



3 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We may have been forgiven for planning a quieter week at school after the fortnight before – but alas a school calendar at this stage of the summer term doesn't allow for such things. With the exception, however, of re-scheduling a couple of meetings to ensure staff could get home to “enjoy” the England game.... Thank goodness for Harry Cane!

I would like to start by say thank you to the large number of parents who have contacted us following the heatwave conditions last week to pass on their thanks for our communications, decision making and the provision we had in place. Making these sorts of decisions is never easy but I was pleased to hear that we seem to have struck the balance of education, welfare and common sense just about right! The updated forecasts were, at one points, looking a bit interesting for next week – but they seem to have reduced to more manageable temperatures again. We will of course be keeping a close eye and will communicate any adjustments we feel are needed in due course.

Here is a look back at what we've been up to across the school this week:



Last Sunday, we kicked off the week by celebrating alongside our local community at the Sonning Common Village Day. It was lovely to see the Village come together and to have the opportunity to chat with so many current, former, and future families and students. Thank you to everyone who stopped to say hello!

A massive congratulations to our Year 7 Rounders team, who enjoyed a spectacular run of form this week! They secured brilliant wins against **Didcot Girls, Wheatley, and Langtree**. Great going, girls - keep it up!

The excitement is building for Sports Day! This week, Mr. Caldwell delivered our Sports Day briefings to all year groups. Following this, our brilliant Sports and House Captains have been busy rounding up students to sign up for events and



finalize our relay teams. We are all looking forward to a fantastic day of competition on **Tuesday 14th July**.

✿ A Day of Puzzling Fun

- On Wednesday, students from Years 7 through 10 put their logic, teamwork, and critical thinking skills to the test during a dedicated day of Puzzling fun. They tackled a variety of hands-on challenges involving spatial awareness, intricate number patterns, and creative problem-solving. Well done to all our sharp thinkers who took part in a day coordinated by the Maths department and delivered by The Happy Puzzle Company.



On Wednesday morning, we opened our doors to the families of Year 5 students for the first of our Open Mornings for this "season". As always, visiting parents were extremely complimentary about our student guides (from Years 7 and 8). They were quick to praise the calm and purposeful atmosphere in our lessons, as well as the open and beautiful setting we are so blessed with here in Sonning Common.

Thursday was a wonderful day that truly showcased our school at its finest. During the afternoon, we held our House Charity Fair, with fantastic stalls manned by students from across all year groups.



It was lovely to see weeks of planning culminate in such a fully inclusive, enjoyable event filled with fun and laughter. Stalls included fresh lemonade, hook a duck, henna & temporary tattoos, beat the goalie and sponge a teacher! We were delighted to welcome CESA who were selling ice lollies and cold drinks to help keep everyone refreshed across the afternoon.

We were also delighted to welcome students from **Bishopswood** to come and visit the stalls. Their staff were quick to comment on how fantastic our students -and the event itself - were!

We are still counting up the final pennies and look forward to sharing our final fundraising total next week. Thanks to Mr Clark and Heads of House who spearheaded this event and a huge thank you for your incredibly generous donations and support!

And finally, last night we celebrated our Year 11 Prom—the final fling for our students before results day in the summer.

Hosted at the beautiful **Badgemore Park Golf Course in Henley**, the students arrived looking incredibly glamorous and grown-up. The warm (but thankfully not roasting!) weather provided a wonderful backdrop for a lovely evening full of dancing, singing, and reminiscing. There were even a few tears to be had at the end of the night as the reality set in that the MECE chapter is now officially closed.



We wish all of our Year 11 students a restful summer and look forward to seeing them back for Results Day!

And then today, as students have enjoyed a rest day we have been reflecting on our year, building plans for 2026-7 during our INSET. We have welcomed a number of our incoming new staff today providing opportunities for them to spend valuable time with new departments and tutor teams.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

