. The pupils threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm and really supported each other throughout the week. It is these shared experiences that create lasting memories and strengthen friendships.



Back at school, our Year 6 pupils have been inspired by a visit from Gary Grant, the founder of The Entertainer Toy Shops. His enterprise groups have been working on their own business ideas, and I have been impressed by their creativity and

entrepreneurial thinking. It is exciting to see pupils developing these important life skills.

We have also welcomed some interesting visitors who have shared their expertise with our pupils. The local Magistrates gave fascinating talks about the justice system, while representatives from Skipton Building Society helped pupils understand the importance of managing money wisely. These real-world connections help bring learning to life.

Our outdoor learning has continued to flourish with Forest School mornings for Years 4 and 5. Watching pupils build confidence, solve problems, and work as teams in the natural environment is always rewarding. There's something special about learning outside the classroom that really engages pupils in a different way.



The Mega Maths Morning was another highlight, with pupils tackling challenges around the school grounds. The maths trail had everyone thinking creatively about how mathematics applies to the world around us. It was brilliant to see pupils enjoying maths in such an active way.

Our STEM Day brought together technology and mathematical skills as pupils worked on building structures and solving complex problems. The collaboration and innovation on display was remarkable. Pupils were using their knowledge in practical ways and discovering just how exciting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics can be.

As we head towards the end of term, I'm incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved. It's been a summer term full of learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

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ODBST New Vision and Values

ODBST – Empowering Lives, Flourishing Together Living “life in all its fullness” – John 10:10

Our vision becomes a reality through living our values.

Our purpose is clear: we want every young person to achieve all that they possibly can and, in doing so, to ensure they and their families experience the highest quality of education and care.

Each of our schools has its own character and serves a unique community, but we are united by a shared vision. We are committed to ensuring that this vision embraces every pupil and adult, regardless of background or belief.

This unity fosters a common zest for life and learning, enabling us to deliver a broad, enriched, and exciting curriculum. We are dedicated to helping every young person experience life in all its fullness by empowering them to reach their highest potential. We believe in inclusivity, ensuring everyone feels valued, respected, and part of our larger family.

Our strength lies in the collaboration across our schools - working together as one unified body, sharing resources, expertise, and support to ensure that no one is left behind. Our unique school communities thrive on mutual support, shared learning, and the collective goal of making a positive impact.

Through our commitment to service, we aim to make a difference not only within our schools but also in the wider world. Together, we create an environment where every young person and adult can flourish, embracing all the opportunities life and learning have to offer.



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Service We encourage everyone to look after themselves and others around them. We encourage children in our schools to seek the common good in all that they do through acts of kindness. ODBST believes that our gifts and talents are to be used in ways that will improve the lives of themselves and others.

Inclusivity Everyone is accepted and supported, regardless of faith or culture. We will strive for everyone to be given every opportunity to reach their potential. We believe everyone is unique and everyone matters

Community We work in unison with all our families. Together we learn, love, achieve and flourish. Within our family of schools, each individual is encouraged to discover and grow their talents to their fullest potential. We believe by encouraging, inspiring and building each other up we secure the best outcomes for every member of our community.

Empowerment We will encourage everyone to trust in their own capabilities and to recognise their potential. We want to challenge ourselves to be the best we can be – even when this becomes hard.

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What has been happening in the Shared Services Team this term?

School Effectiveness Team

We close this academic year on a strong, positive note with early indications showing that ODBST children have secured some great outcomes at the end of Year 6. Our Writing project this year has contributed to improved outcomes for children and we will be building on this further next year, taking on board the new government Writing report and ensuring that all ODBST children are receiving an education reflecting the very latest guidance and good practice. Our schools have worked incredibly hard to make sure that children really can be the best they can be academically, socially and emotionally. Schools are working closely with secondary settings to facilitate positive transitions for all of our pupils as they embark on the next stage in their learning.

Our very youngest children are achieving well too and we know that more than ever are reaching the expected learning goals at the end of EYFS and passing the year 1 phonics test. We have been working hard to make sure that this early learning is highly effective and, as new guidance comes out for the early years settings, so we will continue to work closely with our schools to support them in applying this.

As you will have read in the newsletter already, all of our schools have a wide range of end of term activities in place; productions, residentials, sporting events not least the many sports days and so many more. We know that all of our schools work incredibly hard to make sure that there is a wide offer in place and we are so proud of all that they provide.

Behind the scenes school leaders have designed robust development plans for next year, focussing on key priorities and crafting next steps for every setting. We know that there remain some huge challenges around SEND at local and national levels and all of our school leaders are working incredibly hard to secure effective inclusion for these children who, for whatever reason, find learning that bit harder. The dedication and determination of our school leaders to support all of our vulnerable children cannot be underestimated and the school effectiveness team know we are so fortunate to have this united vision where our provision meets the needs of all.



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What has been happening in the Shared Services Team this term?

Finance

This year has passed quickly, and the Finance team has remained busy as ever. One of our key achievements has been the successful implementation of Iplacit, our new accounting system. While the transition presented some challenges, the outcome has been highly positive — the system is more user-friendly, efficient, and has significantly improved the accuracy of our financial reporting.



In March 2025, we said farewell to Ruth, who retired as CFO after five dedicated years with the Trust. Ruth made a lasting impact through her hard work and commitment, and she is greatly missed. We are grateful for the thorough handover she provided to Rachel, who has now stepped into the CFO role. Here are some photos from her leaving lunch, a highlight being the calculator cake, baked by Zab at St Mary's, complete with Excel icing!

HR

It's been a busy and rewarding term, and we'd like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your continued dedication and hard work across all our schools.

A huge congratulations to all the schools who have undergone Ofsted inspections this year. We know how much hard work and preparation goes into these visits, and the feedback has been incredibly positive. We're especially proud that inspectors have highlighted the strength and consistency of our recruitment compliance processes, a testament to the dedication and diligence of our school teams.

As we look ahead, we also want to take a moment to say a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to our HR Director, Gillian Nickless, who left the Trust at the end of June. Gillian has been an incredible asset during her time with us, bringing compassion, professionalism, and drive to everything she's done. Her leadership has made a lasting impact across our schools, and we are truly grateful for all she has contributed. We wish her the very best in her exciting new venture!

We're also delighted to welcome Kiran Kaur as our new Chief of People. Kiran joins us with a wealth of experience from other Multi-Academy Trusts and educational settings, and we're thrilled to have her leading our HR strategy going forward. Please do join us in giving her a warm welcome!

As a reminder, our Employee Assistance Programme remains available throughout the summer break should you or a family member need support. For any HR queries during the holidays, please contact us at hr@odbst.org. While we'll be operating a skeleton service, we'll respond as soon as possible.

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What has been happening in the Shared Services Team this term?

Operations

Catering

Following a six-month tendering process, ODBST have secured a new catering contract with Chartwells for nine of our schools - Longwick CE, St Mary's CE, Great Horwood CE, Chesham Bois CE, Elmtree, The Downley, Woodside, Chenies and St John's CE. This change addresses food security concerns and leverages our collective strength as a Trust. At ODBST, we believe that every child deserves access to a hot, nutritious school meal and this was non-negotiable for us.

What are the key benefits?

- £110,000 investment in upgrading kitchen equipment across our schools.
- Fresh cooking on site - most schools are moving away from delivered meals.
- Fixed meal prices. KS2 paid meals will be £2.70 (Well below the average of over £3 a meal)
- Improved sustainability standards including MSC certified fish and plastic free packaging.
- Projected savings at every site – funds that will go straight back into school budgets to support your child's education.

Cleaning

We're excited to welcome Purgo as our new cleaning partner for 11 of our ODBST schools starting August 1st. This highly reviewed company will help us maintain sparkly clean learning environments for our children.

We're particularly pleased about the investment in brand new cleaning equipment, comprehensive staff training, and the introduction of deep cleaning during school holidays - something not all our schools have enjoyed before.

With dedicated contract management at both Trust and school levels, we can ensure every child walks into a consistently clean and welcoming space each day. This partnership means all eleven participating schools will benefit from the same high standards of cleanliness and care. Curzon and Thomas Harding have chosen to stick with their current cleaning providers, and that's absolutely fine too!

Funding – can you help please?

Longwick CE school are seeking to raise an additional £16,000 to enable solar panels to be installed which will support a reduction in the otherwise increased electricity costs. Please contact the trust or school directly if you think you might be able to support.

The Shared Services Team all wish you a wonderful Summer!

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ODBST drive for sustainability



We have been making great progress towards Net Zero and our sustainability goals across the Trust this academic year, thanks to the dedication of school staff and pupils.

Five schools achieved 'Eco School's Green Flag Status' this year, with many more actively working towards it.

The highlight of the year was our annual Eco Summit, where two pupils from every ODBST school met in our head office to present what they have been working on within their schools. It was inspiring watching children as young as seven confidently present their work, their passion was evident.

In our drive to reduce carbon emissions, we applied for over £7 million in funding this academic year. While we didn't expect to secure it all, we were thrilled to receive enough to move forward with two low-carbon heating projects. The oil boilers at Longwick School will be replaced with an air source heat pump, cutting over 11 tonnes of CO2 annually. At Great Horwood School, the new nursery building will also feature a low carbon electric heating system, replacing the old LPG system and providing further carbon savings.



St John's worked hard to secure solar panels and has now joined Christ the Sower and Chesham Bois in generating some of their own electricity. We're excited to share that Longwick School has been offered 50% funding for solar panel installation, thanks to the support of the local parish council. We're now actively working to secure the remaining funds, with the goal of installing the panels next year.

There's a real buzz of activity across our schools, with exciting sustainability projects taking shape—from recycling schemes, vegetable patches and composting, to EV chargers, energy loggers and car idling protests. Each school is taking its own unique approach, but all are united by a shared commitment to a greener future.

If any parents have the passion or skills to support their school's sustainability journey, please do get in touch with your school office; your help would be hugely appreciated!

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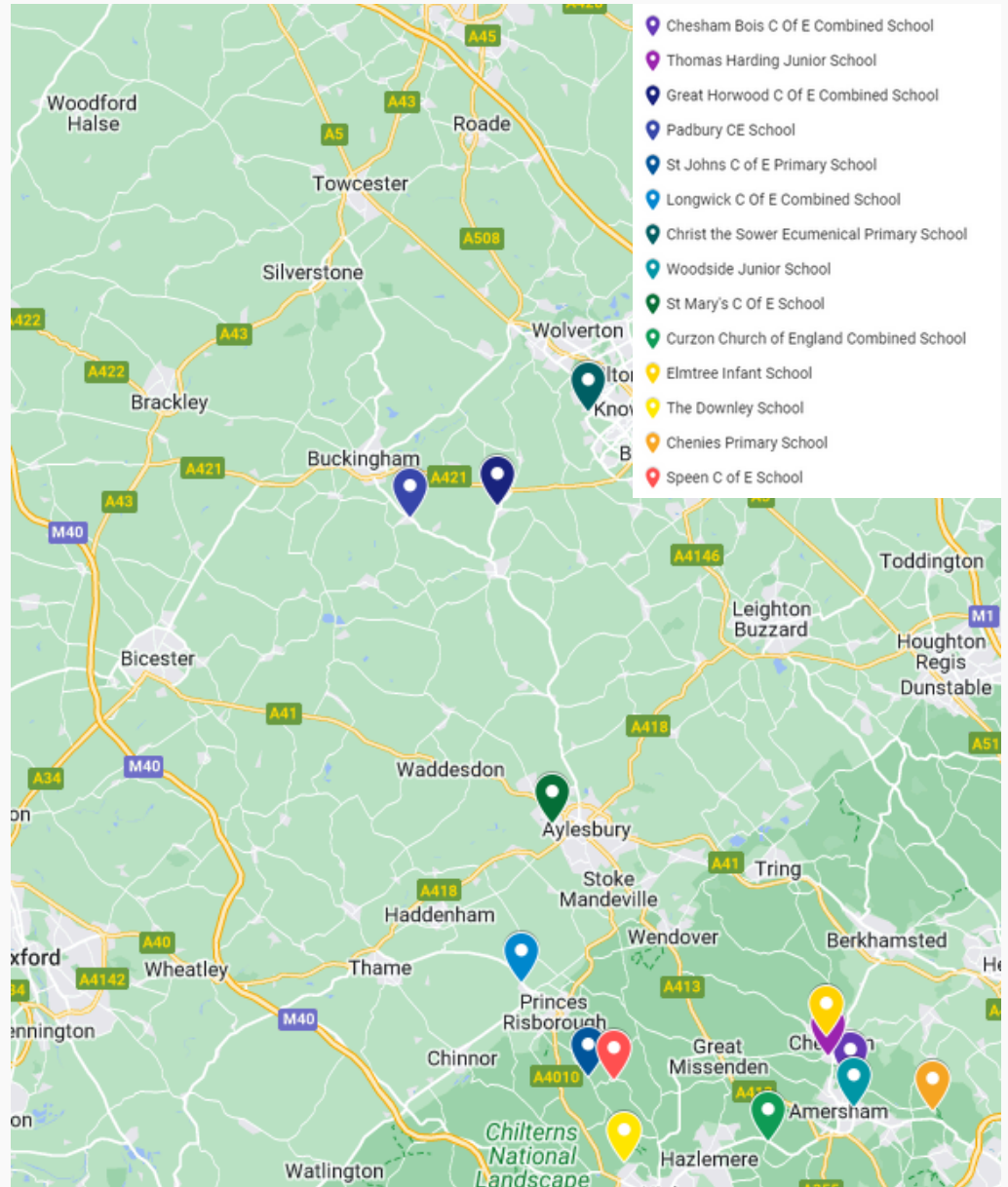
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The ODBST family of schools



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*Have a
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