# Summer Term Newsletter

**Sunningwell C of E Primary School – April 2026**

## Headteacher News

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a pleasure welcoming the children back to school, and there has already been a wonderful buzz of enthusiasm and energy around the classrooms.

The summer term is always an exciting one, filled with opportunities for learning, growth and special experiences. We are particularly looking forward to upcoming events such as sports day, the school performance and end-of-year celebrations. You will receive further information in due course.

This week we are giving a big shout out to our NFL Team who are representing the school at the Regional Finals on Friday. Go Team Sunningwell!

We welcome Mr Gary Lord to Class 3. We know that he will bring his experience in working in primary schools to enhance the learning experience for the children.

Our lovely Year 6 children are in their last term at Sunningwell Primary and we have lots of events lined up for them to make their last few weeks memorable.

We have completed the improvements to Class 2's outdoor area with turf laid this week and the children are loving their new space (please see photo below).

In the absence of Mrs Leech, I have been appointed as the Acting Head Teacher. This will be alongside my existing roles of Class 4 teacher and SENCo. I am supported by the excellent staff team who are working hard to ensure it is 'business as usual'.

Thank you for your messages and cards, which we will forward to her. Please do contact the office if you have any well wishes you would like us to pass on. We all look forward to welcoming Mrs Leech back in due course.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to a positive and productive term ahead for everyone in our school community.

***Emily Dell***

***Acting Headteacher***

## Upcoming events

**Friday 1st May**

**Military Children only**

**Wear Purple Day**

**Monday 4th May**

**Bank Holiday**

**Tuesday 5th May**

**PTA Clothing collection**

**Friday 8th May**

**School Disco**

**Friday 22nd May**

**INSET DAY**

**Half term**

**25th – 29th May**

# Information and Reminders

## Absence reporting

We are pleased to inform you that **daily** absence reporting can now be done via the Arbor app rather than emailing the absence email address. Please use the drop down 'attendance' drop down button and there will be a green 'log attendance' button which will take you to a page to log details of the absence.

To notify us of absence in advance, such as medical appointments and other time away from school, please continue to email absence@sunningwell.oxon.sch.uk

## Warmer weather

Now that the warmer weather is finally with us, please ensure your child has suncream applied in the morning, a water bottle and a sun hat to wear when they are outside.

## Spinney

We are aware that there is a gap in the fencing from the cricket field into the Spinney. Please do not allow your child to access the Spinney from the cricket field. We will be having the fencing repaired as soon as possible.

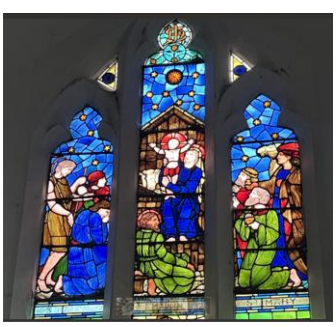
# News from the Classrooms

## Class 1

Last term was filled with rich and engaging learning experiences for the Reception children. The English lessons focused on the story *Astro Girl*, enabling children to develop their storytelling and early writing skills.
Our exploration of Space during the Science lessons stimulated scientific inquiry, as children found out about the work of famous astronauts, such as Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mae Jemison.
We continued to build strong foundations in Maths through our Mastering Number approach, developing confidence in number composition and explored number bonds to 10.
The Geography lessons focused on the weather, both in the UK and around the world. With the wonderful support from family and friends, we received weather reports from Zambia, France, Romania, Greece, the Maldives and Scotland. The children also enjoyed an imaginary trip to Romania, where they created passports, explored mountain weather and learned about *Mărțișor*, a traditional Romanian custom celebrated in spring, symbolising health, renewal and new beginnings.

Celebrating ***Martisor***

Our History topic, *Toys from the Past*, was enriched by members of the Sunningwell community, who visited our class and shared their childhood toys and memories with us.
Rev Rob welcomed us to Sunningwell church as part of our RE lessons and talked to the children about the christening ceremony and the symbol of different objects found



During the summer term in Geography, we will be exploring our local area through maps and orienteering, identifying key landmarks both on aerial maps and during walks though Sunningwell.
The Science lessons will focus on *Animals Including Humans*. The children will find out about the human body, ways of staying healthy and fit as well as find out about animals , native species and habitats.
A big 'Thank You' to all parents for your continued support. If you have a particular interest or expertise linked to any of our topics, we would love to welcome you into school to share this with the children.

# News from the Classrooms

## Class 2

Class 2 has had a busy and exciting Spring Term. In English we have been studying our class text, 'Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob)'. We wrote Bob a letter asking him lots of questions. We were delighted to then receive a letter from him. He thanked us for our questions and sent us the book as he was sure many of our questions would be answered by reading it. They were! We designed, drew and described our own aliens, made junk model rockets and wrote instructions on how we made them.

Our Easter holiday home learning was to complete our travel brochures to the Moon. Our History topic was The Victorians. We loved learning about this period in history and found out lots of interesting things. Everything from Queen Victorian never smiling for photographs or portraits, to once a week bathtime which involved the youngest child in the family having their bath last using the same water as everyone else! The Victorian classroom was a harsh place to be with canings and having to wear a Dunce hat for poor behaviour. We were very lucky to have one made for us by Millie and her mum and everyone got a chance to try it on. We did however all decide that school life is much better nowadays!!

In Maths, our learning focused on shape, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Times Tables Rock Stars is an invaluable homework resource, and we hope that everyone has enjoyed playing the games and developing their quick recall of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

As one of our enrichment activities, we had our highly anticipated annual visit from Radley Zoo. This is always a fantastic opportunity to learn about everything from snakes to scorpions.

Thank you to all the parents and staff for their continued support, which is much appreciated. Help from home is invaluable and the children have really benefitted from your input with homework and other home learning activities.

## Class 3

Class 3 said a very fond farewell to Dr Pearson at the end of the Spring Term, however Class 3 has been incredible at welcoming their new teacher, Mr Lord, who they have made feel very welcome, indeed.

Everyone has been telling him of the class routines, from who is the line leader, how the house points work to who hands out the whiteboards.

Mr Lord is very excited to teach at a village school, as previously he has only taught in schools in London, in the borough of Merton, home to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, which is also Mr Lord's favourite sport. He has been learning all about his new class, exploring what they like and dislike and which subjects they enjoy learning, and what they find a bit tricky.

This term, every Sunday evening the class will be busy checking they have their towel, goggles, swimming cap and costume or trunks packed because they will be spending the next 10 Monday mornings learning to swim at our local pool. Mr Lord hopes they take to it like ducks to water.

In Class 3, we have also started our new book in English, Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton. A Norse tale full of incredible imagery and descriptive writing that has already inspired some excellent pieces of work.

This term Class 3 are going to be trainee journalists as we will be writing a newspaper report about the events from this Norse World as we dive deeper into the story.

Mr Lord will also be getting his compass out, helping the children map out the school and the rest of the local area as part of our Geography topic, which will be a great help for Mr Lord to find his way around his new surroundings!

# News from the Classrooms

## Class 4

It may be the shortest of the three terms, but Class 4 have certainly packed a lot into the Spring Term. In English we have been studying our class text, 'The Viewer'. We finished our term by writing our own versions of the story, which we are publishing in a book for our class library. Please come in and read them. We also had a fantastic topic on the 'Victorians and Industrial Revolution'. The home projects that Class 4 did were absolutely amazing and the whole school and lots of parents loved coming into the classroom to see all their hard work on display: from steam engines, to Victorian classrooms, to factories. In Maths everyone has made great progress with their fractions work. We enjoyed incorporating active maths into our consolidation lesson by using PE skills and maths learning to compete against each other on the playground. We have also taken part in some incredible enrichment activities that have supported our learning in class. Lots of us took part in the Orchestra Day at the Silk Theatre at Radley College, where we got to play our brass instruments with other primary and secondary schools and put on an amazing performance. We were then invited back for the Big Sing in the Silk Theatre with other primary schools. This was a really fun afternoon with a brilliant conductor. We also went to Abingdon School for a Labs Skill workshop where we tested our chemistry skills by testing acid and alkaline liquids.

The Summer term looks just as busy! We have lots of sports events coming up, Year 6 have their SATs week, a whole school trip, more impressive music events and the Youlbury Residential trip that I know the class are really excited about. We'd like to thank all the parents and staff for their continued support, which is much appreciated. 😊