



Term 1 2025-2026



### CHARLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL TREE



HAPPINESS.  
KINDNESS.  
RESPONSIBILITY.



Decorate a  
leaf and place  
it upon our  
tree to bring  
our school  
community  
together.



Collect a leaf  
from your  
teacher and  
return it to  
Mrs Oliver in  
Beech Class by  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
November.

Draw a self portrait,  
a picture inspired by your favourite  
lesson, small images to represent what  
you enjoy about school or decorate it  
how you wish - the choice is yours.

## Term 1 Newsletter

**Our vision is to be an exceptional school where  
children flourish**

Dear Families,

Thank you for supporting us with our fundraising this term. You will see from the newsletter that we have had a number of events going on that will help us to continue to enrich the experiences for all children in school.

Mrs Oliver has launched a Art Project which all children can participate in- ideal for a wet half term day! All entries to Mrs Oliver in Beech class by 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Next term, the Travelling Book Fair will also be joining us. Look out for this when you join us for Discussion Evenings on 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November.

If you don't already, please follow our school Facebook page so that you can see more of what we've been up to.

We hope that you have a restful half term break, and look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.**

With very best wishes.

Sam Campbell and the Charlton Team

*This term's attendance:*

**96.1%**

*School and Trust target:*

**96%**



**Follow us!**



**Charlton Primary School**



**Charlton\_Primary**

# Personal Development Opportunities across School

## Nerys Pearce's Visit

Nerys Pearce energised the children and staff from Year 1 to Y6 on 29<sup>th</sup> September! Nerys, who is a 9 time world record holder, set up an incredible fitness circuit in our hall that ran continuously from 9am until 11.30am. She then shared her story in a whole school assembly, talking openly about how she found school, how she overcame challenges, before telling us about an injury that changed her entire life and what that meant for her.

We are so grateful to everyone who sponsored the children in their fitness circuits. We are delighted to share that together we raised a substantial amount of money which will help us to update our sports equipment, and also enables us to support the Great Athletes programme.



Total raised for us to spend in school:  
**£2,239.20**



## Year 6 Residential to Condover Hall

This week, our Year 6 children embarked on their residential to Condover Hall on from 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October. During the 4 day residential, children have the chance to take part in numerous adventurous activities, designed to build confidence, resilience and teamwork. This week's activities included wet 'n' wacky, tunnelling, initiative exercises, abseiling, rocket launch, buggy building, dance mania, zip wire, climbing and archery. We look forward to sharing with you more from their experiences away!





# Term 1 Extra-Curricular Offer

## Something Crafty

Mondays and Tuesdays after school with Mrs Gillott



## Film Club

This term, we got to enjoy these films together 😊



## Forest Maintenance

Helping to maintain the forest with Miss Biles.



## Maths in Motion

We continue to offer Maths in Motion as an enrichment opportunity to keen mathematicians in Year 6.

Maths in Motion involves children working together in small teams. These teams set up virtual racing cars and then compete against each other in a series of Grands Prix type races throughout the year in the hope of becoming World Champions. This activity involves a wide range of basic mathematical skills, and is overseen by our Maths in Motion expert, Mrs Walters.

## STEM Club

Using science, technology, engineering and maths to problem solve together.



## Good Vibes Music Tuition

Good Vibes continue to offer keyboard and guitar lessons for children across the school. If your child is interested in learning how to play the drums, guitar, keyboard or ukulele please follow this link:

<https://www.goodvibesmusicacademy.co.uk/charlton>



## iRock

iRock continues this year with 5 bands meeting each week to rehearse ready for their December performance to their families. This term, the bands have been learning a song from the selection below:

- Green Green Grass
- Counting Stars
- Never Gonna Give You Up
- Don't Start Now
- Heat waves

If your child is interested in joining, please contact iRock: [schools@irockschool.com](mailto:schools@irockschool.com)

## Y1 Local Walk

To supplement their geography this term, Year 1 have been exploring the local area around school. On their local walk, they have been paying close attention to the types of housing, shops and amenities. They've learnt about which houses are **detached**, **terraced** and **semi-detached**. They might be able to tell you about these on your journey to and from school!

## Cross Country

on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Mrs Rose took 4 teams to compete in a cross country event. We were thrilled with the outcome and so proud of our teams!

Our Y4 girls' team came 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our Y4 boys' team came 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our Y6 girls' team came 1<sup>st</sup>

Our Year 6 boys' team came 1<sup>st</sup>

This means that all of our teams have qualified for the next round at Tilsley Park!

## Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Event

On 7<sup>th</sup> October, Mrs Goodman took two teams of Year 5 and 6 children to compete in a tag rugby event held at Stockham. Our teams benefitted from some expert coaching from Coach Owen prior to the event, and tried incredibly hard throughout the matches.

## Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Competition

Two teams of Year 3 and 4 children also took part in a TA Sports Stars tag rugby competition this term. For some, it was the first time they had competed in a match against other teams, but they worked brilliantly together and enjoyed the experience!



## Restart a Heart

Year 5 took part in Restart a Heart on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October with David Koch from Empty Hands Defence.

Restart a Heart is an annual initiative which aims to increase the number of people surviving out-of-hospital cardiac arrests by helping more people learn CPR.

We are incredibly lucky to benefit from David's expertise, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the chance to learn some life saving skills.

## Cambrian Learning Trust Maths Challenge

The Cambrian Learning Trust Maths Challenge also took place this term, with a team of 4 children from Year 4 & 5 representing Charlton.

We will also be entering the Primary Maths Challenge in November, entering a number of keen mathematicians from Y5 and Y6.



# Whole School Messages

## Children's sickness and diarrhoea

From time to time, children are sick either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away from school or early years setting until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.

**If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours to the school premises.** We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and your child may not appear to be ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases, and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school. Further information can be found here:

**[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)**



**Is my child too ill for school?**



## Safety on the School Site

We appreciate that parking at drop off and collection can be busy. Unfortunately, **it is not possible for families to park on school site or the site at the adult centre. This is for the safety of children entering and leaving the site at this time.** Being considerate of our local community in terms of parking is very important; if you see any parking which you feel is dangerous or inconsiderate, we would urge you to contact the police so that they are able to monitor and follow up accordingly.

# Early Years

**Acorns:** In Acorns, we have welcomed our new children and their families and have enjoyed getting to know them. We have been working on becoming independent by learning the magic coat trick, and putting on our own shoes.

Together, we have celebrated Space Week, dressing as space explorers and using our carpet area as a moon. We also made space biscuits to enjoy at home! At the moment, we are experimenting with pumpkins, using our motor skills to hammer golf tees into a large pumpkin; making potions and exploring the different textures of pumpkins.

**Reception:** The children in Reception have made a great start to the year. They have been learning about our routines and expectations and have now settled in fantastically. This term our theme has focused on the children so we can spend lots of time getting to know them and they can get to know each other. The children particularly enjoyed showing their class a picture of their family and explaining who is who and looking at differences and similarities between each other's families. We have also been exploring the joy of Autumn, looking closely at the changes in nature all around us in our brilliant outdoor area and down in the forest in our Forest Fun sessions.

## Key Stage 1

**Year 1:** Year 1 have had an amazing start to the school year, settling beautifully into their new classrooms and routines. In phonics, the children have impressed their new teachers with their fantastic recall of previously taught sounds and have loved 'growing the code' by learning alternative graphemes. In maths, they have been exploring numbers within 10 using practical resources, number lines and number tracks to deepen their understanding. Their careful counting has been particularly impressive! In writing, the children have fully immersed themselves in the story of Little Red Riding Hood, even enjoying a surprise visit from Little Red herself. They've learnt how to write super sentences using capital letters, full stops and exciting adjectives to describe characters brilliantly. In geography, the children explored their school grounds and local area through fieldwork, identifying human and physical features on a local walk. They then used this knowledge to create wonderfully detailed maps of the route they followed. What a fantastic first term!

**Year 2:** The children have got themselves well and truly stuck in Year 2 life this term. We've enjoyed our writing work around Toys In Space, even enjoying the sounds toys make within our music lessons too. In PE we have been busy with tennis and rounders, ending the term with a Beech vs Willow rounders match... score pending! Finally, we've been learning all about keeping healthy within science. This has involved looking at food, exercise and how to keep those pesky germs away.



## Key Stage 2

**Year 3:** This term, Year 3 have been doing lots of exciting learning from fossil record excavating to moving D&T thank you cards! In Maths, the children have been focusing on place value and beginning to look at three digit addition and subtraction. In writing, they have been getting their teeth into writing a letter to Mrs Campbell about why PE and exercise is important.

**Year 4:** The children in Year 4 have been working really hard in Design & Technology. They have sampled and evaluated various shop bought wraps, practised their chopping and grating skills, and last week, designed their own wrap, which they will make in a Classroom Cafe celebration.

We were also lucky to have a visit from Jude from the Letcombe Brook project. We had great fun down in the nature reserve taking part in an Autumn scavenger hunt and recreating habitats for different creatures living at the Letcombe Brook using natural materials.



**Year 5:** This term in Year 5, we have been learning about all sorts of different things! We have studied the legendary Viking story of Beowulf and written our own version of it, as well as a biography of Beowulf himself. This has worked well alongside our in-depth study of the Viking Age in history, which has been fascinating. In science, we have developed our knowledge of space and Earth, learning about orbit, seasonal changes and light and shadow. We have been lucky enough to have two enrichment opportunities this term: swimming and Restart the Heart, a programme that teaches early CPR skills where we got to practise on a CPR dummy.

**Year 6:** It has been a very busy and exciting term in Year 6! As part of our Make Do and Mend unit in Design and Technology, the children have worked incredibly hard to design and create their own shopping bags. They demonstrated fantastic creativity, perseverance, and sewing skills – we are so impressed by their final products! In history, we've been diving deep into World War Two. The children have shown great interest and enthusiasm in learning about key events, the lives of evacuees, and the impact the war had on people across the UK. Their thoughtful discussions and questions have made for some brilliant classroom conversations. Alongside this, Year 6 have been busy planning, drafting, and editing their entries for the National 500 Word Story Competition. The imagination and writing talent on display has been truly inspiring – we're very proud of the stories they've produced!

A major highlight of the term is our residential trip to Condover Hall. The children are currently challenging themselves and trying new things, including abseiling, archery, gladiator wall and many other exciting activities. It has been wonderful to see them supporting each other and growing in confidence over the course of the trip.

We'd like to thank you all for your continued support this term. We hope you and your families have a very restful and enjoyable half term break – the children have certainly earned it!



## AGM

Don't worry if you missed our AGM in September, you can catch up by looking at the slides on our website:

<https://www.charltonpta.org/> 

## Disco

Thank you for supporting our October Disco, either by helping to set up, tidy away, help during the event, or by coming along with your children. We are pleased to share that we raised £1103!



## Autumn Antics

Thank you for supporting our after school treat sale and our non-uniform.

## Upcoming Events:

Sparkle Day -Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Children can accessorize their uniform with sparkle in exchange for an item for our Christmas Hampers.





# Safeguarding



## Age requirement

**Meta requires users in the UK to be 13 or older to use the app.**

## Risks associated with these apps

Both apps put children at greater risk of viewing harmful or upsetting video content and images.

Your child could receive unwanted contact from adults or other young people using the app.

Snapchat Map shares your location with other users on the app.

Snapchat messages normally disappear after a short period of time once opened. This could put a child more at risk of sharing something that makes them feel uncomfortable or could harm or upset someone else. It's important to remember that images, videos, and messages can always be screen shot by the recipient.

With streaks, there is a pressure to keep using the app and to achieve a high 'streak score'.

**These apps are not suitable for primary aged pupils.**

**Schools have a duty of care to ensure that children are not exposed to potential online dangers and may escalate concerns raised in school.**

# Themed Menu Days for next term

Tuesday 18th November



To make a booking,  
please visit your  
Parent Pay account.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December





# Half term events in the community



## October Half-Term Events Saturday 25 October to Saturday 1 November 2025 at Wantage LIBRARY

	SATURDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10AM TO 12 NOON	MAKE YOUR OWN GIANT STORY BOOK	FAMILY LEGO	MAKE AND ILLUSTRATE YOUR OWN BOOK	SUE PALMER - AUTHOR EVENT FOR 7-12 YRS THE SHELL SECRET & SPACE*	CLASSIC STORYTIME FREE -STYLE CRAFTING	BABY BUILDERS FOR 5S AND UNDER  DESIGN YOUR OWN BOOK COVER	MAKE AND ILLUSTRATE YOUR OWN BOOK
2PM TO 4PM	CLASSIC STORYTIME FREE -STYLE CRAFTING	CLASSIC STORYTIME FREE -STYLE CRAFTING	CLASSIC STORYTIME FREE -STYLE CRAFTING	1.30PM CLASSIC STORYTIME  2PM PUMPKIN EVENT	CLOSED	CLASSIC STORYTIME FREE -STYLE CRAFTING	2.30 - 3PM CLASSIC STORYTIME

All events are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

\***The Shell Secret & Space** - this event needs to be booked, it is aimed at children 7 to 12 years old. Please book your place by emailing [wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Colouring available all week

For more information about any of our activities, please contact us at [wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or on 01865 815197



### Children's author Sue Palmer

Wednesday 29th October 10 - 11am

Rockets and Rock Pools

Join Sue Palmer for a fast-paced ride through her experiences with astronauts and rockpool creatures. A fun, interactive session with book readings and crafts.

Event followed by a book signing

Ages 7-12. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

FREE event but booking essential.

Call 01865 815197 or email [wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



### October Half Term

**Ages 8-11**

**NW Inventors**

**Musical Theatre - Sing, Dance, Act!**

27 - 29 Oct  
9am - 12pm

Join us this October half term to explore fun-filled storytelling and characters as you combine acting with singing and movement for an upbeat, musical workshop that's a 'triple-threat'!

**Tickets £60 for 3 half days**

**"I learned to express myself"**

**Double the Drama, Double the Fun!**

**SAVE £15** when you book both workshops!

**Stage Combat**

27 - 29 Oct  
1pm - 4pm

Dramatic combat is all about angles - find out how to create effective combat moves at a completely safe distance for scenes that pack a punch!

**Tickets £60 for 3 half days**

**"Really fun and interactive, highly recommend"**

**Book now: [thenorthwall.com/type/workshop](https://thenorthwall.com/type/workshop)**  
Full bursaries available  
To Apply: Email Laura on [howellsgreen1@thenorthwall.com](mailto:howellsgreen1@thenorthwall.com)

# Half term events in the community



## Make Your Own Halloween Hand Puppet

Sew and decorate your own scary (or silly) hand puppet for Halloween!

Not only great for spooking the neighbours, these hand puppets are a great way to practice sewing skills and explore creativity.

**Thu 30 Oct at 10.30am**

## PLAYTIME – Free children's theatre event at the Wantage Literary Festival

A play-along theatre adventure for 2-6 year olds and their grown-ups. Come along for a fun, relaxed participatory theatre session with The Last Baguette Theatre Company.

**Thu 30 Oct at 10am and 11.30am**

## Christmas Fun!

Make Your Own Christmas Tree Decoration

Make some designs, and choose your favourite for your very own ceramic festive decoration!

Use our colourful art materials to make the decoration completely your own.

**Sat 13 Dec at 10.30am**

## Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk

We are so excited to join with professional pantomime company, TaleGate Theatre Productions this Christmas for the GIANT pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This year's production is guaranteed to be our funniest and most spectacular pantomime ever. Packed with songs, slapstick, silliness, audience participation, and all the fairytale magic of traditional pantomime!

Follow our hero Jack and his daft Mum Dame Trott as they climb the beanstalk, defeat the giant and save their best friend, Daisy the Cow. Book your tickets and join the Fe-Fi-Fo-FUN!

Performance Dates:

**Friday 19 December at 5pm**

**Saturday 20 December at 11am**

**Saturday 20 December at 2.30pm**

**Sunday 21 December at 11am**



**Monday 22 December at 11am**

Tickets can be booked through our website here, or over the phone on 01235 763456.





# Community news & support



## OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!


We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey  
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:


- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.



**TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR :**



[WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/HMY/](http://WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/HMY/)

## Can you help look after this hall?



Wantage Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have met in our hall on Priory Road for generations, coming together for fun, friendship, serving the community and learning new skills.

**We need Hall Committee members** to help keep it running, so our members can continue to enjoy it in future.

Can you spare a few hours to take on one of these roles?

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Bookings Secretary
- Maintenance Officer

If you or someone you know is interested, contact Lesley 07889 227540 or email [whitehorsevaledivision@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk](mailto:whitehorsevaledivision@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk)

# News & support



Parents And Children Together (PACT) has been changing lives since 1911.

PACT builds and nurtures adoptive families and supports them for life through its outstanding rated adoption services.

In 2024-2025, PACT found loving, permanent families for **84** children. [That's the same as three classrooms of children!](#)

PACT also helps children and parents heal from the trauma of domestic abuse through its Bounce Back 4 Kids programme and empowers women who face multiple disadvantages to make positive changes to their lives through its Alana House Community Project.

Last year, **158** children were directly supported by BB4K and **242** women were supported by Alana House.

PACT is a non-profit making charity that relies on fundraising and donations to be able to provide its life-changing support.

## Upcoming events and support in November:

**TUE 11** Early permanence training  
NOV Online

🕒 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM (GMT+00:00)

**WED 12** Creating Connexions  
NOV

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (GMT+00:00)

📍 Online

**MON 17** 'Being Dad' support evening for adoptive fathers  
NOV For PACT Dads only.

🕒 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (GMT+00:00)

📍 The Board Room and online, PACT, 7 Southern Court, South Street, Reading. RG1 4QS

**TUE 18** Maintaining relationships workshop  
NOV For PACT adoptive parents

🕒 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM (GMT+00:00)

**FRI 28** Drop in support and advice group  
NOV For PACT adopters only

🕒 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (GMT+00:00)

📍 Online Event, joining details provided after booking

Click the icon below to book!

