



Weekly Newsletter – 23rd January 2026

Apologies for the slight delay in the weekly newsletter coming out but I unfortunately I succumbed to the cough and cold bug that is going around. On a positive note, we are pleased to share that the school ranked 22nd in the Oxfordshire performance tables for the Year 6 end of year SATs. We were also the highest performing school within the Thame Partnership – an achievement we are incredibly proud of.

Stars of the Week

This week our stars are:

Y1: Thomas Avery

Y2: Sienna Osborne, Peter Mongan, George Gryckiewicz

Y3: Eloise Jones, William Slatter, Otilie Samuel

Y4: Ruby Jones, Isla Mawdsley

Y5: Charlie Tucker, Kira Wilson

Y6: Jude Horner, Aeron Neighbour, Betsy Hambridge



The following children received their bronze values award: Thomas Avery (Y1), Ida Spencer Davies (Y1), Alfie Jones (Y1), Eli Monk (Y1), Grayson Davies (Y1), Harrison West (Y1), Sydney Bragger (Y2), Willow Neighbour (Y2), Albie Smale (Y2), Oscar Williams (Y3), Otilie Samuel (Y3), Rosie-Rae Cain (Y3), Austin Steele (Y3), Joseph Moriarty (Y3), Eloise Jones (Y3), Finley Middleton (Y3), Rory Osborne (Y4), Hugh Greaves (Y4)

The following children have now achieved their silver values award: Josie Thomas (Y2), Sienna Osborne (Y2), Alfie O'Toole (Y3), Kai Sherwood (Y3), Mason Gatial (Y4), Phoebe Weare (Y5), Autumn Standley Graham (Y5)

The following children moved up a level in their piano lessons: Rex Allsion (Y4) and Tilly Harris (Y2)

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 28th January: Year 1 & Year 3 visit from P.C Ben
Wednesday 28th January: 1pm Yr 5 & 6 girls football tournament (Thame)
Monday 2nd February: Year 5 & 6 careers fair
Thursday 5th February: Year 5 & 6 careers fair for whole school to participate in
Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February: Science week
Thursday 12th February: Reception Class eye test
Friday 13th February: MLSA Valentines Disco
Friday 13th February: Last day of term

Smartphone Free School

Don't forget we will be holding a meeting for parents on Wednesday 18th March at 7pm. This will be an opportunity to listen to a talk from the Thame Smartphone Free Childhood team and to discuss the merits of becoming a smartphone free school. It would be lovely to have as many people at the meeting as possible and it is a chance for you as parents to have your say as to whether Mill Lane becomes a smartphone free school.

Improving Mill Lane School

As you may be aware, this year will see the commencement of work to improve Mill Lane School. It is an exciting, and slightly daunting time. Finally, we will see the removal of the outside huts and a new brick-built block housing 2 classes for the Year 5 and 6 children with a shared space and a breakout space for work in small groups. The Year 3 and 4 area is going to be remodelled to create 2 large classrooms still with a share area. I have attached the plans, so you are able to get an idea as to what the end building works will look like. We will keep you updated as the work progresses.

Earrings

Please can I remind you that children are not allowed to wear earrings during P.E lessons. New guidance also states that earrings should not be worn even with tape over them. Children have to be able to take out and put in their earrings on their own without help from staff. If your child cannot take out their earrings, they will not be able to take part in P.E lessons. If you are happy to take the risk of your child wearing earrings during P.E lessons, you will need to send an email to head.2465@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk stating you take full responsibility for the risk and are happy for your child to wear earrings during P.E lessons.

Supporting Wellbeing

I have attached information regarding a forum that supports families with children with mental health challenges. The group is offering the following webinars:
Thursday 26th February - Sleep & Mental Health. 5pm – 6pm, Online.
Friday 13th March 2026 – Unmet Needs or Emotional Avoidance?
Understanding the Difference in School Non-Attendance. 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Online.
Family wellbeing walks (during the Easter Holidays at both Blenheim Palace and Harcourt Arboretum.
Online, drop-in coffee mornings, 2 Thursdays per month, dates can be accessed via the booking link.
You can sign up using the link in the attached leaflet.