

# Newsletter and What's On?

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

The end of term arrived with its usual flurry of excitement and sadness. There have been sad farewells as we said goodbye to children leaving for new settings and our Year 6 children off to their secondary schools. But there has also been sadness for children saying goodbye to familiar teachers and classrooms – strong relationships have been formed and it is hard to move on.

As a staff team we yesterday said a sad goodbye to Margarita, Mrs Patchett, Mrs Lynch and Mrs Self. Each of them has played their part in The Blake School community and we will miss them; I know they have touched the lives of many of you and your children. They leave us with many treasured memories, which we will take with us even though they have moved on to pastures new.

However, there is also excitement, children are ready for new challenges and opportunities, the future beckons! And before all that there is the joy of the summer break, time to create memories, to be recharged and refreshed.

In Collective Worship on Monday I reminded children about the importance of being safe and keeping safe – please do look at the resources included in this newsletter that may provide you with information that you can use with your children.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, enjoying your children and making memories together.

## Keeping everyone safe

Part of being community together is looking out for one another and supporting one another.

If at any point during the holidays you are concerned for a child, you should call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to report your concerns. It may be nothing, but better to be safe than sorry. 0345 050 7666

If you think a child or an adult are in immediate danger, always dial 999.

If, over the holidays, you feel at risk please reach out to one of the organisations that can offer you support. Please don't wait for September, or think you have to suffer in silence.

Samaritans – 116 123

Domestic Abuse – 0808 200 0247

Debt – 0800 138 1111

## Internet safety

Next year, one of our School Development Priorities will include work on Smartphone use and keeping children safe online.

You may want to look at information that is provided by [Smartphone free childhood](#) – they signpost to research and provide information about alternatives to Smartphones.

Whatever devices your child has access to, please do make sure that you have set up parental controls to ensure that your children can only see material that is suitable for their age.

You can find information about social media platforms, online wellbeing and how to talk to your children about online safety from the [NSPCC](#).

Keeping devices in a public space in your home is a simple way to help protect your child.

## Our victorious cricketers

Having come second in their heat, our Year 5 boys went on to take part in the Oxfordshire cricket finals. It was an amazing day of cricket with the children growing in confidence and skill with every game. At the end of the day, The Blake School boys were declared overall winners – congratulations to them all!



## School Uniform

When you are buying new school uniform for your children, please make sure that you follow the uniform rules.

The only thing you need to [order from our supplier](#) is a sweatshirt/cardigan with the school logo – everything else can be bought on the high street.

Please label everything...

## Music concert

As well as being a great afternoon of music, the end of term concert also raised £93.22 for the school.

The money has been spent on much needed new music stands.

Many thanks for your generosity.

## School lunches

We have a new menu for the autumn term, you can find a copy [on our website](#).

You can already order for September!

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals. If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 you will need to pay for their meal, unless you are entitled to certain benefits. If you think you might be entitled to benefits related free school meals, please contact the school office.

## Guess the sweets in the jar

For everyone who had a go at guessing how many sweets were in the jar at the fete, the answer was 133.

Anastasia's guess was the closest, just 3 out as she guessed 130. Well done Anastasia!



Join Joe Wicks and the Activators for a weekly burst of activity throughout the summer holidays.

Episodes are available on [The Body Coach YouTube channel](#)

The activities can be easily integrated into your day and aim to make movement fun, whatever your summer holidays hold.

The summer is a great time to help your children to become safer, independent pedestrians and road users. The [footsteps programme](#) will support you in providing ideas as to how to support your children as they learn to be safe on the roads and how to encourage them to think about the decisions they are making. If your children are out and about on their bikes and scooters, please do make sure they are wearing a helmet – protecting their head could be a life saver.



# Summer WATER SAFETY

Drowning accidents are always especially high in the summer months and over the last few years we have heard of too many tragedies that could have been avoided.

Every year people drown both at home and on holiday because they don't take simple precautions, so reaching people with water safety messages is vital.

We want people to enjoy the water safely. Please help to avoid another tragic summer this year by spreading the following water safety advice far and wide:



## LOOK OUT FOR LIFEGUARDS

If you're looking for a place to cool off, always find a lifeguarded swimming site



## IT'S COLDER THAN IT LOOKS

Water at open and inland sites is often much colder than it looks. Cold water can affect your ability to swim and self-rescue



## DON'T GO TOO FAR

Always swim parallel to the shore, that way you're never too far away from it



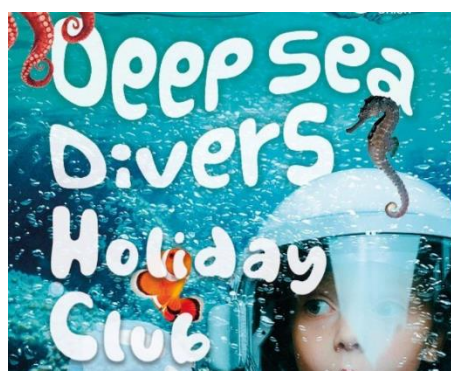
## IT'S STRONGER THAN IT LOOKS

Currents in the water can be very strong. If you find yourself caught in a current – don't swim against it – you'll tire yourself out. Stay calm, swim with the current and call for help



## BRING A FRIEND

Always bring a friend when you go swimming so if anything goes wrong, you've got someone there to help



## Holiday club

On the mornings of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August, the Welcome Church are running a holiday club for children aged 5 – 11 years old.

You can [sign up online](#) for your child to attend the club, they can attend for just one day, or for all three. It looks like being a lot of fun!



## A SUMMER OF INTERGALACTIC FUN THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!

23 JULY – 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

This summer step into a world of science, space and sci-fi fun for the whole family. Enjoy themed family crafts, explore the incredible Beyond the Stars exhibition and discover the fabulous Roald Dahl Children's Gallery. Relax in our space-themed sensory room, enjoy games and outdoor toys in our beautiful Victorian garden and refuel with light snacks from the Garden Café.

**With hands-on activities and cosmic fun, it's the perfect way to keep young minds entertained all summer long!**

### On every day

- ★ **Beyond the Stars Exhibition** – sci-fi props and models from favourite British TV shows including Doctor Who
- ★ **Roald Dahl Children's Gallery** – amazing hands-on exhibits
- ★ **Space Descent VR** – join astronaut Tim Peake in a high-speed spaceflight
- ★ **Main Museum** – travel back in time through 200 million years of Bucks history in our family-friendly museum galleries
- ★ **Cosmic Adventures trail**
- ★ **Space-themed Sensory Room**
- ★ **Outdoor toys and games** in the Museum garden
- ★ **Gift Shop and Garden Café with kid's lunchboxes available**

### Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

- ★ **Science, space and sci-fi themed family crafts** - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am-3pm, perfect for children aged 3-11.

**Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP**

For opening times, charges and bookings please visit:  
[discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://discoverbucksmuseum.org) or call: 01296 331441

Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust is a company registered in England and Wales with charity number 1153345 and VAT registered no. 190261031

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## Summer Holiday Camps 2025: All Venues and Dates

<b>Summer Week 1</b> Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	West Oxford Primary School, Ferry Hinksey Rd, Oxford, OX2 0BY Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day.
<b>Summer Week 2</b> Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> August	VENUE 1: Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Rd, Abingdon, OX14 5HB VENUE 2: Stockham Primary School, Stockham Way, Wantage, OX12 9HL Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day.
<b>Summer Week 3</b> Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> August	VENUE 1: Begbroke Village Hall, Begbroke Lane, Kidlington, OX5 1RN VENUE 2: Long Lane Primary School, Long Lane, Reading, RG31 6YG Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day.
<b>Summer Week 4</b> Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	VENUE 1: St Joseph's Primary Sch, Headley Way, Headington, OX3 7SX VENUE 2: Our Lady of Lourdes School, Curbridge Rd, Witney, OX28 5JZ Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day.
<b>Summer Week 5</b> Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> August	VENUE 1: Willowcroft Primary School, Mereland Rd, Didcot, OX11 8BA VENUE 2: Gagle Brook Primary Sch, Cranberry Ave, Bicester, OX27 8BD Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day.

Each day is a different theme and will include:

Wacky Weather

Mad About Mini-Beasts

Geo-logic

Pre-Historic Life

Transportation Technology

To book, please go to the 'Holiday Camps' tab on our website, and click the 'register here' button on the holiday camps page. All bookings are processed through Active Network. Spaces are subject to availability.

Call a member of our team or visit our website for more details. Sibling discount available.

Call: 01865 522 775

[www.brightsparksevents.co.uk](http://www.brightsparksevents.co.uk)



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**Cokethorpe School, Witney**  
**Sunday 14 September 2025**

**School's Out Sale!**

From 18th - 22nd July

Burst through a rainbow of bubbles up to four feet high during our popular 5k fun run at Cokethorpe School, Witney. Run, jog, walk, dance or toddle through this family-friendly course.

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## Term Dates

When thinking about booking holidays and appointments, please do [check our term dates](#). Every day in school is important.

Classroom doors open at 8:40am and close at 8:50am, please support your children in getting to school on time and ready to learn.

### Bikeability Level 2

#### Holiday courses

- Bike handling skills
- Learning to ride confidently on residential roads
- Ideal first course for children age 10 and above

Book your free 2-hour session in Witney 11<sup>th</sup> August

[www.windrushbikeproject.uk/cycle-training](http://www.windrushbikeproject.uk/cycle-training)



### Bikeability Level 3

#### Holiday courses

- Boost your skills and confidence
- Negotiate traffic lights, roundabouts and town centres

Sessions on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025, leaving from Windrush Bike Project, 152 B Corn Street Witney.

Book your place:  
[www.windrushbikeproject.uk/cycle-training](http://www.windrushbikeproject.uk/cycle-training)





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

AGE RESTRICTION  
**4+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

### BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

### DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

### SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

### AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

### DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

### CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

### SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Yes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>



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# SUMMER HOLIDAY SOCCER SCHOOLS

**New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton**  
28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July & 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August

**Windrush Primary School, Witney**  
4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> August & 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> August

**Freeland Village Hall**  
26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August

**LESSONS INCLUDE**

- ✓ Professional Coaching
- ✓ Mini Games & Competitions
- ✓ Positive Environment
- ✓ Fun and Engaging

**BOYS & GIRLS AGED 4 - 11**  
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Registered Charity Number 1121258



Scan the QR Code for info & to sign up



# Summer Holiday Tennis Camps

**Week 1:**  
• Monday 21st - Friday 25th July  
• Witney Lawn Tennis Club  
• Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club

**Week 2:**  
• Monday 28th July - Friday 1st August  
• Witney Lawn Tennis Club  
• Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club

**Week 3:**  
• Monday 4th - Friday 8th August  
• Witney Lawn Tennis Club  
• Hanney Tennis Club

**Week 4:**  
• Monday 11th - Friday 15th August  
• Witney Lawn Tennis Club  
• Lechlade Tennis Club

**Week 5:**  
• Monday 18th - Friday 22nd August  
• Witney Lawn Tennis Club

**Week 6:**  
• Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th August  
• Witney Lawn Tennis Club

**Fun and Educational!**  
Small Group Sizes - Limited Spaces Available  
Flexible Bookings - Full Week or Individual Days  
Childcare Vouchers Accepted  
Morning, Afternoon and Full Day Sessions Available  
All Equipment Provided

**Witney and Kingston Bagpuize Camps**

Mornings: 9am - 12pm	Ages 4 - 16 yrs	£135
Afternoons: 12:30pm - 3:30pm	Ages 4 - 16 yrs	£135
Full Days: 9am - 5:30pm	Ages 6 - 16 yrs	£245
Short Courses:		
9am - 11am	Ages 4 - 7 yrs	£90
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Ages 4 - 7 yrs	£90

**Individual Day Bookings:**  
Morning/Afternoon: Ages 4 - 16 yrs £56  
Full Day: Ages 6 - 16 yrs £65  
Short Courses: Ages 4 - 7 yrs £24

**Hanney and Lechlade Camps**

Mornings: 9am - 11am	Ages 4 - 8 yrs	£90
Afternoons: 11am - 1pm	Ages 9 - 12 yrs	£90
Individual Day Bookings:		
Mornings: Ages 4 - 8 yrs	£24	
Afternoons: Ages 9 - 12 yrs	£24	

[info@exceltennis.co.uk](mailto:info@exceltennis.co.uk)  
[www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk](http://www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk)




# TECH & STEM CAMP

**SUMMER 2025**

**WITH TAKE HOME INVENTIONS!**

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MULTI DAY DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE, FROM JUST £35 PER DAY!  
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