

# What's on?

## Events for parents

We are pleased to be able to offer two short courses to any parents who are interested.

Left to their own devices – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 1.15pm

This session is made up of video clips and discussion time, looking at the online world that children inhabit. It includes practical advice on screen time and social media and tackles the more serious issues of online bullying, grooming and pornography.

A mind of their own – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 1.15pm

Using video clips and discussion time, this session looks at how parents and carers can support their children's emotional wellbeing, mental health and resilience.

Places for both sessions are limited and booking is essential. Please contact Judith Ledden if you are interested – [jledden@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:jledden@blake.oxon.sch.uk) or 07864 814818.

These events use materials from Care for the Family, which we have found to be very helpful. Both events will finish in time for the end of the school day.

## Photos!

We are delighted that the Whole School and Year 6 leavers' photos are now ready for any parents that would like to order them.

To order the photos go to  
<https://ordering.cardwellandsimons.co.uk>

To order the whole school photo you need the access code 22WK2C49.

To order the Year 6 leavers' photo you need the access code N43CKQ7H.

The deadline for back to school orders is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

All children will have the chance to visit their new classroom and meet their new class teacher on the morning of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Children joining our Early Years classes will also visit the school on that morning.

## Gifts for staff

Mrs Laura Rump and Mrs Aina Usher-Wilson are leaving our school team at the end of this academic year. If you would like to contribute towards a leaving gift for them, please do put your donation in a clearly labelled envelope and send it into school.

## Strike Action

The NEU, the largest teaching union, has announced two further days of strike action, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

At The Blake School, staff have indicated that they will strike on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, but **not** on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

School will therefore be **closed** to all children on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and open to all children on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Teachers are striking to demand better funding for education.

## Changes to the timing of the school day

From September 2023, all schools are required to be open to children for 6.5 hours. Though the additional time will certainly benefit children, as it will increase learning time, there has been no funding provided to schools to cover the costs of this additional 1.25 hours a week.

Currently the school day is 6.25 hours and so each school day needs to be increased by 15 minutes in order to comply with the government directive.

From September, the school day will therefore start at 8.50am, this means that doors to classrooms will shut and registers will be taken at that time. Children arriving after 8.50am will be late and will need to come into school via the front office. The school day will end at 3.20pm.

Breakfast club will start 10 minutes earlier, at 7.40am. After School Club will start 5 minutes later at 3.20pm.



### For families supporting children on the autistic spectrum

Please come and join us on the **last Friday of the month** (term time only) for a friendly cuppa and chat.

All families welcome, with or without a diagnosis.

Welcome Church, High St,  
Witney OX28 6HL  
10am - 12noon  
If you have any questions,  
please email  
[chatandacuppa@yahoo.com](mailto:chatandacuppa@yahoo.com)

Upcoming dates: **Friday 30th June and Friday 29th September**

The poster features the text 'Oxfordshire County Council Children's Services' at the top. Below it is the main title 'Free Summer holiday activities and food' in large, bold letters. A photograph shows children sitting at a table with colorful blocks and papers. Below the photo, there is text explaining eligibility: 'In order to be eligible for the free holiday activities and food, your child must be in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. This opportunity is provided as part of the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.' It also provides a website link: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/information-parents/holiday-activities-and-food> and contact information: 'If you believe you are eligible, you can contact Oxfordshire County Council on: [activitiesoxfordshire@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:activitiesoxfordshire@oxfordshire.gov.uk) 01865 328 460'. At the bottom, there is a QR code, the Department for Education logo, and the Oxfordshire County Council logo.

## Diary dates

Please make sure you have all upcoming end of term dates in your diary. Year 4 children have a Stone Age day on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Also on 4<sup>th</sup> July, children in Early Years and Years 1 – 3 have sports day (9.30 – 11.30).

The choir is going to Chatterbox on 6<sup>th</sup> July and after school on 7<sup>th</sup> July is the school fete. The school is entering a walking float into the carnival on 8<sup>th</sup> July – do go along and cheer them on.

The Year 1 wedding is on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> July and the Year 6 leavers' service is on the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> July.

# activeCamps

8:15am-6pm Children aged 3-14! Ofsted

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West Witney Primary School, West Oxford &  
St Swithuns Primary School.

ACTIVE ADVENTURE  
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Archery  
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# TECH SUMMER CAMP

HERE THIS SUMMER HOLIDAY!

Ofsted Registered

DIFFERENT COURSE EACH WEEK!

VR & ROBOTICS  
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MINECRAFT & LEGO ENGINEERING

NOW IN YOUR AREA  
AGES 5-11 £225 £205 FOR 5 DAYS  
9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

www.nextthing.education

# Summer Holiday Tennis Camps

EXCEL Tennis Academy

For Ages 4 - 16

- Witney Lawn Tennis Club
- Hanney Tennis Club
- Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club

- Morning, Afternoon and Full Day Sessions
- Childcare Vouchers Accepted
- Fun and Educational
- Flexible Bookings

Week 1: 24th - 28th July - Witney and Kingston Bagpuize  
Week 2: 31st July - 4th August - Witney and Hanney  
Week 3: 7th - 11th August - Witney and Kingston Bagpuize  
Week 4: 14th - 18th August - Witney  
Week 5: 21st - 25th August - Witney  
Week 6: 29th Aug - 1st Sept - Witney

info@exceltennis.co.uk  
www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk

# SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023

17TH JULY - 1ST SEPTEMBER

STEM ACTIVITIES THEY'LL LOVE!

WEEK 1: ROBOTICS + VR - TECH FUN  
Program robots, design games, model 3D creations, experience Virtual Reality, learn to mix like a Pro DJ... plus MEGA LASERTAG! A week of inspiration and creation with MAXIMUM excitement. Children will experiment and challenge themselves, whilst learning real-world skills.

WEEK 2: MINECRAFT + LEGO ENGINEERING  
Designed by Microsoft for real education, students can dive into Minecraft Education and design game elements, build Redstone circuits and learn coding fundamentals. They'll also 3D printer, look into engineering using LEGO bricks combined with sensors and motors, to create cool inventions powered by code.

WEEK 3: PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY + CRAFTS  
If your child is obsessed with YouTube and Tik Tok? Join us for a complete masterclass in capturing and editing like a pro, whilst visiting safety and proper practice. Plus, a BONUS Arts and Crafts session each day that will become their content focus.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Packed Lunch and Snacks (not shared)
- Water Bottle
- Medication if Required
- Weather Appropriate Clothing

£10 OFF  
BOOK BEFORE THE 30TH JUNE TO GET £10 OFF WITH CODE JUNE10

"Both my son and daughter had lots of fun, made new friends, learnt new skills and will not stop talking about the Robots!"  
Lady PEAR, St Edith's Primary School

www.nextthing.education  
E: info@nextthing.education  
T: 01462 873150

Loving, learning and flourishing in community