



SUMMER 2026 ODBST NEWSLETTER



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A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT, PARTNERSHIP AND HOPE

Dear Colleagues, Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to thank everyone across the ODBST community for your support and encouragement. Together, we have celebrated many achievements, worked through real challenges, and stayed focused on providing the very best education and care for the children and young people we serve.

Education continues to experience significant change. This year saw the publication of the Government's White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, alongside updates to the Academy Trust Handbook and wider developments across the sector. We welcome new ideas that aim to improve outcomes for children, but the pace of change has been considerable for schools nationwide. Through it all, our focus on serving our communities with compassion and integrity has stayed constant.

There is much to be proud of across the ODBST this year. Four of our schools were inspected by Ofsted under the new framework, with outcomes that reflected the high standards and dedication of our staff. Two schools also underwent SIAMS inspections, both with excellent results that celebrated the strength of their Christian vision, leadership and relationships, and the difference our values make to children, families and staff. In addition, there is more to celebrate: strong outcomes across Early Years, phonics and Year 6 SATs too. To the parents and carers of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, we know this is an anxious time as your children await their results in August. We are so proud of how hard they have worked, and we wish them every success. Thank you to everyone who has supported our children this year.

These headline results, though, are only part of the picture. Every one of our fifteen schools contributes to the Trust's work each day, whether or not it happens to be under inspection at the time, and that consistency is something we can all be proud of. One of the greatest privileges of my role is spending time in each of our schools. Every one has its own character, yet all share the same ambition: to help every child flourish. Much of this work happens quietly, beyond the classroom and away from headline results: colleagues supporting staff, managing resources wisely, and maintaining safe, welcoming environments. As a leadership team, we want to share more of this, so everyone can appreciate the collective effort behind our results.

We also say a fond farewell to Lucy McFarlane and Paula Shaw, headteachers of Padbury CE School and Great Horwood CE School. Both have been outstanding advocates for their schools and for the Trust, and we are enormously grateful for the dedication, leadership and care they have given to their communities over many years. As they move on to exciting new opportunities, they do so with our full support and very best wishes, and we know the strong foundations they have built will continue to benefit their schools for years to come.



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Our staff have shown professionalism, compassion, and gone countless extra miles for children and families this year, and we thank them for it. Our parents and carers have placed their trust in us and shared in that partnership, and we are grateful for it. ODBST's strength is built on these relationships, and on what each of you brings to our community.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and hope. There will be new opportunities, fresh ideas and further change, but the greatest strength of the ODBST remains its people. By working together with kindness, ambition and faith, we will keep giving every child the chance to thrive.

As the summer break begins, I hope you find time to rest, enjoy moments with family and friends, and return refreshed for the year ahead.

I leave you with this blessing from Numbers 6:24–26:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Thank you again for everything you have done to make this another strong year for the ODBST. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which highlights the year's many achievements across each of our wonderful schools.

I wish you all a happy, peaceful and blessed summer.

Dr Sulina Piesse
Chief Executive Officer, the ODBST

Congratulations



A message from the Chair of Trustees

We are delighted to share that our CEO, Sulina Piesse, is now Dr Sulina Piesse having being awarded a Doctorate in Education this July. We are extremely proud of her achievement and want to send out our warmest congratulations to her.



What has been happening at Chenies this term?

Here at Chenies School, we have enjoyed a busy and memorable summer term.

The whole school enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, taking part in hands-on workshops exploring local history and the natural environment. Pupils were also delighted to welcome families to our Workshare Afternoon, proudly sharing the work they have completed throughout the term.



Our commitment to the local community has been evident through Nature Club's participation in a village clean-up along Manor Drive and around the church, as

well as the creation of posters supporting the Chenies Best Kept Village application, many of which are now displayed throughout the village. We were also proud to take part in the Chesham Carnival alongside other ODBST schools. This year's theme celebrated 100 Years of David Attenborough, and our German Hairy Snails entry was awarded 3rd Place for Presentation of Theme. Music has also played an important role this term, highlighted by our recent Music Assembly, where pupils performed on instruments including the French horn, recorder, ukulele, violin, piano and trumpet. Our younger pupils in Monet Class (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) enjoyed a visit to the RAF Museum in London to support their learning about flight, while KS2 pupils performed at the ECHOES11 concert at the Royal Albert Hall alongside children from 54 other Buckinghamshire schools.

Environmental responsibility has also been a focus, with two KS2 Eco Warriors representing the school at the ODBST Eco Conference, where they confidently presented their



Slow the Flow project. Hockney Class (Years 3 and 4) have enjoyed beginning their weekly swimming lessons, developing confidence and skills in the water.

Hepworth Class (Years 5 and 6) have taken part in a packed programme of activities including Forest School, Ninja Warrior, art workshops, Go Ape and a Buckinghamshire schools cricket tournament, providing valuable opportunities for teamwork, resilience and personal growth. We also enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day, bringing together pupils, staff and families for a morning of fun, determination and community spirit. It has been a wonderful summer term full of learning, adventure, creativity and achievement, and we are incredibly proud of our children and staff.

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ODBST – STRONGER TOGETHER

THROUGH THE ODBST, OUR SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM SHARED
EXPERTISE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATION.



What has been happening at Chesham Bois this term?

We proudly took first place for presentation of theme at this year's Schools of Chesham Carnival. The carnival celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday.



Our children embraced the theme, creating a spectacular coral reef walking float, transforming the streets into a sea of vibrant colour. The creativity, enthusiasm and teamwork demonstrated by pupils, staff and families resulted in a truly eye-catching display. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

Our Year 6 pupils have enjoyed a year of sporting success, winning four out of five Chiltern League competitions and further cementing CBS's reputation as one of the area's strongest sporting schools. The highlight came at the Chiltern League Cricket Competition, where CBS were crowned champions for the fourth consecutive year. Competing at Chesham Cricket Club, the team carried the weight of a proud tradition with confidence and determination. They won all six of their group matches before facing a strong local school's side in the final. Led superbly by our captain, the team delivered outstanding bowling, batting and fielding to secure match victory.



Arts week gave pupils a great opportunity to explore creativity while learning about marine environments and conservation. Year 3 studied seabirds, creating sketches, paintings and Barbara Kobylnska-inspired sculptures while learning about threats such as pollution and marine litter. Year 4 explored jellyfish through egg-box sculptures, wool art, watercolours and oil pastels, producing vibrant and imaginative work. Year 5 focused on Koi fish, using drawing, clay, watercolours, relief printing and mixed media before creating impactful "Save the Oceans" posters that reflected both artistic growth and environmental awareness. Year 6 immersed themselves in coral reefs,



developing observational drawing and shading skills, creating bubble-art coral designs and crafting detailed clay sculptures that celebrated these ecosystems and highlighted the importance of protecting them. Arts Week was a wonderful celebration of creativity, with pupils producing artwork of an exceptionally high standard while deepening their understanding of the natural world.



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ODBST – PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

ODBST SCHOOLS KEEP THEIR UNIQUE IDENTITY WHILE BENEFITING FROM THE STRENGTH OF A WIDER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS.



What has been happening at Chiltern Hills this term?

We are delighted to announce that Chiltern Hills Academy have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2025/26 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. With more pupils taking part in local inter-school competitions this year, we are incredibly proud of their commitment to school sport, along with the volunteers, leaders and officials who supported these events. We are delighted that the hard work of our whole school community has been recognised through this award.



Mr Dobbs enjoyed his role of judging all the floats at the Chesham Carnival on Saturday 13 June 2026. It was lovely to see the work that groups of young people have spent countless hours creating. It was a real honor to be part of this community event. Our PTA also did a great job on the BBQ.

Year 9 students competed in the finals of The Great Big Dance Off in Cheltenham with an exceptional performance, finishing in a highly respectable 14th out more than 100 hundred schools who took part.

Sports Day last week saw students compete all day in five field events, four individuals track events and two relays. Over 100 parents also joined us throughout the day to support their athletes! We were also treated to the staff and Sixth form mixed relay. After all results were in, the house trophy was awarded to HOUSE PARKS!

On Tuesday 175 Year 6s came for their transition day and it was a pleasure to welcome them and provide them with an opportunity to get to know the school and our staff. The Year 7 team, led by Mr Humphrey have done a did a marvelous job in coordinating a well-planned transition, which will culminate with the Summer School on Thursday 23 July 2026 and Friday 24 July 2026. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 students to Chiltern Hills Academy in September.



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ODBST – ONE TRUST, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

THROUGH ODBST, PUPILS AND STAFF BENEFIT FROM SHARED
LEARNING, WIDER OPPORTUNITIES AND COLLABORATION ACROSS
OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS



What has been happening at Christ the Sower this term?

This week, we celebrated Art Week with the theme Created with Care – Our Community, Our World, marking our 21st birthday. Pupils explored artists, cultures and creative traditions from around the world, drawing inspiration from figures including Frida Kahlo, Stephen Wiltshire, Yinka Shonibare and Lubaina Himid. Their



finished artwork will be displayed around CTS throughout the coming year. The project reflected both our Methodist heritage and the important role CTS has played in the local community over the past 21 years. Alongside their class projects, pupils also contributed to two whole-school artworks, creating a lasting celebration of this special milestone.

This month, we celebrated Aspiration Day, an important part of our CARE culture. Aspiration is the A in CARE, and we encourage children to understand that achieving their goals takes effort, determination and the right choices. Throughout the day, pupils took part in activities exploring future ambitions and the skills needed to achieve them. We welcomed visitors from the fire, police, and probation services, alongside professionals from engineering, technology, business and rail industries, as well as a former CTS pupil who is now an author. Children gained valuable insights into a wide range of careers, asked thoughtful questions and discovered how learning can help open doors in the future. We are very grateful to all our visitors for inspiring our children and supporting the day.



We are delighted to have been awarded the ARC Bronze Award in recognition of our journey towards becoming a trauma-informed school. Assessed by the Virtual School, the award highlights our commitment to supporting vulnerable children and recognised the positive impact of our work. Over the past year, trauma-informed practice has been embedded across the school, led by Inclusion Leader Mandy Robertson through staff training and development. This work is helping us strengthen relationships, better understand children's needs and create an even more nurturing environment. We are incredibly proud of Mandy and the whole team for this well-deserved achievement.

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ODBST – A FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

ODBST SCHOOLS WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER,
SHARE BEST PRACTICE AND HELP EVERY CHILD FLOURISH
ACADEMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND PERSONALLY.



What has been happening at Cold Harbour this term?

This summer has been a memorable one for Cold Harbour as we joined the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust. Throughout the term, our children have embraced an exceptional range of opportunities to grow academically, creatively, spiritually and personally. From regional competition successes to inspiring visitors and moments of quiet reflection, every experience has been designed to help our pupils discover their gifts and flourish.



Our commitment to developing responsible global citizens has been recognised through the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction, celebrating the work of our pupils in championing sustainability across the school. This was followed by further success when our Solar Girls team were crowned South East Sustainability Winners in the RAF Charitable Trust's Road to RIAT STEM Competition with their innovative design, The Eco Copter. Their achievement reflects the curiosity, teamwork and environmental responsibility that underpin our curriculum.

Creativity has flourished throughout the school this term. Amber won the Milton Keynes Mental Health Support Team Logo Competition, with Katie and Josie recognised as runners-up. Pupils also enjoyed success in the South East Young Poet Laureate Competition and worked with professional artists through Art in the Park, creating willow sculptures that were later showcased at a public performance.



Raising aspirations remains central to our vision. Year 6 were inspired by a visit from Air Commodore Rob Caine MBE, while pupils also met professionals from a range of industries through our careers programme, encouraging them to think ambitiously about their futures. Another highlight was our first Prayer Space, where children reflected, prayed and explored life's big questions through interactive activities, supporting their academic, spiritual and personal development.

As we look ahead to our first full year within ODBST, we are proud of all that our children have achieved. Whether succeeding in regional competitions, serving their community, exploring their faith or discovering new talents, every experience has been designed to help our pupils flourish.

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ODBST – THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

COLLABORATION SITS AT THE HEART OF ODBST. BY WORKING TOGETHER, OUR SCHOOLS ACHIEVE MORE FOR PUPILS, STAFF AND COMMUNITIES THAN ANY SCHOOL COULD ALONE.



What has been happening at Curzon this term?

We had an incredible week with IsingPop! Jess helped the children learn songs and dances in just three days, building their confidence and enthusiasm along the way. The concerts were a fantastic celebration of their hard work. Thank you to Jess and all the families who came to support us.



As part of the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award, our oldest pupils have organised a fundraising project for Toilet Twinning. They have planned, budgeted, created items to sell and promoted the event themselves, while learning about justice, inequality and helping others.

Our KS2 Fun Run in Penn Woods was a wonderful event, with children showing determination, resilience and great team spirit throughout. Thank you to all the parents who supported the event and donated to our chosen charity, Men Who Talk.

We enjoyed a fantastic Science Day with workshops and investigations led by Science Oxford, as well as visits from STEM professionals. Pupils explored curiosity through practical investigations, including fingerprint studies and collaborative fingerprint art. Thank you to all our visitors for inspiring the children.



Pupils had a fantastic day at Woodrow, enjoying activities such as archery and crate stacking. They developed new skills, showed resilience and teamwork, and represented the school superbly throughout the visit.



This year, Curzon is celebrating its 175th birthday. To mark the occasion, we are hosting a children's celebration, a tea party for former pupils and staff who left before 2006, and a pop-up Curzon Museum featuring memories, photographs and stories from across the years. We look forward to celebrating with our community, past and present, and reflecting on the many generations of children who have learned here. If you attended Curzon before 2006, or know someone who did, please contact the school office at office@czn.odbst.org.



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ODBST – BEHIND EVERY SCHOOL

BEHIND EVERY ODBST SCHOOL IS A TEAM PROVIDING
EXPERTISE IN EDUCATION, SEND, SAFEGUARDING, GOVERNANCE,
FINANCE, ESTATES AND OPERATIONS.



What has been happening at The Downley this term?

What a fantastic end to another academic year at TDS! We are delighted that work has finally begun on the top field, bringing us a step closer to having our own playing field and sports track for pupils to enjoy for years to come.

This term, our TDS World Cup brought the whole school together. Launched on World Culture Day, children celebrated the diverse cultures within our community before joining mixed-age teams for a World Cup tournament throughout the half term. The competition helped develop leadership, confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship across the school.

Congratulations to England, who beat Paraguay 6–3 in an exciting final!



Our summer events have been exceptionally well attended, from sports days and family picnics to school fairs, concerts and year group showcases, giving children opportunities to celebrate their achievements and share their learning with families.



Despite the hot weather, pupils continued to show resilience and enthusiasm for learning, thriving both in and out of the classroom with the support of air-conditioned spaces, extra shade and water play opportunities.

Our Year 6 residential trip to Osmington Bay was a particular highlight. The children represented the school brilliantly and received excellent feedback from activity leaders, who praised their behaviour, politeness and listening skills. We were especially proud to hear that TDS has built an excellent reputation among the centre staff.

As the year draws to a close, our Year 6 pupils are busy preparing for their final performance and helping to recruit the next Pupil Leadership Team. We say a fond farewell to a wonderful group of children who have made a significant contribution to school life and have been excellent role models for younger pupils. We wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their education and look forward to hearing about all they achieve in the future.



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ODBST – LEARNING TOGETHER

ODBST COLLEAGUES REGULARLY SHARE IDEAS, TRAINING AND
EXPERTISE, HELPING TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING AND LEARNING
ACROSS ALL OUR SCHOOLS.



What has been happening at Elmtree this term?

We are delighted to celebrate the continued success of our Gardening Club and our involvement with Chesham in Bloom. Under the dedicated leadership of Mr Curd, pupils have shown tremendous enthusiasm and commitment, transforming our growing spaces into thriving areas of colour, biodiversity and productivity.



The Gardening Club has cultivated an impressive range of flowers, plants and vegetables, creating beautiful and productive spaces for the whole school community to enjoy. Along the way, pupils have developed valuable skills in teamwork, responsibility and environmental stewardship. As one pupil remarked, "I wish I had a garden," to which one of our wonderful volunteers replied, "This is your garden."

We are incredibly proud that the club's efforts have been recognised through the school's selection for judging in a local community competition. This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication and care shown by Mr Curd, our volunteers and the many pupils who have worked together. As we await the results, we know that the real success has already been the positive impact the project has had on our pupils and wider school environment.



Sustainability remains central to our journey towards becoming an Eco-School. Through Wonderful World Week, Gardening Club activities and our David Attenborough-themed Chesham Carnival entry, pupils explored conservation, biodiversity and environmental responsibility while developing a passion for creating a more sustainable future.

We have been awarded Eco-Schools Green Flag Distinction, recognising an exceptional year of environmental action and learning. From transforming the pond area into a thriving wildlife habitat to celebrating Attenborough Day, supporting community initiatives and promoting healthy living, pupils have shown a real commitment to caring for the environment. The assessor praised the school's strong community partnerships, engaging curriculum and enthusiastic approach to sustainability, highlighting these achievements as evidence of a school community determined to make a positive difference.

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ODBST – SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD

WORKING TOGETHER ENABLES ODBST SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE
GREATER SUPPORT, BROADER OPPORTUNITIES AND THE VERY BEST
LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN.



What has been happening at Great Horwood this term?

Our MAD Council organised a successful fundraising day for Medical Detection Dogs, raising £250. Pupils enjoyed a dog-themed mufti day, met charity representatives and learned about the important role of assistance dogs. The day also helped



children develop their understanding of responsible dog ownership while supporting a worthwhile local cause.

Pupils also enjoyed cricket festivals with Padbury and Thornborough schools, developing skills and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. Skateboarding and scooting sessions encouraged determination, confidence and resilience

as children learned new skills and celebrated each other's successes.

Before half term, the whole school enjoyed a magical Quidditch Day, with pupils sorted into Hogwarts houses and taking part in themed activities and tournaments. The event encouraged teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship while creating a memorable whole-school experience filled with excitement, friendship and fun.

We were delighted to welcome Commonwealth Games gold medallist Emmanuel Oyinbo-Coker through the Athletes in Schools programme. He shared his inspiring journey with pupils and led PE sessions that promoted determination, teamwork and resilience.



Pupils also enjoyed a Kapla Club workshop, using wooden blocks to create impressive structures while developing creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

June was a fantastic month for music, with a performance from the New Mozart Orchestra, a violin workshop for Years 1 and 2, and the Bucks Schools Recorder Festival for Years 3 and 4. These experiences helped build confidence, performance skills and a love of music.



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ODBST – GROWING TOGETHER

THROUGH COLLABORATION, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
SHARED EXPERTISE, ODBST HELPS SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO LEARN,
IMPROVE AND THRIVE.



What has been happening at Longwick this term?

I don't quite understand where the time has gone! One minute I'm the new head on the block on the 1st day of September and the next it's the end of July. We have had an incredibly busy year!



This year at Longwick has been marked by challenge, growth and a strong sense of community. Through it all, we have remained committed to putting children at the centre of every decision. What has emerged is a story of teamwork, trust and a shared determination to help every child reach their potential.

One of the highlights of the year has been the support of colleagues across ODBST. The opportunity to share ideas, solve challenges together and draw on the experience of fellow headteachers has provided both encouragement and reassurance. This collaborative leadership has strengthened Longwick's direction and helped us move forward with confidence.

Our school community has enjoyed a rich calendar of experiences this year. Families have engaged enthusiastically in curriculum events and whole-school celebrations, helping to bring learning to life. Pupils have also benefited from a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including a recent visit to the UK Parliament through a highly sought-after national programme.



The standout highlight of the year has been our partnership with Holly Green Farm. Thanks to the generosity of farmer and science teacher Neil Dyson, every year group now enjoys weekly farm visits each half term, free of charge. The sessions bring learning to life through hands-on experiences and real-world science, and have quickly become a much-loved part of our curriculum.

As the year draws to a close, I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together. It has been a challenging but rewarding year, defined by teamwork, trust and a shared commitment to providing the very best for our children. I have thoroughly enjoyed the year and look forward to what lies ahead, after a well-earned summer break.

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ODBST – EMPOWERING LIVES

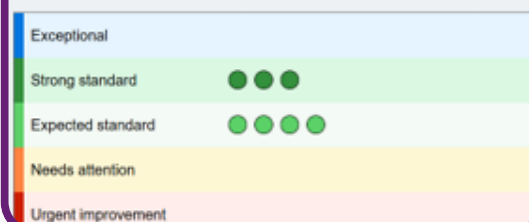
ODBST IS COMMITTED TO HELPING EVERY CHILD REACH
THEIR POTENTIAL BY PROVIDING EXCELLENT EDUCATION, STRONG
SUPPORT AND ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES.



What has been happening at Padbury this term?

As another academic year draws to a close, this term is especially poignant as both Laura Mackenzie and I prepare for new challenges. I have no doubt that Padbury will continue to thrive under the Executive Leadership of Mel Nugent and Head of School Emma Gooding. Padbury CE School is a special place to work and

Inspection report: 21 April 2026



learn, and I wish the whole school community every success as it continues its journey.

In April, we welcomed Ofsted and were delighted with a very positive outcome. We were judged strong in Attendance

and Behaviour, Achievement and Personal Development, reflecting the dedication of our staff, governors, pupils and families, and our shared commitment to ensuring every child can flourish. I am incredibly proud that we leave the school in such a strong position for the future.

This year, Forest School was extended across the whole school, from EYFS to Year 6, giving pupils valuable opportunities to learn outdoors, develop new skills and work collaboratively. It has been particularly wonderful to see our older pupils continuing to enjoy exploring, creating and learning in the natural environment. Our allotment has also flourished, producing an abundance of potatoes, beetroot and strawberries. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed growing and tasting the produce and are already looking forward to entering this year's harvest into the Padbury Produce Show. Year 5 and 6 pupils also enjoyed a fantastic residential visit to Whitemoor Lakes, where they challenged themselves, developed independence and created lasting memories with friends.



We have also celebrated wonderful community events, including our Father's Day celebration and Summer Fête, which brought families together and created plenty of fun and laughter.

Padbury has always been built on strong relationships, community spirit and a commitment to helping children thrive. It has been a privilege to be part of that journey, and I wish everyone in the

ODBST family the very best for the future.

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ODBST – FLOURISHING TOGETHER

OUR SCHOOLS ARE UNITED BY A SHARED VISION: EMPOWERING LIVES, NURTURING POTENTIAL AND HELPING EVERY CHILD FLOURISH.



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

It's been a really positive term at St John's, with a strong focus on getting the basics right in the classroom, alongside a range of experiences that have added something extra!



National Numeracy Day was a great example of learning in action, with pupils exploring maths in practical, real-world contexts. In KS1, this included activities such as costing ice creams and understanding how maths is used in everyday life. Older pupils tackled more challenging concepts, from exploring how numbers are used in the wider community to taking on Year 6's '44 Challenge'. What stood out most was the determination pupils showed when faced with difficult tasks and their willingness to persevere.

Our Year 5 visit to the Science Museum was undoubtedly a highlight. The children threw themselves into the "Mission to Mars" theme, but what impressed most was how they carried themselves throughout. Staying overnight in a museum is exciting, but they managed that excitement well and represented the school exactly as we would want. There was plenty of fun alongside the learning, particularly in Wonderlab and through the IMAX experience, which gave them something bigger to think about beyond the classroom.



A particularly important part of this term has been our involvement in the One Love Project. Through our Whole School Write children have been learning about



a school community in Uganda and the difference education can make in very different circumstances to their own. It's been a chance to develop a broader view of the world, but in a way that feels real rather than abstract.

We also welcomed Olaf Falafel to work with our Year 1 and 2 pupils. Children asked some tricky questions and it was wonderful to see the children come away believing that writing is something they can truly do themselves.

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ODBST – BETTER TOGETHER

WHEN SCHOOLS WORK TOGETHER, EVERYONE BENEFITS. ODBST
CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS TO COLLABORATE,
INNOVATE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER



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

It has been another busy and successful term at St Mary's, with pupils enjoying enriching opportunities both in and beyond the classroom.



Our younger pupils benefited from exciting educational visits, with Year 1 enjoying a memorable day at Woburn Safari Park, learning about animals from around the world, and Year 2 visiting Hogshaw Farm to explore habitats and develop their understanding of wildlife and the natural environment. Older pupils embraced opportunities for adventure. Year 4 had a fantastic time at Whitemoor Lakes, building

confidence, teamwork and independence through a variety of outdoor activities. Year 6 enjoyed an action-packed visit to Willersley Castle, taking part in climbing, kayaking and other adventurous pursuits while developing resilience and creating lasting memories as they prepared for the next stage of their education.

Back in school, pupils have continued to approach learning with enthusiasm and curiosity. Their positive attitude and willingness to embrace new experiences have been a real strength. We are particularly proud to have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction, recognising our commitment to sustainability and environmental awareness across the school. In addition, our Young Carers Programme received a prestigious award at the Buckinghamshire Awards, celebrating the outstanding support we provide for young carers and their families.



These achievements reflect the enthusiasm of our pupils, staff and the wider school community. We are incredibly proud and grateful for the continued support of our families, governors and friends of the school, who play such an important role in school life. We look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead, continuing to provide a rich and inspiring educational experience that enables every child to flourish both academically and personally.

ODBST PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

YOUR SCHOOL REMAINS UNIQUE, WHILE BENEFITING FROM THE STRENGTH, SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME FROM BEING PART OF ODBST.

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What has been happening at Thomas Harding this term?

Pupils from Thomas Harding Junior School recently took part in the exciting Greenpower “Gathering of the Goblins” event, held on Sunday 28th June, showcasing their engineering skills and teamwork on a real motorsport stage. The event is organised by the Greenpower Education Trust, a UK charity dedicated to inspiring young people to engage with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Through the challenge of designing, building and racing electric cars, students gain hands-on experience while developing creativity, resilience and problem-solving skills.



Representing the school with enthusiasm and determination, the Rapid Raptor Raiders joined more than 1,000 young people and over 100 teams at the



National Greenpower event. The primary-aged “Goblins” challenge allows pupils to design build and race kit cars while learning about sustainable energy and engineering. Racing their ‘Rapid Raptor’ car, the team showed excellent teamwork as they prepared their vehicle, planned race strategy and competed in the chicane sprint, drag race and slalom challenge. The experience provided valuable insight into real world engineering challenges, while allowing

pupils to represent the school with pride, enthusiasm and excellent team spirit.

Thank you to Miss Smith for leading the project and Mrs Collins for supporting throughout. Particular thanks go to Mr Lovett, who volunteered tirelessly throughout the year, and whose technical and engineering expertise have been invaluable. We are also indebted to Miss Lynch, who was also on hand supporting for the duration. Well done to everyone involved for an inspiring achievement and for embracing the exciting world of STEM learning!



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ODBST – SHARED STRENGTH

BY SHARING RESOURCES, EXPERTISE AND LEADERSHIP ACROSS
THE TRUST, ODBST HELPS SCHOOLS FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS
MOST, CHILDREN.



What has been happening at Woodside this term?

One of the strengths of Woodside is the way in which we support our pupils' personal development and mental health. We have had a longstanding partnership with the Bucks Mental Health Support Team, which has continued this term with a "Feelings Detective" programme running for invited pupils across the school. We also have partnerships with a local charity who provide mentors for our children, offering valuable guidance, encouragement and a trusted adult to talk to when needed. These programmes play an important role in helping pupils develop confidence, resilience and positive strategies for managing their emotions. We are very proud of the support offered by Woodside in this area and the positive impact it has on our children and families.



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The children visited Mill on the Brue in Somerset during the recent heatwave.



Despite describing it as "hotter than the Sahara Desert", they thoroughly enjoyed activities such as abseiling, raft building and kayaking, which pushed them out of their comfort zones. Along the way, they developed teamwork, independence and determination while supporting one another. It is always a highlight of the Year 6 experience and creates memories that last long after they return home.

This year, we were delighted to be awarded Eco Schools status with a distinction. Mrs Bannister and Ms Barns worked really hard alongside our fantastic Eco-Council to ensure that we met all of the criteria, including organising a great Eco Day where the children took part in activities such as a community litter pick and creating games from recycled materials. The award recognises the commitment shown by both staff and pupils to making a positive difference to our environment. We are proud of the enthusiasm our children have shown for sustainability and look forward to continuing this important work next year.



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ODBST – CONNECTED THROUGH COLLABORATION

ODBST BRINGS SCHOOLS TOGETHER TO SHARE IDEAS, CELEBRATE
SUCCESS AND TACKLE CHALLENGES AS ONE SUPPORTIVE
COMMUNITY.



ODBST Vision and Values

ODBST – Empowering Lives, Flourishing Together

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.



Living “life in all its fullness” – John 10:10

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Service We encourage everyone to look after themselves and others around them. We encourage children and young people 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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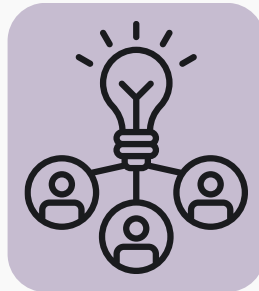
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Benefits of a Multi Academy Trust for You and Your Children

As we approach the Summer break, we wanted to share how being part of the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust continues to support our schools, staff and pupils throughout the year.

Better support for teaching and learning



Schools in a Trust share expertise and resources, meaning teachers have access to the best ideas and training.

Helping lessons continue to grow in quality and impact.

More opportunities for pupils



Trusts provide extra activities and enrichment programmes that a single school might not be able to afford.

Helping pupils benefit from a wider range of learning experiences.

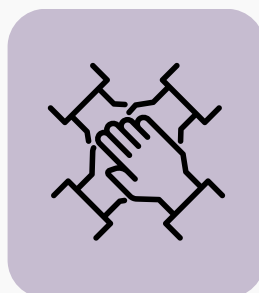
Stronger leadership and stability



A Trust brings experienced leaders who support headteachers and staff.

There are consistent standards and a clear vision across all schools, giving parents confidence in long-term stability

Community and collaboration



Schools in a Trust work as a family, sharing best practice and supporting each other.

If one school faces challenges, others step in to help, so no child is left behind.

Being part of ODBST means your child's school is supported, challenged and strengthened — while keeping its own identity, ethos and community.

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Our Trust Prayer

Gracious God,

You are the source of all wisdom and growth.
Thank you for empowering our lives
through your boundless love.

Guide us to embrace inclusivity in our hearts,
inspire us to serve others with compassion,
and strengthen us to make a difference in our
community.

May our spirits unite as we flourish together,
living 'life in all its fullness'.

Amen.

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BEING PART OF ODBST MEANS

SCHOOLS ARE NEVER WORKING IN ISOLATION. THIS TERM,
COLLEAGUES FROM ACROSS OUR SCHOOLS HAVE SHARED
EXPERTISE IN TEACHING, SEND, SAFEGUARDING AND LEADERSHIP,
HELPING TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE TRUST.



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

Operations

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, it is encouraging to reflect on how our schools and central teams have worked together to improve services, strengthen support for pupils and staff, and make the best use of resources. Across the Trust, school meal uptake has increased by 10% since September, with five schools moving to on-site cooking provision, while ongoing reviews of support services have delivered savings that can be reinvested where they have the greatest impact on children.

Significant work has also taken place to strengthen support for schools and staff. Extensive IT equipment audits have helped target future investment, staff have benefited from expanded professional development opportunities, and continued focus on cyber security has improved phishing awareness across our schools.

Keeping children safe remains at the heart of everything we do. The Trust has strengthened its approach to supporting pupils with allergies, with all staff completing allergy awareness training before the autumn term. We will also begin rolling out SchoolHire across suitable primary school sites this autumn, helping community groups access school facilities and strengthening local partnerships. We are particularly proud of the standards achieved across the Trust this year, with all primary schools securing over 95% in their health and safety audits. Recent extreme weather has also prompted a strategic review of our buildings to help guide future investment and improve resilience, comfort and sustainability across our estate.

Progress towards our sustainability goals has continued, including the installation of 28 fully funded electric vehicle charging points across three school sites and the near completion of our first heat pump project, which will be paired with solar technology. Many schools have achieved Green Flag status, while our annual Eco-Day brought together pupils from across the Trust to share sustainability projects and ideas.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we remain committed to providing safe, efficient and supportive learning environments where pupils and staff can thrive. Thank you to our staff, pupils, families, governors and partners for helping make this another successful year.

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ODBST – SHARED EXPERTISE

BEING PART OF ODBST MEANS STAFF CAN LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, SHARE BEST PRACTICE AND ACCESS SPECIALIST SUPPORT, HELPING EVERY SCHOOL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE.



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

Finance

Great British Summer Savings

Families can enjoy a range of savings this summer through the Government's Great British Summer Savings scheme, running from 25 June to 1 September 2026.

The scheme includes:

- Reduced VAT on children's meals in restaurants.
- Discounts on children's and family tickets for cinemas, theatres, concerts, exhibitions and many attractions.
- Free bus travel throughout August for children aged 5–15 in England.

These savings are designed to help families enjoy affordable days out and access cultural, educational and leisure activities during the summer holidays. Whether visiting local attractions, taking part in community events or enjoying family meals out, the scheme offers a range of opportunities to make summer activities more accessible. With many venues and attractions taking part, families are encouraged to explore what is available in their local area and beyond.

Parents and carers can find participating venues and attractions by entering their postcode on the Summer Savings Attraction Finder at: summersavings.gov.uk

New Finance Officer

We are delighted to announce that we have recruited a new Finance Officer who will join the central Finance team from September. Jazmin Legg already has a connection to the Trust as a former pupil of Longwick School and will work alongside SJ to ensure invoices are processed and paid promptly, helping to support the smooth running of our financial operations across the Trust. Jazmin is looking forward to getting to know colleagues across our schools and central team and becoming part of the wider ODBST community. We are excited to welcome her to the team and are confident she will make a valuable contribution as we continue to develop and strengthen our services. Please give her a warm welcome when she joins us in September.

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ODBST – MORE OPPORTUNITIES

THROUGH ODBST, PUPILS BENEFIT FROM A WIDER RANGE OF ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES, COMPETITIONS, EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES THAN ANY SCHOOL COULD OFFER ALONE.



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

School Effectiveness

It has been a busy but very exciting term in our ODBST schools, where children have been working really hard and teachers have again been delivering inspiring learning to ensure that we achieve the greatest outcomes.

Our Trust wide writing project comes to the end of its second year and we are delighted with the impact it has secured for our pupils. This comes in addition to a year long piece of work with specialist speech and language providers who have been able to give our schools really focussed support around all things to do with communication and interaction. We are really pleased with the key stage 2 results from our primary schools which sit well above the national average not only for all children but for our most disadvantaged children and our SEND children too. This is really positive and we are pleased; ODBST children are well-prepared for their next steps in learning. Outcomes at the end of Early Years, our phonics screening test outcomes and our multiplication check test results are all really positive too.

The student outcomes in our secondary school will be better known in August and we look forward to sharing their news in due course.

We are delighted too with our OFSTED inspections with all of our schools inspected this year achieving the expected standard in all areas and every school achieving at least some elements of strong; we know that our schools are great places to learn and that our leaders work tirelessly to enable our children to have the best that they can so that they can be the best that they can be.

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ODBST – SUPPORT BEHIND THE SCENES

FROM SAFEGUARDING AND SEND TO FINANCE, ESTATES AND GOVERNANCE, ODBST PROVIDES EXPERT SUPPORT THAT HELPS SCHOOLS FOCUS ON TEACHING AND LEARNING.



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

HR

Thank you to all Headteachers and school-based staff for welcoming me into the Trust earlier this year and for the fantastic levels of engagement with the ongoing people-focused work taking place across the organisation. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know colleagues across our schools and seeing first-hand the commitment, professionalism and care shown every day. Thanks also to all Trust-level colleagues who continue to provide invaluable support, always keeping the needs of both children and people at the heart of their work.

Congratulations to all the schools that have undergone Ofsted inspections this year. It has been a privilege to support you during these important visits. We know how much preparation, teamwork and dedication go into achieving such positive outcomes, and you should be incredibly proud of what has been accomplished.

As we look ahead to September and our new operating structure, I am delighted to welcome Leah Ovens to the HR Team. Leah joins us following a successful career as a highly regarded School Business Manager and is already making excellent progress as she begins to work more closely with her allocated schools as HR Partner. We also look forward to further developing and expanding the HR Team during the Autumn term to ensure we continue to provide the highest levels of support across the Trust.

As a reminder, our Employee Assistance Programme through SAS remains available throughout the summer break should you or a family member need support.

For any HR queries during the holidays, please contact me at swalker@odbst.org or on 07881 821173.

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ODBST – INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

ODBST IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING TALENTED STAFF THROUGH TRAINING, COACHING AND COLLABORATION, ENSURING EVERY SCHOOL BENEFITS FROM SKILLED AND WELL-SUPPORTED TEAMS.



The ODBST family of schools



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