ASPIRATIONS

Harriers Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Our Vision: to cultivate high quality education in a supportive environment, enabling our pupils to become kind, happy, confident individuals, ready to take on the world.

Harriers Newsletter

Friday 30th January 2026

Message from Mr Rabiasz

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to see the children continuing to settle so well into their learning and daily routines. They are demonstrating a positive attitude and a strong commitment to their work, which is reflected in the calm, purposeful atmosphere across the school.

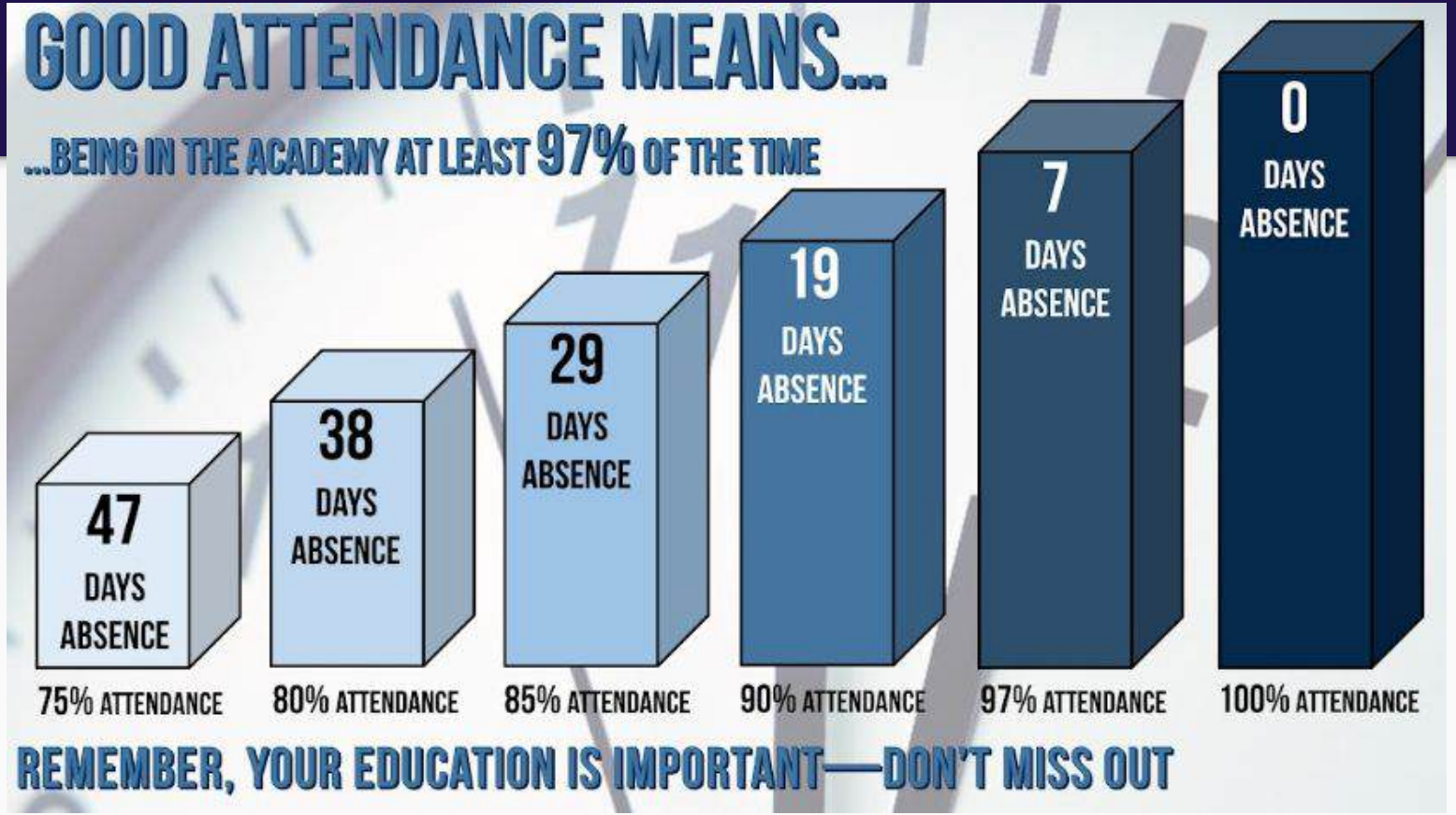
Pupils across all year groups are engaging well with lessons and showing enthusiasm for learning. Regular attendance plays a crucial role in supporting this progress. When children attend school consistently, they are better able to build on prior learning, maintain strong relationships with their peers and teachers, and develop the confidence and resilience needed for success. Being in school every day helps children feel secure, included and fully involved in school life.

As the term progresses, there are many exciting learning experiences and enrichment opportunities planned across the curriculum. Consistent attendance ensures that children can benefit fully from these opportunities and continue to make strong academic and personal progress. Thank you for your continued support in prioritising attendance and ensuring children arrive at school on time and ready to learn each day. Working in partnership with you makes a significant difference to your child's success and wellbeing.

We look forward to a productive and successful remainder of the term and will continue to keep you informed with key updates and upcoming events.

Kind regards,
Mr Rabiasz

Attendance


GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS...
...BEING IN THE ACADEMY AT LEAST 97% OF THE TIME
47 DAYS ABSENCE
75% ATTENDANCE
38 DAYS ABSENCE
80% ATTENDANCE
29 DAYS ABSENCE
85% ATTENDANCE
19 DAYS ABSENCE
90% ATTENDANCE
7 DAYS ABSENCE
97% ATTENDANCE
0 DAYS ABSENCE
100% ATTENDANCE
REMEMBER, YOUR EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT—DON'T MISS OUT

Upcoming Dates Term 3

Monday 5th January - INSET (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 6th January - First day of term

Thursday 22nd January 5.30pm - EYU stargazing event

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th February - SCARF PSHE workshops for pupils

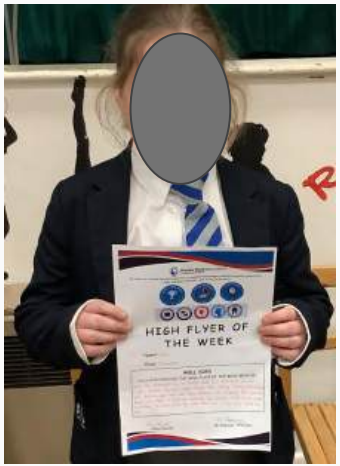
WB Monday 9th February - Children's mental health week

Tuesday 10th February - Y6 SATs information evening

Thursday 12th February - PTFA Valentine's disco

Friday 13th February - Last day of term

Upper Phase Assembly
19.01.26



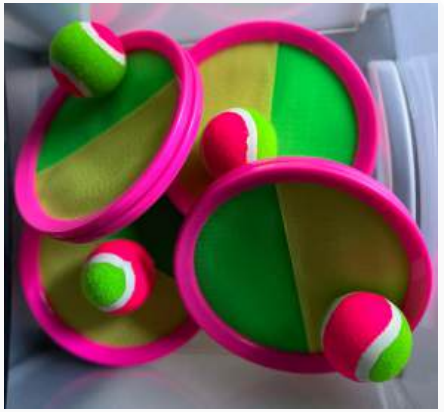
Lower Phase Assembly 20.01.26

Upper Phase Assembly 26.01.26

Lower Phase Assembly 27.01.26

OPAL

We have some new sports equipment ready to go out now the weather is less icy. The children have coming up with good ideas for how to look after it all.



Nursery

We have been learning about Cinderella this week. Following on from Goldilocks and the Three Bears, where we talked about things being too hot, too cold or just right, we have been seeing if clothes and shoes are too big, too small or just right. Surely that rainbow-sequinned doll's dress and those sparkly shoes will fit us!

We have also been back in the sandpit and the mud kitchen, after the snow and ice.

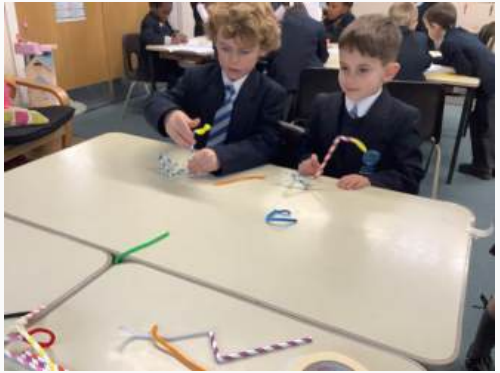
Early Years

This week Early Years have been making shape rockets - to help answer our driving question: How would an astronaut get home?

We have also completed a science experiment about chemical reactions, making fizzy planets from bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.

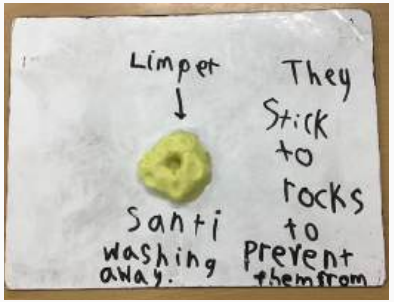
Year 1

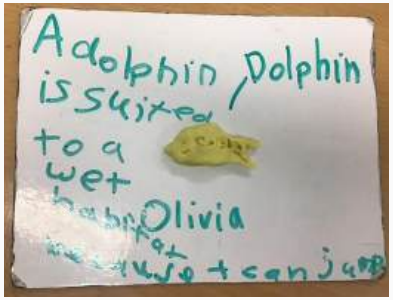
In DT this term we have been learning making stable structures. We have learnt that wide bases are the best!
This week we tested how to stabilise structures using weight. We will use this to design out final pencil pots!

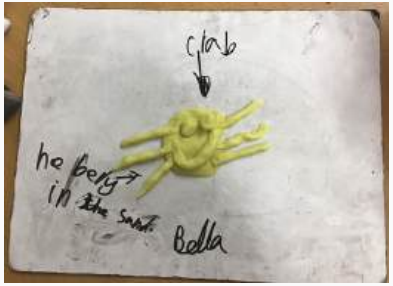


Year 2

Year 2 have had lots of fun learning about how animals are suited to different habitats. This week we looked at how animals are suited to web environments and made our own using playdough!







Year 3

In Topic we learned how to make papyrus!

We used glue and strips of paper to cross hatch.

We will be writing our hieroglyphic messages on them this week too!

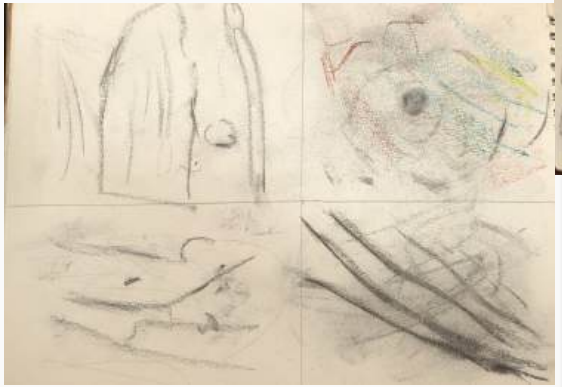
Year 4

Year 4 pupils have really enjoyed making biscuits as part of their Design and Technology learning this term. They have also learnt how to adapt a recipe, budget for the ingredients they would need and create their own packaging.

Year 5

In year 5, we have been looking at Retrofuturism. This is how society in the past (pre 1960s) imagined the future (our present) would look like.

We then looked at different types of art work and how they were created.



Here is a selection of our artwork we created by using a viewfinder for some retrofuturism images.

Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring evolution and adaptation by designing and developing their own species capable of surviving on the Galápagos Islands. Through research and creative thinking, pupils adapted key features to suit the islands' unique environments, demonstrating a strong understanding of natural selection, habitats, and survival.

We're very pleased to announce another fantastic bake sale in aid of Mrs Herbert's upcoming walk across the Great Wall of China!

Please make sure to stop by and enjoy some wonderful baked treats!

GREAT FOOD

BIG SAVINGS!

Your child could enjoy a tasty, balanced meal every day — and you could save up to **£500** a year

SCHOOL MEALS ARE FREE

IN RECEPTION

YEAR 1

& YEAR 2!

SIGN UP HERE

AM I ENTITLED?

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2, they are automatically entitled to free school meals. From Year 3 onwards, you may still qualify if you receive certain benefits – saving your family over £500 a year and supporting your school. Check eligibility and apply today via the QR code, at **www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals**, or through your school.

A FREE SCHOOL MEAL EACH DAY ISN'T JUST A HEALTHY CHOICE — IT'S A SMART ONE.

HEALTHY & BALANCED – Fresh, colourful meals packed with the nutrients growing children need, meeting all School Food Standards.

FRESH & SEASONAL – Children enjoy a vibrant variety of flavours while sharing a sit-down meal with friends, building confidence, conversation skills, and even mastering cutlery in a relaxed, restaurant-style setting.

SUSTAINABLE & SMART – We make the most of ingredients, reducing food waste without sacrificing taste.

INCLUSIVE & SAFE – Our Allergen-aware menu and designated allergen buddy team member ensure children with dietary needs can enjoy lunch safely and confidently.

Harriers PTFA

The Harriers PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on **Thursday 12th March at 3.30pm.** This is a great opportunity to hear all about the all fun the events the group has planned for this year, how the money raised will be spent.
It's also and opportunity to find out about how to get involved if you're interested.

Music Lessons at Harriers

There are currently spaces available for singing lessons from next term please sign up here

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest

SEN and Inclusion

Hidden Disabilities

Some people have **disabilities that aren't visible**, like ADHD, autism, dyslexia, asthma or anxiety. These are called **hidden (or invisible) disabilities**. Even though you can't see them, they can still make everyday things harder.

- Some people need extra help even if they *look fine*.
- Be kind and patient — everyone learns and feels differently.
- If a friend seems upset or needs space, ask, "Are you okay?"

Parents:

Please take some time to…
Talk to your children about how not all disabilities can be seen.
Encourage your children to show understanding and kindness.
Share with school if your child has a hidden difficulty — small changes can make a big difference.

This week's hidden disability focus: Asthma

Asthma is a common, long-term condition that affects the airways in the lungs – the tubes that carry air in and out of your lungs. It usually causes symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. Asthma often starts in childhood, but adults can develop asthma too.

There are lots of different types of Asthma.

For more information, the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower website has easy-read bullet points that you can share with your children.

https://hdsunflower.com/uk/insights/post/asthma

Training courses available

allthingsautismltd@gmail.com
01895 649211
https://allthingsinclusionandautism.com

Workshops for parents / carers (and practitioners) -Spring term 2026

All things visual strategies Supporting autistic children / those with communication difficulties with visual strategies - why use visuals, which visuals to use and how to use them? **Friday 13th February 2026** **10 - 11.30am** Online - via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person	**Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)** Understanding PDA and practical strategies to support **Wednesday 4th March 2026** **9.30 - 11.30am** Online - via Zoom £44 plus VAT per person
All things communication and play: Supporting autistic children with communication and play skills - laughing and learning together **Thursday 5th March 2026** **9.30am - 12** Online via Zoom £51 plus VAT per person	**Autism and Girls** Exploring differences and diagnosis . Understanding how autism impacts on girls and strategies and ideas to support them **Monday 2nd March 2026** **10 - 11.30am** Online via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person
All things behaviour - supporting positive behaviours for autistic children **Thursday 29th January 2026** **9.30am - 12** Online via Zoom £51 plus VAT per person 	**All things sensory processing** - a workshop exploring the sensory needs of autistic children and practical strategies to support their needs **Thursday 12th February 2026** **9.30am - 12** Online via Zoom £51 plus VAT per person

All Things Toileting Exploring the challenges around toilet training for autistic children and practical strategies to support them **Tuesday 3rd February 2026** **10 - 11.30am** Online via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person	**Gestalt Language Processing** How to support early language skills for young children including Gestalt learners **Wednesday 11th March 2026** **10 - 11.30am** Online via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person
All Things Sleep - Looking at the challenges around sleep and bedtime for autistic children, and practical strategies to support **Tuesday 24th March 2026** **10 – 11:30am** Online via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person	**ADHD** Understanding ADHD in young children and practical ideas to support them **Wednesday 21st January 2026** **10-11.30am** Online via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person
Supporting children with Bereavement and Loss Looking at the impact of bereavement and loss on young children and strategies to support them **Tuesday 10th March 2026** **10 - 11.30am** Online via Zoom £36 plus VAT per person	**Promoting positive mental health in young children** Examining causes of mental health difficulties, learning about anxiety and trauma **Thursday 19th March 2026** **9.30 am - 12** Online via Zoom £51 plus VAT per person

SEN and Inclusion

We are sending out a plea for some resources to support children. If you, your family or friends have any of the following items at home and you are happy to donate them to our school we would be hugely grateful! The list is not exhaustive, any sensory items are welcome.

- a working radio
- fairy lights / christmas lights
- bean bags to sit on
- ball pit and balls
- mirrors (small/medium)
- tunnel
- projector light
- lava lamp
- black out material/blinds/curtains

Safeguarding our children

Who we are……..

If you have any concerns about your child's safety, your safety or that of another child/family in our school, then please see one of the Designated Safeguarding Team. Mrs Agate is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Agate

Mr Rabiasz

Miss Wayte

Mr Sherington

Mrs Stephens

Miss Buswell

Safeguarding our children

Parent webinars on county lines and criminal exploitation (Ivison Trust)

The Ivison Trust (formerly Pace) is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. Their work is grounded in a trauma-informed, family-centred approach.

During March 2026, the Ivison Trust is delivering a series of live webinars for parents and carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience.

More information and booking details are available at:
https://ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars/

Online Safety - Wake-up Wednesday Advice

What Parents and Educators Need to Know About Roblox: A #WakeUpWednesday guide examining Roblox's user-created games, highlighting risks around chat, spending and excessive play for children.

This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores how adults can support children and young people to recognise and challenge mental health misinformation online.

School Aged Immunisation Service

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Does your child still need a Flu Vaccination?

We are still vaccinating!

Follow the QR code / link to consent for your child and make a community clinic appointment

If you've already filled in the consent form, please book your appointment using the reference number that was emailed to you from ***school.immunisations@nhs.net*** *when you consented*

For more information visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms

[Term 3: Primary School Health Nursing Newsletter January 2026]

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/JDvIcPqCqjFi3XJy?ref=email&loc=play

24 APPS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

This list is not exhaustive, and will be updated each year to reflect new risks and dangers

THESE APPS CAN EASILY BE USED AS GROOMING TOOLS BY ONLINE PREDATORS LOOKING TO MEET UP & SEXUALLY ABUSE CHILDREN. (UPDATED 2021)

FACEBOOK – FACEBOOK allows you to connect with others and share comments, photos and videos. You can add friends, write on people's pages and post, join groups and play games.

SNAPCHAT – SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises that photo's, videos and stories disappear, others can take screenshots of private photo's.

INSTAGRAM – INSTAGRAM Kids are creating fake accounts to hide content from their parents, according to police. Messages are also deleted once a user leaves a conversation.

WHATSAPP – WHATSAPP allows you to send messages, images and videos in 121 and group chats with your contacts. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group.

KIDSCHAT – KIDSCHAT.NET is a free online messaging app for children. You can talk to people you don't know or public forums and via private message. You can access the site as a guest.

SKYPE – SKYPE is a platform and app that lets you make audio and video calls to other people around the world. You can also send instant messages.

WHISPER – WHISPER is an anonymous social media app that promotes sharing personal secrets with strangers. (new people). It reveals a users location so people can meet up.

CALCULATOR % – CALCULATOR % is only one of SEVERAL social media apps disguised as a calculator, the app is actually a secret photo vault to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.

HOT ON NOT – HOT ON NOT Strangers rate a user's 'attractiveness' with the aim of real-world meet ups in your local area.

ASK.FM – ASK.FM An app where users can anonymously ask questions and receive answers. The app has been featured in a number of cyber bullying cases.

YUBO – YUBO Similar to Tinder, the app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other.

KIK MESSAGING Kik – KIK MESSAGING Kik is a messaging app that allows content normally filtered on a home computer.

BURN BOOK – BURN BOOK Anonymous rumours can be posted about people through audio messages, texts and photos.

WISHBONE – WISHBONE This app allows users to compare kids and rate them on a scale.

GRINDR – GRINDR Is a dating app geared towards gay, bisexual and transgender people. The app allows people to chat, share and meet up in person based on a GPSS location.

SKOUT – SKOUT is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts.

MEET ME – MEET ME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. The app encourages people to meet in person.

TIK TOK – TIK TOK is one of the most popular apps in recent years used for sharing short videos with very limited privacy controls users are vulnerable to explicit material.

TELLOYMN – TELLOYMN anonymous messenger app. It calls itself "the most honest place on the internet." Age controls are inconsistent and sexual explicit material can be found.

Zoomerang – Zoomerang is a popular app that looks like a harmless messaging app however it allows private anonymous messaging and is location enabled.

BUMBLE – BUMBLE is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts

FACEBOOK MESSENGER – FACEBOOK MESSENGER Is one of the most popular message apps in the world. It has a broadly heavily been used by predators and the end to end encryption will make it even more unsafe.

BADOO – BADOO is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts.

OMEGLE – OMEGLE is a video chat website where users are matched randomly with strangers.

#CHILDABUSEHELP CHILD ABUSE RESOURCES WWW.CHILDABUSEHELP.ORG.UK

NSPCC HELPLINE 0800 800 5000

NNECA WWW.NNECA.ORG.UK

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.

TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR :

WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WHY/

Fostering in Oxfordshire

oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering

Fostering in Oxfordshire

You care with our support

Being a foster carer is rewarding but, we'll be honest, it's not easy. Our children and young people have often been through a lot and can need plenty of support. But every day we see the impact that support has. Seeing them grow in confidence – well, nothing beats that.

Fun trips to the shops, cuddles after a bad dream, helping with homework, being there during those tricky teen years – foster caring is about providing stability, positivity and reassurance when a child needs it most.

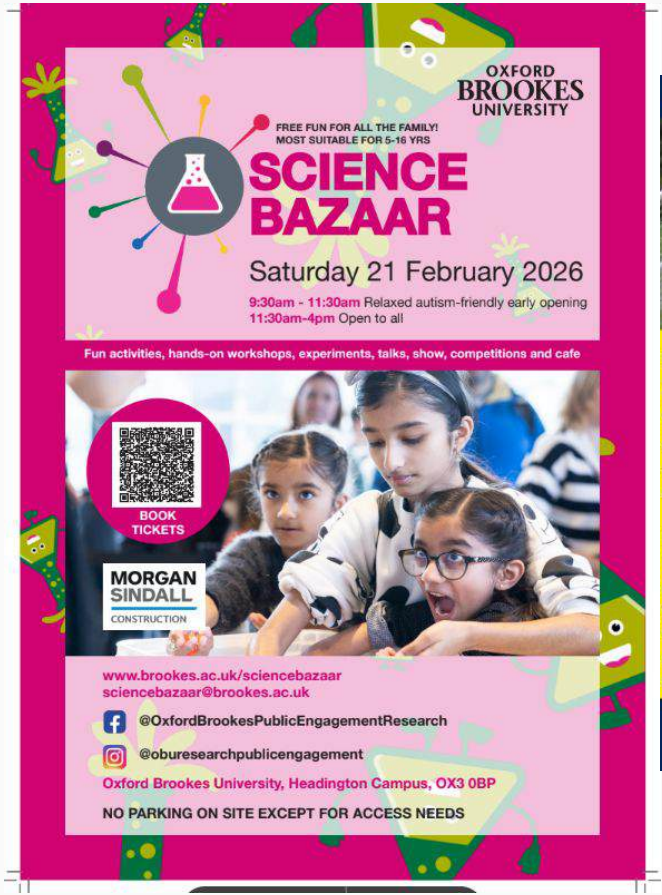
Want to know more?

Scan me

Visit **oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering**
or give us a call on **0800 783 5724**

Career opportunities

Activities outside school



Activities outside school