



Friday 17 December 2021



Telephone: 01295 263067 Email: office@harriers-aspirations.org Website: harriers-aspirations.org

Principal's News

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have noticed a couple of new additions to our site in the last two weeks and wondered what they are.

Firstly, it appears we have roadworks taking place on the playground... these are in fact Smooga barriers that are moveable and create a multi-sports area on our playground.



This will be predominantly used for football or other games at break and lunch times and for a range of sports

during PE lessons. It has already proved to be a very popular addition with the children, whether they are using the pitch or watching what is taking place. It is not the prettiest addition to our school, but it will soon look in place as we add our Harriers stickers to it... there is also the opportunity for local businesses to sponsor some boards

Secondly, it appears we have an area at the front of the school covered in cardboard and mud... which is exactly what it is! What you cannot see, however, is Mrs Bell and pupils from across the school have also sown hundreds or thousands of wildflower seeds, as part of our drive to be an environmentally friendly school. Hopefully in the spring we will see two or three beautiful wildflower meadows bloom at the front of the school, which will support bees and attract an abundance of wildlife.



This will be my final correspondence of 2021. To quote Dickens (it is Christmas after all) "It was the best of times, it was the worst of

times." There have obviously been very tough times this year, but it has also shown the best of what life at Harriers is - a wonderful community. This has been magnified over the past two weeks through the staff's determination to bring the nativity and carols to families despite the challenges and through the enormous generosity of our parents and families through gift donations, sweets for the kids, gifts for staff and help filming the nativities or supporting Christmas events. I am sure January and February will bring further challenges, but I have no doubt that we will overcome them together. In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Kind regards,
Alex Pearson, Executive Principal

Christmas Nativities



The Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativities were delightful. The children all gave their very best: performing, singing and showing great bravery to be up on stage in front of an audience. Watch the videos of the performances [here](#).



Wonderful donations to our Gift Bank!

A heartfelt 'thank you' to all who have so kindly and generously donated presents to our Gift Bank – we have had a



phenomenal response and received many wonderful things! Local businesses have donated food, books and toys. We've had chocolates, gifts, vouchers, even cash from

parents for others most in need. We've had anonymous donations, parents and staff purchasing Christmas dinners and tickets for children to visit



Santa's grotto, and one parent donated a tower of sweet tubs so that every child may have a sweet.



It has been positively heart-warming! We really hope to help, and to make sure Christmas can be special for us all.

Adelena's charity haircut

Adelena made the brave decision to have her hair cut in aid of The Princess Trust, so that it could be used to make wigs for children that have suffered hair loss due to illness. Her twin brother, Adran, took the first cut and then Terri Fisher, volunteered to complete the process, having sectioned the hair as per the rules. Terri was kind enough to then restyle Adelena's hair afterwards in a bob.



A greener future at Harriers



To mark National Tree Week, pupils at Harriers have been busy planting saplings in our wildlife garden, guided by Tila, whose expertise was invaluable. Every tree planted will help us grow a greener future!



Read all about our eco initiatives, including creating a wild meadow and vegetable plot to picking up litter and re-thinking single-use plastic in this excellent [Banbury Guardian](#) report on our efforts to help save the planet.



Carols on the playground

Instead of our concert at St Mary's Church, each year group performed their songs on the playground at the end of the school day to an audience of parents and family.



Household Support Fund

Households who may struggle to afford life's essentials over winter are being encouraged to talk to Citizens Advice about a new voucher scheme, set up by Cherwell District Council using money from the government's Household Support Fund.

It will help pay for vulnerable households' food, energy, and water bills - but other costs can be covered too, including clothing and replacements or repairs for white goods or essential transport costs.

Anyone who believes they will need this support is invited to contact Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northants (CANOSN).

The scheme is not only open to those on benefits. Instead, the funds are awarded based on a household's specific situation and needs.

People can call the CANOSN Household Support Fund helpline on **0300 303 0993**. They should leave their details in a voicemail and wait for a call back to be assessed.

More information can be found [here](#).

Additional help

If you would like advice and support with the costs of food and other household essentials, there is also a range of support available from:

[Oxfordshire County Council](#)

[The Sunshine Centre](#)

[Banbury Food Bank](#) (vouchers available from school; we encourage families who may be struggling to let us know confidentially via the class teacher or Mrs Stephens)

Salvation Army gifts: The Salvation Army have been collecting presents for families in need. For more information, please email Malcolm.Anderson@salvationarmy.org.uk

or phone 07884-191997. They will need to know ages, by boy/girl, with presents to be collected Tuesday 21st December 10.30am-12:00pm.

Check out our new webpage called [Household Support](#) (under the Parent Information/Health and Wellbeing tab) for further details of these organisations and others that can offer support.

Starting School

Don't forget, the deadline for on-time applications is **15 January 2022** for children due to start primary school in September 2022.

For further information and to apply see: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Statutory Consultation on Admissions

This consultation relates to the requirement for ongoing consultation every 7 years. **There is no proposed change to the admission arrangements in force**, apart from simplifying language. Read more and how to comment [here](#).

Extra curriculum clubs

We are in the process of arranging new after school extra curriculum clubs that will be starting in the middle of January, we will send out a message in the new year once these have been finalised.



Another great way to see what we are learning at Harriers is to follow our [Facebook](#) page or our [Twitter](#) page.



Dates for your Diary

Term 3: Tuesday 4th January – Friday 18th February 2022

Holiday: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

INSET day (no children in school): Monday 28th February

Term and holiday dates for this academic year 2021-2022 are online: [Term Dates](#)

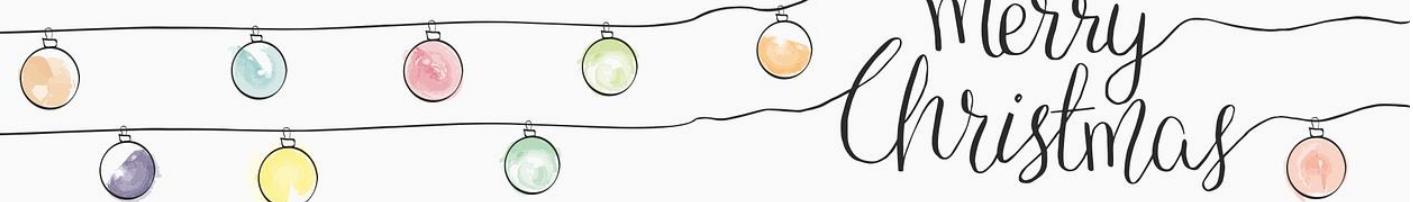
Term dates for 2022-2023

The term dates for the next academic year starting in September 2022 are online now: <http://www.harriers-aspirations.org/parents-information/term-dates-2022-2023/>

Winter Mini Challenge

The Winter Mini Challenge continues a summer reading challenge in partnership with WWF, to explore nature and action for the environment via Wild World Heroes. These heroes can now learn about fascinating creatures living in the arctic, and some of the issues facing this remote place. Anyone who reads three books and records it online can receive a certificate and a badge. And we'll be happy to have recommendations from any children who read a book they loved which we might read in school or add to our library. Happy reading!

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2021>



Merry
Christmas

and a happy New Year from all at Harriers

Community Activities



MULTISPORT XMAS CAMPS

FA Qualified Coaches
DBS Checked
First Aid Trained

St Leonards primary school:

20th - 23rd December
9 am - 3 pm £15
9 am - 4 pm £18

All Four days (9 am - 3pm)
- £55
All Four Days (9 am - 4 pm)
) £65
if your child is eligible for
free school meals, use code
"MARCUSRASHFORD" to
receive free entry and a
free lunch!"

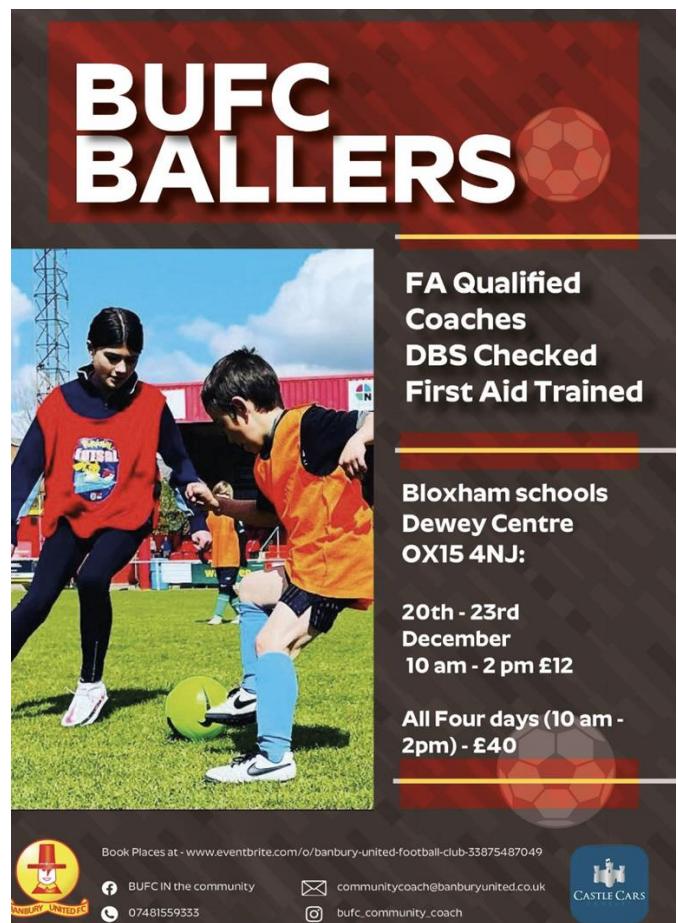
Book Places at www.eventbrite.com/o/banbury-united-football-club-33875487049

BUFC IN the community
07481559533

communitycoach@banburyunited.co.uk

bufc_community_coach

CASTLE CARS



BUFC BALLERS

FA Qualified Coaches
DBS Checked
First Aid Trained

Bloxham schools
Dewey Centre
OX15 4NJ:

20th - 23rd December
10 am - 2 pm £12

All Four days (10 am -
2pm) - £40

Book Places at www.eventbrite.com/o/banbury-united-football-club-33875487049

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07481559533

communitycoach@banburyunited.co.uk

bufc_community_coach

CASTLE CARS

Children who are on free school meals get a 100% free place at Multi Sports camps as well as receiving a free nutritional lunch thanks to Marcus Rashford (HAF) Funding!

Parents simply do this by visiting [Eventbrite](#) and picking the days they wish to attend and using the promo code: "MARCUSRASHFORD".

Book these BUFC courses on [Eventbrite](#)

Please note that the Marcus Rashford funding does not apply to this course. However, the Cherwell district council FAST card means you can get 20% off. Using code "FAST".