



WINTER 2024 ODBST NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome from the CEO	1
Meet the Trustees	3
Chenies school	4
Chesham Bois CofE School	5
Christ the Sower	6
Curzon School	7
The Downley School	8
Elmtree School	9
Great Horwood School	10
Longwick School	11
Padbury School	12
St John's School	13
St Mary's School	14
Thomas Harding Junior School	15
Woodside Junior School	16
Speen Infant School	17
Vision and Values	18
Shared services update	19
Our Schools	23

WELCOME FROM THE CEO



Dear Parents, Governors, Trustees and Staff,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the tremendous achievements of our schools and to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of our community for their unwavering dedication and support.

To Our Parents:

This term has been one of significant progress for our schools, and we could not have done it without your continued partnership. Your involvement makes a meaningful difference. I am particularly proud of the way our schools always come together to foster a nurturing and supportive environment for every child.

As we enter the festive season, I encourage you to take some time to rest and enjoy precious moments with your family. Your children have worked incredibly hard, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive in the New Year.

To Our Governors and Our Trustees:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our governors and trustees for their ongoing commitment and leadership. Your tireless work in setting the strategic direction of our Trust and ensuring that we continue to provide the highest standard of education is invaluable. Together, we are creating an environment where all children can excel, both academically and personally. Thank you for your continued support and the time and energy you dedicate to our schools.

To Our Staff:

Thank you to our exceptional teaching and support staff for your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication throughout the term. You all go above and beyond to ensure that every child feels supported and encouraged in their learning journey. Your passion for education is inspiring, and it is your commitment that makes our schools such special places.

As we approach the Christmas break, I hope you all take the time to relax and recharge. The work you do has a lasting impact on our children, and I am incredibly proud of the difference you make every day.

Continued on page 2...



Welcome from the CEO continued...

Key Highlights of the Term (all of which shine through this newsletter):

- **Academic Progress:** We have seen strong progress in our pupils' academic work. Our teachers' commitment to personalising learning has been key in helping pupils work towards achieving their full potential.
- **Extra-curricular Activities:** From school performances to sports events, the breadth of extracurricular activities has been remarkable this term. It is a joy to see our pupils flourish in areas beyond the classroom.
- **Community Engagement:** This term, our schools have hosted a number of community events that have further strengthened the bond between our schools and their local communities. These events, from charity fundraisers to festive concerts, have been a testament to the spirit of unity that defines our Trust.

Looking ahead to the Spring term, we have much to be excited about. We will continue our work on improving educational outcomes, nurturing well-being, and creating opportunities for every child. Your continued support and engagement will remain key to our success.

As we enter this season of peace and goodwill, I want to leave you with a verse from the Bible, which has been a source of encouragement for me and a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas:

**“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.”**

Numbers 6:24-26

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace, joy, and good health. I look forward to what we will achieve together in 2025.

Warm regards,

Mrs Sofina Piesse

CEO, ODBST


If you would like to find out more about our Trust you can watch our short promotional video.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



Meet our Trustees



Rachel Caseby

I was delighted to join the Trustee board of the ODBST earlier this year. I had worked with the shared services team as the Governance Officer not long after the trust was established, so I had seen first-hand everyone's passion for a child-centred, ethical trust. The ODBST truly appreciates its staff, its unique school communities, and is guided by its Christian values. This resonated with my own beliefs.

My background is in education. I have been a teacher and headteacher, both jobs I loved. It has always mattered to me that every child receives the best possible education they can, each and every day, and I hope my background will allow me to work with the board as effective champions for all of the pupils in our trust. I have also been a governor for over twenty-two years, on different boards supporting all sorts of schools to thrive and grow from their starting points. I know the difference good governance makes to the whole school community and I am looking forward to working with the Trustee board over the next few years.

Currently, I am a consultant working with Oxfordshire County Council. While I do a wide range of things within the School Improvement Team, much of my work is around support for good governance in Oxfordshire schools. This can be anything from providing core and bespoke training, undertaking external reviews of governance, sitting on a governor panel, advising on collaborations, providing advice or helping governors to build positive relationships with others on the board and within their school. Anything that supports good leadership and allows children and young people to thrive interests me.




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschoools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Chenies this term?

Here at Chenies School we've had an amazing fun filled term with trips to the Science Museum, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Amersham Museum and a whole school trip to the pantomime to watch one of our Chenies pupil perform.



We have had lots of visitors from Electric Umbrella, Roving Books and Emily Breen (BCC Eco Focus). Our PTA have been amazing delivering events such as the school disco, wreath making, a wonderful Christmas Fayre and the best cake sales ever. We have just had a really successful KS1 Nativity 'Hey Ewe'.

Seen through the eyes of a particularly excitable and curious sheep, the traditional Christmas story unfolds with humour and charm in this simple but original nativity script. With seven really fun, catchy songs, Hey Ewe! has all the ingredients of a perfect Christmas production. Of all the sheep in the flock, the smallest, youngest ewe is the most inquisitive. She is always busy getting under the shepherds' feet, asking questions and, to the irritation of the rest of the flock, demanding to know exactly what is going on. One night, however, while all the other sheep are trying to sleep, some extraordinary events unfold that excite her curiosity more than ever before! We also have the KS2 Carol Service to look forward to.

Our Hockney class have been working with Laura Silverstone (CCSP Education & Engagement Officer). After an introduction to chalk streams, the children conducted research and created a story and script. They spent a day filming by the river, and the CCSP education team edited and produced a fantastic film.



Our Forest School sessions are a firm favourite here at Chenies School. This term we have been working with Wild Kites, our new Forest school provider. We run weekly Forest School sessions throughout the year and rotate termly sessions with each of our classes. The children have embraced the outdoor learning

experience with enthusiasm, exploring the wonders of nature while developing essential skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience.




Finally this term our children have also been focusing on 'Our World', exploring the effects of recycling and the impact of waste on our environment. We've seen some fantastic projects brought in as part of this focus.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Chesham Bois this term?

On Tuesday 22nd October, CBS celebrated its 130th Anniversary on Bois Lane. To mark this special occasion, the children were invited to attend school in Victorian themed school uniform for a Victorian School Day experience. The school was transported back to 22nd October 1894. Year 1 particularly enjoyed Victorian day.



“We loved coming into school dressed as Victorians and found it very funny seeing our teachers dressed up and acting so strict! On Victorian Day, we practiced recalling our number bonds, we drew nature using chalk and charcoal, we also took part in a drill, but we think Mr Byrne's PE lessons are much better!” Happy Birthday to CBS!

During Victorian day an inspector from ODBST visited to assess the work of the school. “All children stood as we entered each classroom. Two boys in the top year even polished my shoes. Some children recited a poem – standing up straight and speaking loudly and clearly; others recited the Lord’s Prayer. Children receive a good education here, especially in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. All classes had practised their arithmetic that morning, as well as dictation and handwriting Children were also undertaking drawing, using aspects of nature” Rob Halls.



On the 11th November 2024, Year 6 performed their Remembrance Day Assembly to Y6 parents, staff and children at Chesham Bois School. The assembly was filled with information about Armistice Day, songs and poems. Many parents became emotional because children shared stories of family members that fought in the historic wars. Some children shared recent stories of parents who served in the Army and RAF, and we saw pictures of them in their uniforms with their medals. We sang two high-pitched and emotive songs called 'Remember' and 'No More Wars'.

In our English lessons before half term, we studied war poems and then wrote our own poems. Amy, Holly and Jack read their poems in assembly whilst Finley and Amy read theirs during the Church Remembrance service at St Leonard’s. Theo performed the 'Last Post' on his trombone beautifully and we were thankful that Mrs Green - who generously donates the Poppy Wreath to CBS each year - could join us.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org



@odbstschools



[Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)



www.odbst.org.uk



@bucks.oxford



@ODBST



What has been happening at Christ the Sower this term?

We have had a really busy and productive term at Christ the Sower, with lots of new opportunities for pupil leadership in school, in our community and across the world too!



Our annual Year 6 'Remembrance Day' trip to St Mary's church took place at the start of November, and I have to say it has become a firm favourite with our children and the staff! It is a fantastic opportunity for our children to give back to the community and to find out more about what matters to the people who live close to our school. Each year, lots of our parishioners give their valuable time to crochet hundreds of poppies to decorate the outside of the

church, the railings and the gates for the Remembrance Day Service. Our children feel privileged to be invited to undertake responsibility for the decoration of the grounds; by tying the poppies up into position. This creates a huge visual impact on Shenley Church End, and also commemorates the lives and sacrifices of local people who died in the two World Wars (some of whom are buried in the churchyard.) This year, our children were very moved by the peace and beauty of the church, and many children have since remarked about what a spiritual experience, just sitting in the pews was for them.



Our KS2 Eco Warriors travelled by bus to visit the mayor in the civic offices at the end of November to discuss the 'Year of Cycling' in MK. We discussed our ideas for increasing the number of cyclists at CTS and on Grange Farm with the Mayoral team. They shared lots of ideas with us too - and even agreed to arrange a date to come

into school to speak with our children and parents! As a result of this meeting, we have signed up to provide Bike ability in school in Spring 2025. The mayor was really impressed with our suggestions for how to get more people out and about on the red ways in the near future, and has taken them back to her team for consideration.




Our School Council were moved by a recent article that stated that 600 families are using the local foodbank every single week at the moment. So they decided to do something about it – with a huge festive can drive. We dropped off almost two whole shopping trollies of cans and packets to the MK foodbank at the start of December! Two of our School Council reps, along with Mrs Palfreyman and Miss Nugent, delivered our recent school collection.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Curzon this term?

Our KS1 nativity, The lucky Owl, was a huge success. The Lucky Owl looks at the Nativity story through the eyes of an owl looking for a place to stay. After finding no room in the bat's cave, squirrel's hollow tree or mouse's hole, Owl finds a cosy stable with a big surprise waiting inside. The children, looked amazing in their costumes and sang with enthusiasm, spreading Christmas cheer amongst the audience. It was lovely to see so many local preschoolers



coming to watch too. KS2 also held a very special evening carol service showcasing some bible readings by our Year 6 pupils and some beautiful singing.

We have elected School and Eco Councillors, House Captains and Reading Ambassadors, each group with their own allotted roles and responsibilities. Our House Captains researched and gave a presentation to parents about Growing Hope, a local Christian charity. Our Eco Reps have reminded everyone to turn off lights and turn down radiators. We will be holding our termly community litter pick before the end of term.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Victorian themed day. In the morning, the children wrote with dip pens and enjoyed learning the 3 R's (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic). At lunchtime, they enjoyed their traditional Victorian lunches and drinks and during the afternoon, they were put through their paces during drill time and needle craft.



Two of our classes had a wonderful trip to Ufton Court as part of their history topics. Set within 44-acres of beautiful, ancient woodland on the Berkshire/Hampshire border, Ufton Court is a children's experiential education charity and one of the South East's leading providers of history and outdoor learning programmes for UK school trips. One class learnt about the Romans and the other became Anglo Saxons for the day and enjoyed weaving fences and making fire. Our younger pupils had a great time exploring artefacts linked to the Great Fire of London.




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at The Downley this term?

It has been a great first term for this academic year. Our new teachers and reception children have settled in well and our school is going from strength to strength.



Our PTA has also been exceptionally busy and helped TDS make a big bang in the local community by hosting our first ever school fireworks display. So many local people commented on the success of the event so we have already started planning for next year.

We value outdoor learning at TDS. This year all children have been enjoying autumn in a forest school classroom. It has taken quite a lot of work from the children and our forest school teacher to get the outdoor classroom set up but the children have really enjoyed the challenge.

The school council also hand delivered our One Can Trust donations that we collected for harvest and learnt about what a big team of people it takes to support our community. We had a lot of great questions for the team and left with a much better understanding of the importance of our school collections.



Our Maths and Science enthusiasts have joined forces and entered into the national Quiz club competition. They voluntarily use their lunch breaks to revise and are dedicated to doing their best for TDS. We have also been invited to be part of a book panel for The Royal Society book prize which is chosen by young people to bring science and literacy together!



This term we visited The Heights Nursing home, spending time talking, playing games and reading with the residents of this care home. The children were absolutely brilliant, introducing themselves, engaging in conversation and bringing a lot of smiles to a lot of faces.


We have also begun to tackle our Playground Improvement project. Lunch time play has been audited and we have begun by zoning the play areas. Already we can see that children are more actively engaged in their play and football is not dominating the play areas, meaning that everyone can enjoy their play without being at risk of being hit by a ball. Feedback from children and staff is positive so far and we look forward to further enhancing our outdoor learning provision as the year progresses.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Elmtree this term?

Elmtree has completed their first term with Headteacher, Diana Ohene and what a term it has been!

Elmtree has launched their new behaviour code which sits alongside their positive behaviour policy and restorative approach. Children have learnt about the ways in which they can be, 'Ready, Respectful, Safe and Kind.' Children earn valuable House Points for going above and beyond in these areas, or even certificates at the end of the week. In our monitoring visit from the ODBST, children's exemplary behaviour was noticed and commented



on. Elmtree is committed to our children and community. Monitoring visits help us to identify and celebrate our strengths as well as move forwards with areas to develop. The visit was incredibly positive and, 'really strong teaching and progress' was seen throughout the day.



Children took part in their curriculum focus of 'Wonderful World Week' which was indeed

WONDERFUL! What an array of varied learning, experiences and enrichment the children had, thanks to the incredible planning and preparation of our teachers and support staff. As part of this week, International Day was a beautiful display of the diversity at Elmtree. How lucky to have families from all over the world! Oak class had the very special privilege of tasting Mrs Ohene's very own Ghanaian Jollof rice, cooked in her kitchen and brought in for the occasion. How wonderful it is to come from different heritages and be able to eat such a wide variety of foods! One family commented, 'Thank you for bringing Ghana to Elmtree.'

Look out for 'Wonderful World Week', part two later in the Spring term, where children will be learning about the dangers the Earth faces and how to look after the planet. In a series of Eco-pledges, Elmtree is committed to helping the environment. Eco-pledge #1 is to reduce paper and paper towel usage.

Elmtree is proud of its diverse and inclusive community. By combining their school values of Curious, Respectful, Ambitious, Resilient, Inclusive and British Values they know that embracing diversity and inclusion benefits everyone. Open, respectful conversations are key to breaking down misunderstandings and building a more inclusive community. Elmtree values the world in their school and uses their strength in diversity to learn how to be local, national and global citizens.




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Great Horwood this term?

The children were surprised by our wonderful Parent, Teacher and Friends Association who delivered a delicious advent calendar to every child one Monday afternoon. We are incredibly lucky to have such a brilliant PTFA and are so grateful for the extra sprinkle of Christmas magic they have bought to GHW this year!



On Friday 29th November, we all enjoyed our annual PTFA Christmas Fayre. The children opened the proceedings with some carol singing before welcoming our visitors into the school hall to enjoy all of the fun that was on offer. There were several stalls offering all kinds of delights and arts and crafts to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. It was lovely to see so many people visiting our school and supporting our PTFA.



We had a fantastic turn out to our Dressing of the Tree Service! It is one of the highlights of the Great Horwood festive calendar. Every child made their own unique and crafty decoration to place on our special school tree. The adults didn't miss out either. Each visitor was handed a bauble as they entered the hall and were invited to join us in the dressing of the tree. It creates a wonderfully joyful focal point in our school hall.



Our children also had a fantastic time learning how to play Quidditch, like Harry Potter, this term. The day started with a sorting hat assembly where all children were put into their houses for the day. They then worked hard to learn the rules, playing games and tournaments in the sessions. The final scores were read in the closing assembly, announcing Hufflepuff as the winning house!




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Longwick this term?

This term at Longwick C of E school, we've enjoyed several exciting events and pastoral activities in our school community that we would like to share. The Reception and Year 2 children visited the Story Museum in Oxford, exploring their



exciting collection. The museum's vision is to enrich lives, especially young lives, through stories. Their mission is to achieve this by collecting great stories and sharing them in great ways at their most unusual Museum. Through their imaginative exhibitions and exciting programme of performances, events, workshops, clubs and skills-building courses, the story museum engage people of all ages in great stories. Their activities are interactive, multi-sensory and

designed to encourage parents, carers and children to spend time together, enjoying stories in many different ways. You start your adventure in the Portal, the information bureau for travellers between story worlds. The friendly Story Guides help you plan your journey through the fictional universe. You then travel through The whispering wood, the enchanted library, the treasure chamber, city of stories and the woodshed where live performances take place. The children had a brilliant time and supported each other wonderfully in pairs!

Year 5 and Year 6 went to the British Museum in London as part of their history and geography topic. Here is some of their feedback:

'We loved our Museum trip!' – Darcey

'It was very inspiring, I loved all the things and I wish I could take my dad,' – Annabel

'I really enjoyed seeing all the artefacts and I also loved people watching on the coach,' – Alex



As part of our comment on our Music offer at Longwick, children enjoyed a wonderful concert led by the Buckinghamshire Music Trust as a whole school in November. It was full of story-telling and the children experienced listening to a wide range of music and musical instruments. We've seen a rise in the take-up of learning different musical instruments in our school this year, which is great news!

In KS2, the choir went to sing at the village green this week for the community and we are looking forward to our Christmas Sing-along in St Mary's Church on the last week of term too.

A big well done to our younger Longwick Learners in Rowan class who led a wonderful nativity at St Mary's earlier this month. I wish you a wonderful and peaceful Christmas with your loved-ones,


Mrs Wakefield, and the Longwick team.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Padbury this term?

This has been another very busy term for us at Padbury. I can't believe we are already in December!

In September we embarked on a 6-week project, led by Chris Andrews called Project Touchline. The project was focused on learning more about how stories from the Bible can be linked to our school values and how our school values can be lived out through sport, in this case, rugby. All the children enjoyed the stories and playing the games where they showed our values of love and kindness, respect, courage, self-control and trust. The video on our website shows all the children taking part, some fantastic artwork about what God means to them and a sense of who we are as a school.



This year, children from Padbury village and beyond represented the school beautifully at the village war memorial on Sunday 10th November. Back in School, Sycamore class, our 5/6 children, led the school in a special Remembrance Assembly on the 11th. They shared stories of soldiers from Padbury, a poem they had written as a class and some powerful artwork.

Each year at Padbury we hold a Grandparents afternoon. This year was no exception. On Friday 25th October, over 90 grandparents squeezed into the school hall to listen to songs from the children; messages of how special grandparents are to the children followed by a tour of the school. The children were very proud. As ever, it was a very special day underlining the importance of family in our school.



This year Maple and Beech class took part in a new play called 'The Fleece Force'



for their nativity play. They have learned lines, sung beautifully and for the first time, they didn't only perform to parents but also performed to the


community. Older residents from the village groups and the church attended the performance and loved every minute. They loved the opportunity to see the magic of nativity and to enjoy an opportunity to catch up with other members of the community for a bit of Christmas spirit!

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschoools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



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

As we approach the end of an incredible term, we have so much to celebrate at St. John's! From the magic of our Whole School Write to the joy of our Christmas performances, this festive season has been filled with creativity, collaboration, and heart-warming moments.



For our Whole School Write our school was transformed into a thrilling dragon's air, sparking the imaginations of our pupils. Each class delved into the world of fantasy, creating pieces of writing inspired by this fantastical setting. Whether they were writing about daring dragon-slaying adventures or magical creatures lurking in the shadows, our children demonstrated their creativity and storytelling skills.

Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Oxford Story Museum, where they were immersed in the world of literature and creativity. The museum visit was not only educational but also sparked the imagination of our students as they explored the art of storytelling in new and exciting ways.



In a beautiful and moving first performance, our talented choir took part in the local Christingle service. Their voices filled the church with warmth and festive cheer, marking a special moment for both the children and their families. The choir's performance was a reminder of the power of music to bring our community together in Christmas celebration.

The Christmas Fair was a resounding success, thanks in no small part to the incredible efforts of our Year 6 children. They created a variety of exciting games for everyone to enjoy and competed to create the most lucrative stall.



The much-loved Elfridges returned this year, offering our children the chance to pick out the perfect presents for their friends and family. With the help of our very own elves, the children embarked on a magical shopping adventure, carefully choosing gifts and wrapping them with festive flair.


Finally, our Christmas Nativity and Pantomime performances were a fantastic way to bring our term to a close. The Nativity brought to life the Christmas story with heartwarming performances from our youngest students, while the Pantomime had everyone laughing and enjoying the festive spirit. These performances showcased the talent, enthusiasm, and teamwork of our children, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work. As we look back on all that has been accomplished this term, we are reminded of the creativity, spirit, and joy that make St. John's such a special place. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



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

The start of a new school year has enabled all the staff and pupils at St Mary's School to really consider how we are living through our Christian values of Respect, Integrity and Resilience.



Our Year 5 pupils were all able to demonstrate respect for the environment and discovered the benefits of volunteering when they were visited by the Aylesbury Wombles as part of their English topic. The Aylesbury Wombles was formed in June 2019 by Abigail Walker, a then 14-year-old, who after learning about the Environment at school was inspired to start litter picking. The Children spent time litter picking in and around

Fairford Leys – what a fantastic experience for everyone involved!!

Our whole school community showed great kindness and integrity when we took part in Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritans Purse that collects and delivers showbox gifts filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene products to children in need around the world. Understanding that there are many who are not as fortunate as we are, our children were determined to make a difference to the lives of others. We had the pleasure of taking a staggering 112 shoe boxes to Stoke Mandeville Church, all filled to the brim with toys, personal care items, school supplies and fun gifts.



Through our annual 'Reindeer dash' where we all raise money for the Florence Nightingale Hospice through running, walking and prancing the distance to Lapland, it was heart-warming



to see so many older children supporting those in younger years, helping them complete the course and encouraging them not to give up; encapsulating the spirit of St Mary's. Florence Nightingale Hospice offers a lifeline to patients and families facing the most

difficult of times and this is especially poignant at Christmas time. They support local families to be together at Christmas whether in the Hospice or in their own homes, being cared for and supported by our wonderful, compassionate nurses.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org



@odbstschools



Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust



www.odbst.org.uk



@bucks.oxford



@ODBST



What has been happening at Thomas Harding this term?

Here at Thomas Harding Junior School, we have been so busy! This term, our school family participated in charity events and special days, including Children in Need, Show Racism the Red Card and Anti Bullying Week. We all loved taking part in Odd Socks Day! We even had Buddy and colleague visit from the NSPCC. The NSPCC has a team of specially trained staff and volunteers who visit primary schools across the UK with Buddy, the schools mascot. They share important messages in a fun, interactive way, helping children to understand what abuse is and who they can turn to for help if they need it. Our children learnt valuable lessons about how to keep themselves and others safe from harm.



The learning at Thomas Harding is never dull! Some of our areas of learning included our Year 4 children having the opportunity experiment with clay, in Art, to create Roman artefacts, our year 6 children enjoying creating electrical circuits in science and our year 5 children taking part in some orienteering in PE.



We are working hard on building further links with our local community. As part of National Poetry Day, our year 6 children wrote poems and decorated them. Our Junior Leadership Team then delivered these poems to our local residents. The responses from the local community were fantastic. Some of our year 6 children also visited the local residential home to share baked good with the residents. Our Local Youth Minster has also been in to deliver an Advent assembly, and our choir are looking forward to visiting our local church.

Our PTA are now in full force and have already had some events, including a Spooky Disco and are preparing for a Winter Fair- well done to the PTA.



Our student representatives are also in full force! From our Sports Captains, House Captains, Digital Leaders, Junior Leadership Team to our Eco Warriors. Look at our Eco Warriors planting trees! Furthermore, we are so proud of our school community that came together for our House Competition Bake Sale, where we raised a large amount of money.


What a great term!

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



What has been happening at Woodside this term?

At Woodside, we are very lucky to have wonderful school grounds. We aim to make the most of our lovely surroundings, using them every day for the daily mile and incorporating active lessons into our curriculum as much as possible. This year, we have launched Forest School with our Year 3 children, using a dedicated

area of our outside land. Equipped with a firepit, mud kitchen and much more, this has become a much-valued addition to our curriculum and was thoroughly enjoyed by the Year 3 children during the Autumn term.



Continuing on the outdoors theme, Woodside continues to achieve lots of sporting success. We regularly attend cross-country events, competing against local schools from both the state and private sector. In every event this year, we have

achieved success, winning team and individual medals in every meet. It is really lovely to see the atmosphere at these events, as all the schools create a community atmosphere, cheering each other on through the races, rain or shine!

We also attend every sporting festival at Amersham School or Dr Challoner's School. So far this year, this has included gymnastics, cross-country, basketball and many more. Every year group has attended at least one festival and will be going to many more throughout the year. We have also created a partnership with "First Touch Football" to run a girl's football club in the upper school, increasing opportunities for girls to be active and get involved in football.



Finally, we have a fantastic school choir led by the marvellous Mrs Harrison. Mrs Harrison's own choir, Amersham A Cappella recently won a national award for their singing and Mrs Harrison brings her expertise and passion for singing when leading our choir. Around a quarter of the whole school attend our choir and they are working hard to prepare for the Christmas period as they have several upcoming



concerts.


It has been a lovely Autumn term at Woodside and we look forward to the new year!

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



Getting to know Speen



We have been using our Forest School sessions to look at the work of the photographer and environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy. We were inspired by his work using natural materials so we decided to make our own versions using the leaves and twigs that we gathered.

Music is very important to us at Speen School so we held an African Drumming workshop to help us celebrate the start of our new term.

We worked together to play songs from Uganda using Djembe drums. A djembe

is a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands. African drumming workshops provide many benefits and offer exceptional gateways for self-expression, encouraging movement with rhythm which builds confidence, particularly for children less



comfortable with physical expression. Using vocalisation with words to teach rhythms improves literacy by helping children understand syllables and rhythm patterns. Reception then used this for inspiration for their art work. We loved the spotty patterns on the drums so used sticks to recreate them.



We have supported two charities this term. The School Council held a food collection for the Wycombe Food Hub. We managed to completely fill up Santa's Sleigh when he came to collect it!

We have a close connection to Agape School in India. Our friend James was going to visit the school so we wrote letters for him to take to the children who go to school there. When he came back to England he came in


to tell us all about his trip and brought us replies to our letters. He also brought us traditional clothes to wear. We are pleased the money we raised with our summer colour run is helping to supply the children at Agape with resources for their school.

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschoools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



ODBST vision, values, and priorities

Each of our schools has a unique character of its own and we work to ensure that this vision embraces all our pupils and adults, regardless of background and belief. We empower our schools to deliver a broad, enriched, and exciting curriculum, coupled with a shared zest for life and learning.

We have identified 4 core values that resonate with what we believe the ODBST Learner, and Leader should follow and live by. They reflect the values that are central to our schools and the diocese. Through our values, we aim for excellence for everyone in our Trust.



Service



Inclusivity



Empowerment



Community

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. We will do this by leading by example, supporting and guiding one another, celebrating accomplishments, providing opportunities for all, developing confidence, resilience and perseverance in both our children and our adults.


**We aspire for every pupil and adult to
'experience life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)**

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



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

School improvement

We have had another very positive term in our ODBST schools and we are very proud of all of our children and all of our staff. There are so many great things going on in our schools and our children are making strong progress towards their learning targets for this year. It is a special time of year right now and the School Improvement team are loving our visits to schools where the sound of Christmas carols and songs are ringing through!

We have been developing our training programme this year and our schools are working really hard together to develop Writing. We have made a great start to our ODBST Writing project with Julie Sargent helping us and lending her invaluable advice. This has been supplemented with Writing training for pupils who have SEND and for whom writing can be even trickier. We are all loving the fabulous pieces of writing that we are seeing across the Trust. In addition to this,



all ODBST school are working with the BBO Maths HUBs to explore practice and to learn from each other as well as from colleagues in local schools. Maths learning and development is so important for all children and forms part of the early skills foundations that secure wider achievement. We are excited by this renewed partnership and know that ODBST children flourish as a result.

Our leadership conference this year had a real focus on Inclusion and how we work even more effectively to support our disadvantaged pupils, including those with SEND. We heard from SEND expert Amjad Ali who gave us lots of practical ideas and approaches to take and leaders have gone back to schools to share this widely and to reflect on practice in their own settings. We also considered our thinking around race and diversity with Shammi Rhaman and how we better manage our support for communities across our Trust. We have some exciting ideas already about how we move this forward.

We continue to successfully implement our Trust-wide Behaviour strategy and all of our schools benefit from our buy in to the Step On, Step Up behaviour management approach. Trainers met together in November to refresh their practice with the Buckinghamshire Primary PRU and to discuss effective strategies that ensure all ODBST staff are well trained and consistent in their approaches, which keeps everyone safe.




continued on page 20...

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



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

School improvement continued...

Finally, we are delighted to see so many more of our ODBST pupils coming to school more regularly. We know and understand that sometimes it is hard for families to get into school and that obstacles can feel, at times, insurmountable ones. Leaders, teachers and support staff are working tirelessly to get things right for everyone and the work does not go unnoticed. ODBST attendance is now significantly above national attendance data and we are proud of all the hard work that has gone into making this happen. Well done!

HR

As we approach the festive season, the HR team would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our dedicated staff working in schools. Your unwavering commitment and hard work throughout this term has been truly remarkable. Each one of you has played a crucial role in shaping the lives of our pupils, and for that, we are incredibly thankful.

This term has been filled with challenges and triumphs, and your resilience and dedication have shone through. Whether you are teaching in the classroom, supporting students, or ensuring the smooth running of our schools, your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

As we approach the festive break, we wanted just to remind you of our new confidential Employee Assistance Programme managed by the Schools Advisory Service that was introduced in September. Their support is available to all our employees and contains specialist services including counselling (which is available for you and your family), menopause support, access to a virtual GP and much more. In addition, on the App (available for download) you can access all different wellbeing options from podcasts and webinars to free live online exercise and fitness challenges. On the poster attached [here](#), you will find the QR code for the SAS Wellbeing app, and the phone numbers to access the support. Just a quick reminder that job vacancies within the Trust are advertised on our [Trust website](#) (and the individual school's websites). Please share the link with anyone who you may be interested in exploring our Trust opportunities. Finally, for any questions regarding HR which may not be able to be answered within the school setting directly, school staff can use the hr@odbst.org to contact the team.


This time of year, is a wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect, and recharge. We hope you're able to take some well-deserved time for yourself—to rest, connect with loved ones, and enjoy the magic of the season. We wish you all a joyful and restful festive season!

Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



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

Finance

The Trust has now gone live on the Ipllicit financial accounting system, this replaces PS Financials. This has been a significant amount of work, and the Central Finance Team would like to say a big thank you to all the input & support from the schools. The new system is a significant upgrade from the previous one and will deliver efficiencies in the schools and wider Trust - a nice present for Christmas.



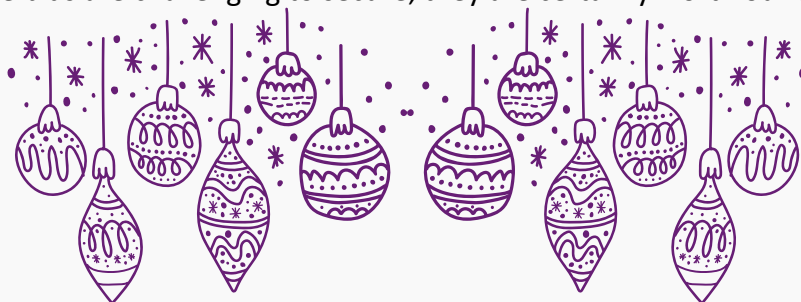
Additionally for this term the annual financial audit has been completed and our external auditors (Bishop Fleming LLP) have given the Trust a clean audit so that staff and parents can be assured that the Trust is meeting its statutory requirements for finance in schools. In the New Year the Central Finance team look forward to embedding the effective use of Ipllicit and preparing for the Budgeting season. Wishing everyone a lovely holiday!

Operations

This term, our schools have been exceptionally busy with GDPR, Estate, and Health and Safety reviews. Ensuring our schools are safe and compliant with the law requires significant time and effort. We are immensely grateful for the diligent work of our operational staff. The site managers, head teachers and office staff do a fantastic job of keeping our pupils, parents, and staff safe.

The Trust takes compliance in these areas very seriously and collaborates closely with the schools to support planning, delivery, and financial management. This is particularly challenging given the stretched school budgets, rising costs, and insufficient SEND funding from the Government.

In line with these efforts, the Operations Team has been working on applications to the Department For Education for Condition Improvement Funding. This includes replacing boilers and associated distribution systems in some schools. We have applied for green systems to support our sustainability strategy and commitment. Additionally, we have submitted a bid for funding to extend nursery provision for one of our schools by utilising existing building space. While these bids are challenging to secure, they are certainly worth our effort.




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



ODBST drive for sustainability

We are pleased to have continued to make progress towards our sustainability targets this term. We have submitted funding bids on behalf of seven of our schools to replace outdated and failing heating systems. Instead of introducing new gas systems, we've applied for additional funding to transition to green energy solutions. While we know that over 70% of these applications typically do not succeed, we remain hopeful for positive news.

Our efforts to install EV chargers and secure funding for them are ongoing. Although the current number of electric vehicles among our staff is low, we aim to support those who choose to go green as electric cars become more affordable and charging infrastructure becomes more accessible.

This term, we had another productive Eco Meeting with the Eco leads from all our schools. We welcomed some fantastic new members to our sustainability teams. Our discussions covered strategies, support, and software, and we even started planning our next



Eco Conference, scheduled for May. We are eager to see the innovative presentations our students will create, building on the impressive work they showcased last year.

Our pursuit for solar panels continues, despite the challenges posed by the lack of financial support or government backing. We are particularly proud of St. John's School, who secured funding for solar panels through a local charity grant. We hope to help all our schools follow this example. Solar panels not only enhance our sustainability efforts but also help reduce electricity costs, easing the financial burden on school budgets.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our sustainability goals. Together, we are making a difference.




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

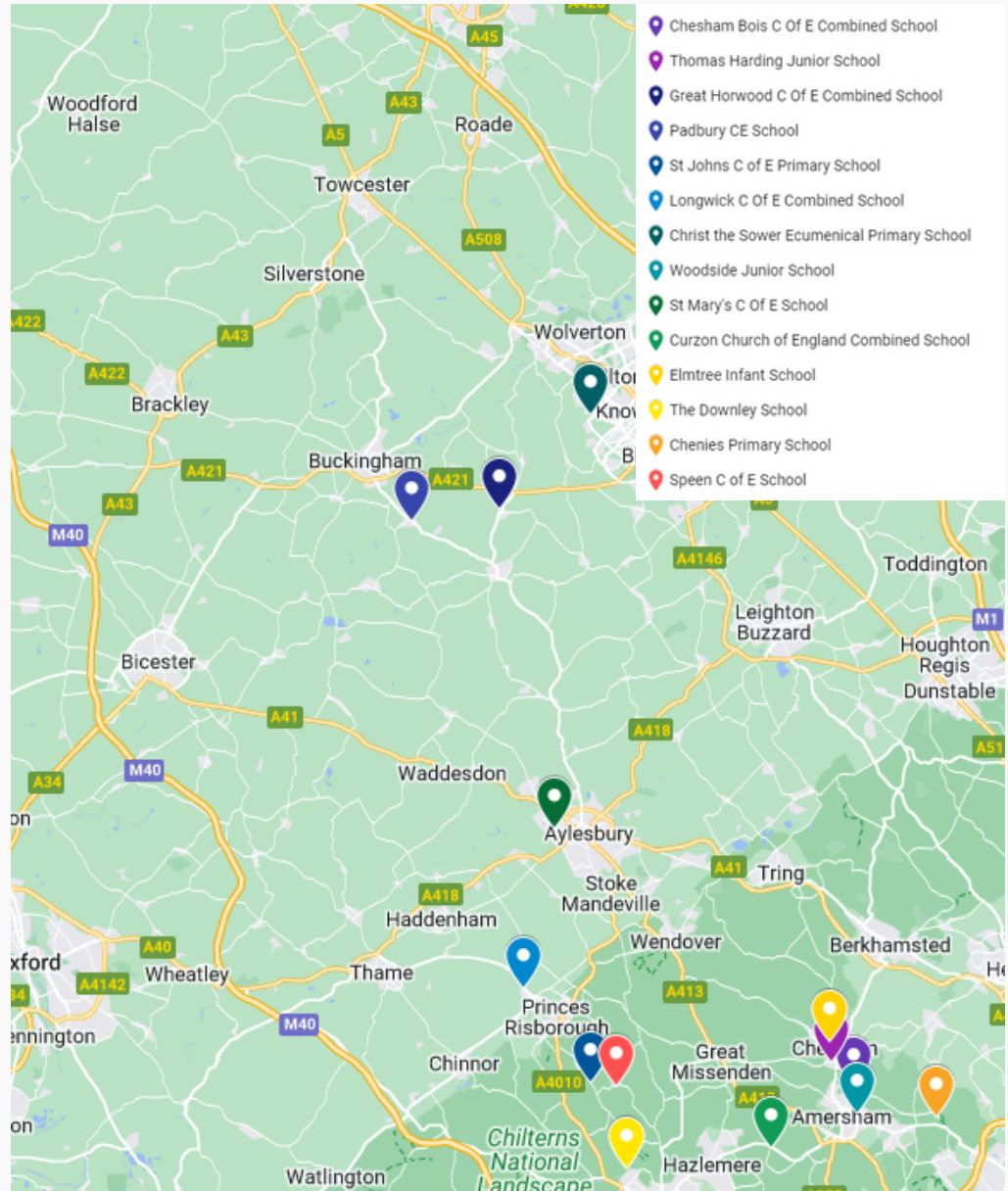
 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST



Empowering our unique schools to excel together

The ODBST family of schools




Oxford Diocesan
Bucks Schools trust

8 The Green
Longwick
Princes Risborough
Bucks
HP27 9QY

Phone : 07741 328312
Admin@odbst.org

 @odbstschools

 [Oxford Diocesan Bucks
Schools Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxford-diocesan-bucks-schools-trust)

 www.odbst.org.uk

 @bucks.oxford

 @ODBST

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*