

Brize Norton Primary School

Striving, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing, Excelling

We SHINE for ourselves and each other with kindness.



NEWSLETTER 07 – 13th February 2026

Head Teacher's News

A Term of Teamwork!

As we reach the end of this busy term, our school has so much to celebrate. One of the things we're most proud of is the wonderful teamwork we've seen from our pupils. This has been a focus for us, sharing the value in assemblies, the implementation of our new LEARN policy in the classrooms, along with how this supports and shapes our playtimes.

From working in the classroom to helping friends on the playground, our children have shown how much can be achieved when we work together. They've shared ideas, listened carefully, encouraged one another, and discovered that everyone has something special to contribute.

Teachers and support staff have been just as inspiring, working side by side to make learning fun, safe, and full of opportunities. Families have played a huge part too, supporting children with reading, homework, and all the little moments that help them grow.

Teamwork helps children build confidence, kindness, and problem-solving skills — qualities that will stay with them long after this term ends. It's been wonderful to watch pupils celebrate each other's successes and learn how to overcome challenges as a team.

Thank you to every child, parent, and member of staff for making this term such a positive one. We're excited to see what we can achieve together next term.

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back in Term 4.

Best wishes from Mrs Jones and the team here at Brize.

SHINE...

Congratulations to our U11 Sportshall Athletics team who participated in the recent Burford Partnership event. They worked well as team and came 2nd overall. A fantastic result and well deserved. They showed super teamwork, resilience and embodied our school values throughout the event. A HUGE congratulations.



Attendance:

Buccaneers: 93.1%

Hurricanes: 98.2% Well done

Hercules: 96.6%

Voyagers: 95.9%

Falcons: 95.7%

Contact

Office: 01993 842488

Email: office.2250@brize-norton.oxon.sch.uk





Useful Information

Parent Governor Update

We would like to warmly welcome Mrs Josh Spencer to the local Governing Body. Mr Spencer is joining us in the capacity of Parent Governor and is a parent to a child in our Buccaneer's class. He brings with him a keen interest in sustainability, which will be an asset to our LGB and the school's strategic direction related to this.

A renewed national focus on sustainability in the curriculum is shaping how schools across England prepare pupils for a changing world. The government's updated Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy sets out a stronger commitment to embedding environmental understanding, climate literacy, and green skills across all phases of education. With climate education now a key priority, schools are being encouraged to integrate sustainability not as an add-on, but as a core thread running through subjects, enrichment, and whole-school culture. This is an area we are currently developing and working on behind the scenes here at Brize as we review our curriculum offer in line with this important priority.

As you will be aware from previous communication, Mr Alistair Doran has stepped down from the Governing Body. He was an integral part of the school's governing body for many years, beginning as a parent governor, then community governor and has been the Chair of Governors for many years. We want to thank Mr Doran for his commitment to the school. We are continuing to work with ODST to secure our governance position as we currently have vacancies for both community and parent positions, however, wish to inform you that Mr Ian Griffiths will be our Interim Chair of Governors until 31st August. Mr Griffiths is an experienced governor and knows the school well. He will be working closely with Mrs Jones and ODST in his interim position. The governing body and I look forward to working with him over the coming terms in his new role.

School Dinners

Just a reminder that the new ordering system will commence after half-term. All meals will have to be ordered a week in advance; we will no longer be able to order your child a meal on the day. Meals for the week beginning 23 Feb are to be ordered by midday this Friday 13 Feb. If your child is having a packed lunch, then this too needs to be logged on School Money so we know exactly what each child is having. Thank you for your support with this. NB: The menu change for World Book Day on 5 March, shows 2 veggie options and a meat option of Hot Dogs. We have decided to have jacket potatoes only as the veggie option as Mac & Cheese is on the menu for the next day Fri 6 March.

Staff Update

After half term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Sudworth. Mrs Sudworth joined us this September as a Teaching Partner here at Brize. She has worked closely with the Years 2s and in the Hercules class. We would like to thank her for her commitment and time with us here and wish her every success for the future.

Safer Eating Policy

As per our Safer Eating Policy which can be found [here](#), please can I ask that if you are preparing a packed lunch or snack for your child, foods that are considered a high risk for choking, for example whole grapes, cherry tomatoes, popcorn, large chunks of meat/cheese, must be appropriately prepared e.g., grapes and cherry tomatoes must be sliced lengthwise.

Please also be aware that we are a nut free school, therefore, no nuts or nut-containing products are permitted on site to reduce allergy and choking risks. Many thanks for your co-operation with this in helping us ensure we have happy and safe lunchtimes.

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Other News....

Early Help Family Support in Oxfordshire

Families across Oxfordshire can access practical, timely support through Oxfordshire County Council's Early Help services. Early Help works alongside parents and carers to identify challenges early on—whether emotional, financial, educational, or related to family wellbeing—and offers tailored guidance to help things improve before issues escalate. The service connects families with local resources, community groups, and specialist support, ensuring that every child has the best possible start. If you feel your family could benefit from a little extra support, or you're simply curious about what's available, Early Help is there to listen and work with you. Please do contact one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads – all information is shared confidentially.

Brize Norton Primary School Designated Safeguarding Leads



Mrs Robyn Jones
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Domestic Abuse Champion



Mrs Dawn El-Masri
Class Teacher/Assistant
Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Liz Baker
Class Teacher/SENCO



If you are having a clear out this half-term, don't forget about us! We welcome any old toys and games as well unwanted items such as... items for our sandpit, kitchen utensils, old sheets for den building, drain pipes, old decking boards.. If in doubt, do just contact Miss Nelson to ask if we can make use of your unwanted items.

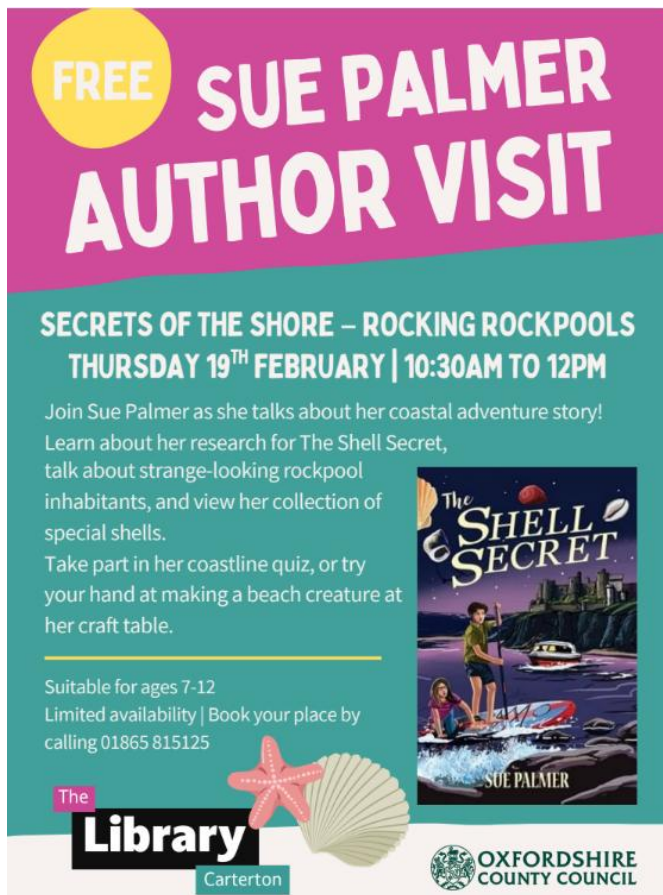
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What's on in half term at the Carterton library...



FREE SUE PALMER AUTHOR VISIT

SECRETS OF THE SHORE – ROCKING ROCKPOOLS
THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY | 10:30AM TO 12PM

Join Sue Palmer as she talks about her coastal adventure story! Learn about her research for *The Shell Secret*, talk about strange-looking rockpool inhabitants, and view her collection of special shells. Take part in her coastline quiz, or try your hand at making a beach creature at her craft table.

Suitable for ages 7-12
Limited availability | Book your place by calling 01865 815125

The Library
Carterton

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The SHELL SECRET
SUE PALMER



The Library
Carterton

FANTASTIC FOSSILS

WITH THE OXFORD GEOLOGY TRUST
21ST FEBRUARY | 10AM TO 12PM

- handle dinosaur teeth, claws & bones
- bring along your own fossils for experts to identify
- make your own dino-mask
- lucky dip

No need to book, just drop in
Suitable for ages 5+

Term 4 to 6 KS2 Hockey Club – Thursdays 3:15 – 4pm

Children in years 3 to 6 are invited to an after-school hockey club which will take place on the astro every Thursday with Ms Henley. Children will need to be in PE kits and have trainers. A mouth guard is also required if the children are to use wooden hockey sticks and hard balls.

This club is going to run all the way through to the summer holidays. Children can attend one term, two or all 3. The cost for the club is £10 per term (6 weeks). Please email the office by half term if you require a space for Term 3 and a payment will be made available on School Money.

Term 4 KS2 Girls Football Club – Mondays 3:15 – 4pm

Girls in Years 3 to 6 are invited to join Mrs Rae for an after-school football club. This will take place on the astro so PE kit and trainers required. If your child would like to join, please email the office by half-term. It will begin the first Monday after the break. Children are to be collected from the playground at 4pm.

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Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2



PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES

You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES

For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.



3



4

THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the Internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the Internet.

5



MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER

Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.



9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS

Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.



7



DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE

Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



8

9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'context and content' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



9

Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



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Dates for your Diary

w/c 16th Feb	HALF TERM Holidays
Wed 25th Feb	Yr 6 parent SATs meeting 3.30pm
Thur 5th March	World Book Day
w/c 9th March	Science Week
w/c 9th March	Assessment Week
Thur 12 March AM	Yr 4 street dance event at Burford
w/c 16th March	SEN Review Week
Thurs, 19th March	Year 6 and Buccaneers Height and Weight measures
Tues, 24th March	Year 4 MFL Day @ Burford
Wed, 25th March	World Maths Day
Thurs, 26th March	Irock Concert for parents @ 2:30pm
Fri, 27th March	End of Term – school finishes @ 1:15pm
w/c 30th March	Easter Holidays
Mon, 13th April	Term 5 begins
Thur 23rd April	Rags 2 Riches collection
Fri, 24th April	Purple Up Day
Fri, 1st May	INSET DAY
Mon, 4th May	Bank Holiday
Fri, 8th May	VE Day
Thurs, 21st May	Year 5 Enrichment Day – Burford Secondary School
w/c 25th May	Half Term
w/c 8th June	Sports Week
Mon, 8th June	Sports Day – Lower school am & upper School pm with picnic lunch. <i>Information to follow</i>
Tues, 9th June	Basketball workshops
Wed 10th – Fri 12th	Snowdon Trip
w/c 22nd June	Assessment Week
Tues, 23rd June	Forces Family Afternoon Tea @ 2pm
Thurs 25th & Fri 26th June	Year 6 Induction Days @ Burford
Fri, 26th June	Armed Forces Day
w/c 29th June	SEN Review Week

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	Mon, 29th June	New Reception parent meeting @ 4:30pm
	Tue 30th June	Yr 2 cricket event at Burford
	Wed, 1st July @ 3:45	Stay & Play – New Reception starters
	Thurs, 2nd July	Stay & Play – New reception starters @ 3:45pm
	Fri, 3rd July	New class experience day
	Fri, 3rd July	Reports out
	Tues, 7th July	Upper School Play Performance 1:30pm and 5pm
	Fri, 17th July	Leavers Assembly at 9:15
	Fri, 17th July	End of Term – school finish 1:15pm

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