



Dear Parents,

As always, May Day was a fantastic celebration for both the school and the wider community. It's wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and commitment to maintaining this long-standing tradition. We were especially pleased to welcome Rev Cortney to experience this important event for the first time! A particular well done to the children that stepped in to cover absences - especially Maddison, Mabel, Seb, Lily and William.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed flowers for the garland and cakes for the PTA, these generous contributions help make the day so special. We are also very grateful to Mr Carlick for accompanying the children's singing in church, and to our fantastic teaching assistants, who go above and beyond to ensure everything is just right for the day. Finally, a special thank you to our wonderful team of dedicated helpers who arrive early each May Day to support the garland making, something we simply couldn't do without.

Our focus on resilience has continued in our collective worship. We celebrated our fantastic mini-marathon runners, who all completed their run with determination and big smiles. It was a brilliant experience for everyone involved, and we hope to take part again next year. It was particularly encouraging to see so many children—including those that took part this year—already keen to join in again.

We also explored resilience through the story "Yes You Can, Cow!", where Cow, supported by friends, achieves the goal of jumping over the moon through small, manageable steps.

In addition, the children learned about William Kamkwamba, who, at just 14 years old, overcame significant challenges, including being unable to afford school, to build a wind turbine from scrap materials. His invention brought electricity to his family home in Malawi and is a powerful example of perseverance and creativity.

Next week we will be marking David Attenborough's 100th birthday with a special assembly and a project linked to the parish council.

Wishing you all a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Nadia Gosling

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Cumming-Bruce will be leaving Charlton-on-Otmoor at the end of the summer term. We are grateful for her contribution to the school over the last few years and will be advertising for a new teacher to join us in September.

**School email: [office@charltonono.co.uk](mailto:office@charltonono.co.uk)**

## Diary dates

- **6th May—ongoing—Top-up Swimming Lessons (for some children in Yrs3-6 invitation only)**
- **4th May—BANK HOLIDAY (School closed)**
- **7th May—Ian Taylor FSU Candid Portraits**
- **8th May—David Attenborough 100th Birthday Celebration**
- **18th-29th May—PTA 2026 Challenge**
- **18th May—Whole School Samba Workshop with presentation to parents**
- **22nd May—PTA Non-uniform Day**
- **25th-29th May—Half Term**
- **1st June—INSET Day**
- **2nd-5th June—Living Our Vision Week**
- **2nd-3rd June—Yr5/6 Bikeability Course**
- **13th June—PTA Summer Fete**
- **16th June—Internet Safety Workshops Rec-Y6**
- **30th June—Yr5/6 to Gosford Hill Matilda The Musical Performance**



## **Class Attendance Winner**

This week's best attended class is Year 5&6 with:

**97% attendance**

**Whole school attendance**

**82%**

Also, Well done to everyone for getting into school at 08:40. It makes such a difference!

## **Breakfast Club & CAST**

Drop & Play: Mon-Fri 8.15am-8.40am

8:30am—8:40am

Breakfast club: Mon-Fri 7.50am-8.40am

CAST times: Mon-Thurs 3.15pm-4.15pm or 3.15pm-5.30pm.

If you would like your child to attend Breakfast Club or CAST, please book a place using the Arbor app. You do not need to book for Drop & Play.

All clubs are open to Reception through to Year 6 children only. If you could please try to get your clubs booked by **Midday Friday** for the week ahead, so that snacks can be arranged. As our numbers are increasing, we may not be able to accept last minute bookings due to the adult ratio's required. Bookings made after 12pm on Friday will incur a £2 late booking fee per session booked.

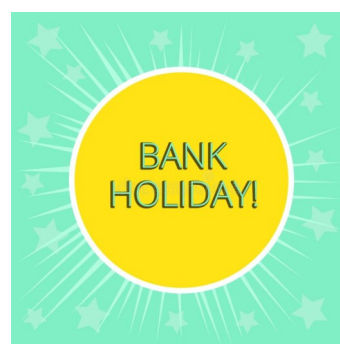
Please also be mindful of pick up times, if you are late picking up your child you will be charged for the later session.

## PTA

Thank you for your cake donations for todays May Day refreshments. We hope everyone enjoyed the celebrations.

Please see the attached posters for more information about upcoming PTA events.

Have a lovely long weekend and enjoy the Bank Holiday!



## FSU

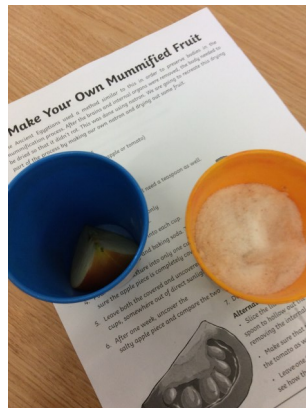
We have been looking at May Day traditions this week. The FSU have looked at past photographs from the school's archives and we discussed why we celebrate May Day. We hope you enjoyed our performance! We have also worked on our value of resilience. Together we focused on balancing, throwing and catching.

## Year 1 & 2

It has been an unusual week this week, but we have managed to get some work done between illnesses and May Day rehearsals! We are preparing to write our own stories in English by creating vocabulary banks and 'story mountain' plans, teaching the children how to carefully consider and structure their creative ideas before launching into a piece of writing. We have also moved on to Fractions in maths, learning how to recognise and find halves, thirds and quarters of shapes and amounts.

## Year 3 & 4

In Year 3 and 4 we have been continuing our history topic about Ancient Egyptians. This week we learnt about what they believed happened to people when they died. We learnt that they believed their soul (or **ba**) flew away like a bird to the afterlife. Bodies were then preserved by mummification so that **ba** could visit each night! We have had a go at mummifying an apple using bicarbonate of soda and salt, leaving it in a dark cupboard for a week, to see if it has kept better than an untreated piece of apple...



## Year 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6 have been working really hard in DT sewing cushions! Not only have they carefully sewn interesting and unique designs, but they have also been learning to add fastenings, including zips, to their work! The cushions that have been finished so far look brilliant with many more close to being finished and taken home next week.

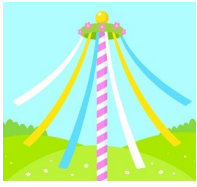


## Safeguarding

Please contact Mrs Gosling or Mrs Clarke should you have any safeguarding concerns.

# Forest School





# May Day

