



What's inside this term's newsletter?

- Personal development opportunities across the school
- Science Fair
- What's been going on in Early Years; Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Term 3 Newsletter

Our vision is to be an exceptional school where children flourish

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of Term 3, I am delighted to share with you the incredible range of enrichment opportunities that have been available to our children, both within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

We truly believe that education goes beyond the classroom, and we are committed to providing our children with broad and enriching experiences. We work to ensure that enrichment is embedded in across the curriculum, which you will see from our Science Fair work, creative arts opportunities and our outdoor adventurous activity sessions. We carefully track provision for each child which enables us to provide some bespoke opportunities throughout the year too.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another term filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable experiences!

With very best wishes,

Sam Campbell and the Charlton Team

This term's attendance:

95.1%

School and Trust target:

96%

**MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Good Vibes Music Tuition

We kick started this term with a fantastic music assembly from Good Vibes. Good Vibes provide music tuition to children at Charlton. Lessons are built on an ethos of fun and are personalised to each student to help maximise progression, achievement and enjoyment. There is currently availability for piano, keyboard, guitar, ukulele and drum lessons. To book, head to:

<https://www.goodvibesmusicacademy.co.uk/charlton>

Scan this QR code to see a snippet of our assembly!



Y5 Ashmolean Visit

On Friday 24th January, our Year 5 children enjoyed their visit to the Ashmolean in Oxford. During the day, the children took part in workshops, explored the museum and came across some Mummies! This visit to the Ashmolean complements the children's History unit this term which focuses on the Ancient Egyptians.



Y6 OAA

This term, Year 6 are our latest year group to benefit from our new enrichment opportunity: **Outdoor Adventurous Activities**, which takes place in our school forest. Sessions are led by Miss Biles, who is a fully qualified outdoor education instructor. Week 1 involved making a stretcher to move another person.



Y3 Science Oxford Visit

On 21st January, Year 3 headed to Science Oxford to supplement their learning in Science.

During the day, the children took part in a range of hands on experiments- take a look at just some of the exciting things they enjoyed doing!

PCSO Mike Dix Visits Y5 & Y6

This term, we welcomed PCSO Mike Dix to Charlton. PC Dix has joined us for a number of years and comes along to talk to our children in Years 5 & 6 about being safe online and the legal responsibilities everyone has.

PC Dix joined us ahead of Safer Internet Day which takes place each year, and begins on 10th February.

A number of resources have been included with this term's newsletter to support conversations that you might be having at home.



Children's Mental Health Week

Coach Matty from TA Sports joined our Children's Mental Health awareness assembly this term. During the assembly, he spoke about the benefits of exercise on mental health and provided some suggestions for how to include exercise into daily life. Our School Council have been working hard to support each class to learn more about CMHW- see our School Council section.



Young Carers Yoga

Next term will see the start of a new programme of yoga that we are able to offer in conjunction with Be Free Young Carers. A series of yoga sessions, facilitated by a trained yoga coach will help our children to develop their yoga skills and to practice mindfulness.



Safer Internet Day 2025 Tuesday 11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Williams F1 STEM visit

We are incredibly fortunate to have close links with Williams F1 and we invited to take 40 children from Years 3-5 to Williams in order to take part in a STEM enrichment day. Throughout the day, children took part in activities devised to enhance their scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical thinking.

For the first half of the day, children took part in a museum tour and an Esports activity, where they used race car simulators and competed in three F1 races. During the afternoon, the whole group completed a workshop in which they worked in small groups to design and make effective crumble zones for race cars which they then tested.

Y5 PE Leadership Course

On 10th February, 10 children from Year 5 took part in a PE Leadership course held at KA's. The course, led by Year 8 pupils, is designed to further develop leadership skills in children so that they can lead a range of activities once back in their own schools. The children learnt a number activities which they are keen to implement at lunchtime and have already scheduled a follow up meeting with Mrs Campbell!

Dance Festival

On 12th February, 15 children from Y6 took part in a dance festival at Wantage Leisure Centre. This event was designed to further support those children who already have an interest in dance, giving them an opportunity to develop and perfect some new moves as well as the chance to perform.

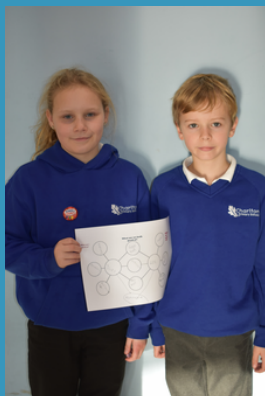
Swimming Gala

The Vale Academy Trust Primary Swimming Gala was held on Tuesday 21st January, and our team did amazingly well! Out of six competing schools, both the boys' team and the girls' team came 2nd. Congratulations to all of our competitors!

A number of people commented on how brilliantly the children took part, showed our school values and were excellent ambassadors for Charlton.

School Council

Our School Councillors have been working hard to develop a number of activities to support this year's CMHW which can be used in class. This year's focus is on self-awareness and so the council have devised a number of games/activities which can be used to help children to learn more about themselves and each other.



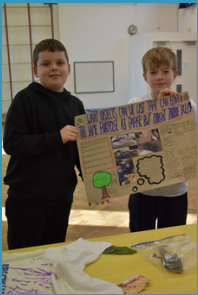
Annual Science Fair

This term, children from Years 1-6 have been working hard in pairs to produce projects for our annual Trust Science Fair. The Science Fair, led by Ms Boaz, is designed to encourage scientific enquiry as the children are able to suggest their own scientific questions, and then with the support of their teachers, design, create and evaluate their investigations.

Our Open Classroom event on 5th February provided families with the chance to see the children's projects and for them to have a real audience to present to.

The 'in school final' took place on 6th February in which 2-3 pairs from each class who had been selected by their class teams competed with each other for a place in the semi-finals.

One winning pair from each class then took part in the semi-final, held on 11th February at KA's. During the semi-final, 7 pairs from Charlton were then chosen to go through to the grand final which will take place on 2nd April at R.A.L.



Winter Art Competition

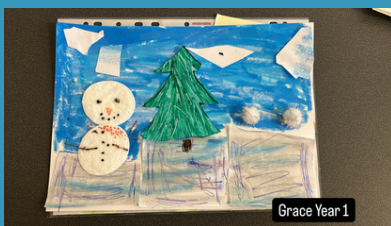
This year saw the introduction of our Winter Art Competition, led by Mrs Oliver. We were incredibly impressed by the number of entries and the overall quality and levels of creativity. All submitted art work is now on display in school.

We are pleased to be able to share that the following children won prizes for their age category:

Grace (Y1)

Alana (Y3)

Isaac (Y6)



Sparkle Day Success- £1482 raised!

Our annual sparkle day event and raffle draw was a huge success last term and we would like to thank each and every one of you who donated gifts, sold raffle tickets and volunteered your time to help make those hampers!



This money, along with the £870 raised from our Autumn disco in October, has helped us reach our target of £15,000 for 34 new school laptops that have been purchased this term.

The PTA have also funded a theatre experience! M & M Productions will be returning again in Summer 2025 and your PTA have subsidised 50% of the cost. Bravo! Encore!

Hop into Spring Event!

Looking forward to next term, we have an exciting new fundraiser planned to tie in with our next non-school uniform day on April 3rd. There will be sweet treats, spring time bouquets and a special visit from the Easter bunny!! Watch your emails for more details soon.

Fundraising Targets!

This year we're committed to funding more outdoor play equipment for the entire school to enjoy at break and lunchtime, more small world play and fancy dress, and resources for the 'NEST' and the brilliant pastoral support they provide.

If you have any other ideas on how to raise funds, or what you'd like us to provide with the money raised in future, please get in touch! charltonptaevents@gmail.com



Can you help us out with the May Fayre?

Our annual May Fayre is our biggest fundraiser and we are already starting to plan for this year's event to make it our best yet!

A lot of preparation goes into making this day a success. We are currently looking to secure raffle prizes, book entertainment for the day and asking for volunteers for the event. Even an hour of your time to help set up, volunteer on a stall or help clear down is greatly appreciated!

If you can support us with any of the above, please send us a message with how you'd like to help (or join the PTA WhatsApp group). We really can't do it without you...

Click to join the PTA light WhatsApp group
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/BV7vVPLslIEL2VAmmfAGZL>



Do you need wrap around care?



Our Breakfast and After School Club currently has some sessions available! Please call our school office or email to book sessions:

officech@cha.cambrianlt.org
Tel: 01235 762861

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am (£6.25 per child- this includes a breakfast)
After School Club runs until 6pm (£14.50 per child, and includes an evening meal)

Parent Survey Feedback



In November, a parent/carer survey was circulated asking for your feedback on areas relating to our school.

Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate that this survey was quite close in time to the Ofsted survey which was circulated in October, and may account for fewer responses than we might typically receive. Please find below some headlines taken from the survey responses:

Overwhelmingly, children are happy and feel safe at Charlton

The vast majority of families felt that their children do well at this school

Most families would recommend Charlton to other families

You said that you were unsure about the extra-curricular offer at Charlton

Did you know that our recent Ofsted inspection identified personal development as a strength and agreed that our self-evaluation of this as 'outstanding' was accurate. For more information about our personal development offer (which includes our extra-curricular enrichment offer), please do look at our website:

 [Charlton Primary School - Personal Development](#). Here you will find a full list of the clubs available.

You said that you would like further clarity on how to access the online platforms which provide information about school life (Tapestry & Jotter)




- Visit the App Store or Play Store and search for 'School Jotter'.
- Press the 'Get' button and allow the app to install (we recommend to use WiFi as often as possible to download apps)
- Open the app and 'allow notifications' (this is important for messages the school need to broadcast to parents)
- Search for Charlton Primary School (OX12 7HG)
- Once selected, the school will appear as your favorite school and will be easily accessible for future use.

Below are some useful 'how to' guides to help with accessing Tapestry in EYFS:



Parent Guide IOS: <https://tapestry.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Tapestry-App-iOS-Guide-for-parents.pdf>

Parent Guide Android: <https://tapestry.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Tapestry-App-Android-Guide-for-parents.pdf> 

You said that more staff/parent contact in older years would be beneficial

Currently, teachers in Y4-6 welcome children to school at their classroom doors. This helps the start of the day to run smoothly and enables teachers to check in with each child before the day formally begins. We are currently reviewing the end of the day procedures so that teachers in Years 4-6 may be more available at the gates at the end of the day for informal conversations to take place.

Early Years

Acorns: This term at Acorns our theme has been "people who help us" our home corner has become the Dr's surgery and we were lucky enough to have the fire service visit us, we have enjoyed pretending to be fire fighters in the garden, dressing up and putting out fires with water squirters.

We have celebrated national croissant day and tasted croissants at carpet time, we also celebrated burns night and made short bread biscuits and even tried highland dancing. On Friday mornings we have been enjoying the cold weather with a hot chocolate at forest fun! We are very much looking forward to re visiting the Sanctuary care home in Wantage this week with a small group of children, where we get to spend time with residents and take part in a crafting or singing activity.

Reception: The children returned after Christmas to some extremes of weather and had the opportunity to play with ice and the small coverage of snow! They were then busy investigating time - we had an exciting box of objects to help us tell the time, and we even challenged ourselves to see how many different exercises we could do in 1 minute!

With our focus on the story of The Three Little Pigs we were able to introduce different materials to the children and they all went on a material hunt around our grounds. This term, we've also spent some time looking at different maps and journeys that are taken by characters in stories, and by us around our building. The children enjoyed making treasure maps to follow in their free-play time, as well as drawing maps from stories during an adult-led activity.

Whilst investigating different kinds of vehicles, the children tested the vehicles they had made down a slope, making sure that the wheels were secure, and we also enjoyed visit from a very large emergency vehicle.

Over the last few weeks we have been reading stories about robots and using our imaginations to create a robot that we would like to have. Lots of the children would like a 'tidying my bedroom' robot!

Key Stage 1

Year 1: Year 1 have had a great start to 2025 with all things dragons! We have really enjoyed exploring our book 'The Dragon Machine' in English and have been busy practising our writing skills to create brilliant story beginnings. We have been working hard to include adjectives with the prefix 'un' ('the dragons are unkind') and remembering our careful capital letters and full stops!

In maths, we have been focusing on numbers up to 20, learning about tens and ones and how we can use different equipment to help us. Building on our number bonds to 10, we are now learning our number bonds to 20 (all the number pairs which make 20). We have been using our place value knowledge to then use addition and subtraction within 20.

Year 2: Year 2 have had an exciting and busy term! We've loved our work on The Clockwork Dragon, where we wrote detailed instructions on how to make one and got creative with shape poems.

In maths, we've been building our skills in multiplication and division, finishing the term with a fantastic start on Times Table Rockstars!

We brought our learning to life in R.E. this term where we sat down and had our own Shabbat meal that Jewish people celebrate. We tasted homemade Challah bread and sipped grape juice whilst listening to traditional music. A huge thank you for your support in providing junk modelling materials—our young engineers had a fantastic time designing and building their own moving vehicles, which they proudly shared with the Reception children.

Key Stage 2

Year 3: Year 3 have had a very hands on term, having visited the Science Centre in Oxford and then carried out their Science Fair projects and posters. We definitely have some Albert Einsteins and Marie Curies of the future.

We have been mainly looking at multiplication and division in maths and we have been super impressed with their learning this term. In writing, poetry and explanation texts have been our focus, specifically based on "The Tear Thief", which the children have loved, and their poems have been lovely to read.

Our art and design has been inspired by LS Lowry and the children have made some beautiful cityscapes along with the famous stick men that Lowry used to create. There has been so much creativity going on in the classroom which has been fantastic to see.

Year 4: Year 4 have been braving the cold this term for their PE lessons, and have been learning the rules and skills of hockey. They have all risen to the challenge of learning a new sport and are already able to play small sided games. We are committed to the children's right to health and well-being (Article 24).

Science this term has been all about the Science Fair. The children worked in pairs to choose an area of science they wanted to investigate, and we have been really impressed with their enthusiasm for learning and their teamwork.

In maths, the children have been working hard on various methods of multiplication and division. We have been proud of their determination and resilience. It has really paid off.

Year 5: This term, Rowan and Poplar classes have been busy tackling exciting learning adventures! In maths, the children mastered fractions, learning to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers, and compare, order, add and subtract them with confidence. In history, Ancient Egypt came alive with an unforgettable trip to the Ashmolean Museum, where the children handled real artefacts and explored mummified bodies! They discovered lots about Egyptian society, pharaohs and the Egyptian beliefs about death and the afterlife. In English, creativity soared as they wrote vivid character descriptions inspired by an alternative version of The Three Little Pigs, showcasing fantastic vocabulary and grammar. Finally, in DT, the children researched and adapted recipes to bake their own delicious savoury scones, proving themselves to be budding chefs! It's been a term filled with learning, discovery, and creativity!

Year 6: Year 6 have been exceptionally busy over the past few weeks as they prepare for the much-anticipated Science Fair! The children have been fully immersed in their projects, designing informative posters with detailed diagrams and constructing models as well as carrying out experiments to clearly explain their scientific thinking and findings. It's been inspiring to watch them bring their ideas to life through creativity and critical thinking, showcasing a wide range of scientific concepts. From environmental issues to space exploration, their projects reflect a deep curiosity and dedication. Alongside this, we were fortunate to have PC Dix visit the class to deliver an important safety talk. The children learned valuable lessons on how to stay safe both in their local community and while navigating the online world. PC Dix gave them practical tips on how to look out for themselves and others, reinforcing the importance of staying aware of potential risks, whether out and about or using digital devices. It's been a fantastic few weeks of learning and growth for Year 6, and we're excited to see all their hard work come together over the next few terms.

Attendance

IN SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERY DAY

Our whole-school attendance figure for this term is **95.1%** which is below what has been achieved this year so far. Overall, our attendance for this academic year is **95.8%**. Our attendance target for this year remains at **96%**.

Please continue to ensure your child attends school, unless they are too ill to attend. This will ensure that they can make the most of learning and social opportunities and can unlock their full potential. If your child/ children are not going to be in school, please continue to update us every morning by calling the school office on 01235 762861.



Thank you to parents and children who strive to be in school, on time, every day.

The school gate opens at 8.40am and closes at 8.55am. Arrivals after this time will be through the school office and your child will be marked as late (L) until 9.25am or as unauthorised absence (U) if they arrive after this time.



Please continue to support your child's education by making attendance and punctuality a priority.

Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance further, please contact Heidi Thorne through the school office

Minutes late per day	Number of days of learning lost over a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days



Top Tips for use Tips for Parents and Carers of 3-7 year olds

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to, and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and could target anyone, including young people. Whilst your 3-7 year old may not yet be ready to use the internet independently, use our top tips to start good online habits now that will help keep them safe in the future.

■ Enjoy going online together

Spending time online together with family is an important learning experience for the youngest internet users. Not only will you both enjoy the quality time together, but you can supervise their usage and guide them to make the safest choices.

▲ Talk about their online experiences

Help give your child the language to explain what they're experiencing online by starting conversations about the internet and technology as early as possible. Talking regularly about what they love doing online, as well as any worries they may have, will help establish this habit and mean they're more likely to come to you for help as they get older.

● Make use of settings, especially relating to online purchases

[Parental controls and other safety settings](#) can help protect your child from online harms, including scams. To avoid any nasty surprises on your bank statement, make sure in-app purchases or new downloads require a passcode, and don't set card details to autofill on devices your child has access to.

◆ Explain that not everything online is true

If your child is too young to understand what fraud is, you can still lay the groundwork to help them stay safe online as they grow. Start simple and talk about the difference between real and make believe. Help them recognise that not everything online is true and that some things they see or hear could be stories, jokes or tricks.

★ Make sure they know they can always come to you

The most important thing for your child to know is that you are always there to support them, online and offline. Encourage them to talk to you if anything they experience makes them feel worried or upset, and show them they can trust you to stay calm, listen and help make things better.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

1 Encourage journalling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](https://www.here4you.co.uk)



Community help and support



A very big Thank you to everyone who donate money or food via reverse advent calendars, secret santas, donation boxes or in fact in any other way. We are so encouraged by the generosity of this wonderful community! We are very grateful to the on-going support of everyone as sadly the need for food parcels continues to be a concern.

Throughout 2024, we delivered 1,095 parcels with an extra 105 Christmas parcels over the festive period.

If you wish to continue donating food - collection points can be found at the following places: Sainsburys, Waitrose, The Kings Centre Gift shop in Wantage and Cornerstone coffee shop in Grove.

We do have a website: Wantageandgrovefoodbank.org.uk and a facebook page - do visit those if you'd like to - or direct people there if they'd like more information.

We are continuing to look for larger premises, as you can imagine with the increased demand, we need more space. If you know of anywhere local to Wantage/Grove, ground floor, secure, easily accessible and with parking please do get in touch!

Many thanks again to you all for your ongoing and generous support

D Townsend - on behalf of FoodBank

Worried about a child or young person?

Local children social care: <https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>. If you think a child or young person is at risk or being abused or neglected, contact the children's social care team at their local council. If you do not know where they live, contact your local council's team, the NSPCC or the Police for advice.

Community help and support




TENNIS LESSONS in HANNEY

Are you aged **4 to 14** ?



Scan me!

at Hanney Tennis Club

- Do you want to learn to play tennis?
- Make new friends, learn core skills and have fun
- Join us for a **FREE** trial session on one of the following days and times

Ages 4 - 6 : Tuesdays at 4.15pm Ages 6 - 8 : Tuesdays at 5.00pm
 Ages 9 - 11 : Tuesdays at 6.00pm
 Ages 12 - 14 : Wednesdays at 5.45pm

Contact us for more information and to book your free trial
info@exceltennis.co.uk www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk



FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
 MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR BEYOND

Saturday 1 March 2025

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
 11:30am - 4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, shows, competitions and cafe

BOOK TICKETS



www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

X @obuengagement #BrookesBazaar25
 f @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch
 @oburesearchpublicengagement



Oxford Brookes University, Clerici Building, Headington Campus,
 Gipsy Lane, Headington, OX3 0BP

Event sponsored by **MORGAN SINDALL** CONSTRUCTION

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

STAGE COACH

3 DAY EASTER HOLIDAY MINIONS WORKSHOP

4 TO 6 YEAR OLDS



MONDAY 7TH TO WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 2025

9:45 TO 15:45
 THE ELMS PRIMARY SCHOOL
WWW.STAGECOACH.CO.UK/FARINGDON




Community help and support



ELITE CAMPS WANTAGE

WANTAGE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, OX12 8DJ



OVER 8's

UNDER 8's

ARTS & CRAFTS

MON 17

GITD DODGEBALL

Basketball, Kwik Cricket, Benchball, Athletics, Netball

GITD DODGEBALL

Basketball, Kwik Cricket, Benchball, Athletics, Netball

PAPER HEART VALENTINES CRAFTS

TUE 18

INFLATABLE FUN

Tag Rugby, Hockey, Yoga, Football, Gymnastics

INFLATABLE FUN

Tag Rugby, Hockey, Yoga, Football, Gymnastics

PAPER FLOWER BOUQUET

WED 19

NERF WARS

Football, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Hockey, Tag Rugby

PARACHUTE GAMES

Football, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Hockey, Tag Rugby

PAPER HEART WREATHS

THU 20

SOFT ARCHERY

Netball, Rounders, Volleyball, Dodgeball, Danish Longball

SOFT ARCHERY

Netball, Rounders, Volleyball, Dodgeball, Danish Longball

PIXEL ART

FRI 21

SLIME MAKING

Benchball, Football, Dance, Handball, Gymnastics

SLIME MAKING

Benchball, Football, Dance, Handball, Gymnastics

HEART OWL CRAFTS

BOOK NOW

📞 01235 415 846

🌐 eliteyouthsports.co.uk

Good Vibes
MUSIC ACADEMY

junior jam

6 week band course for children aged 7 to 10 years old that gets students playing REAL music in a REAL band, REAL quick!

No experience needed.

Where:
Good Vibes Music Academy
Newbury

When:
Mondays 4-4:45

Join the Band

Newbury Street Practice Patient Participation Group

Church Street Practice Patient Participation Group

New Year Edition

JOINT NEWSLETTER
Number 1 2025



Dear All,

As we move on into the new year, Church Street and Newbury Street PPGs are working together to present a **Health and Wellbeing event at the Beacon on Saturday 26th April 2025** (Free entry for visitors). It will be a showcase for clubs, charities and other groups involved in promoting health in mind and body for residents of the Wantage and Grove area. If your club or charity would like to take part, please contact wellbeing@Ox12.org for more details.

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If you have any comments or ideas we would love to hear from you, especially our younger families. Please contact us via NSPG@Wantage.com or via churchstreetppg@gmail.com

You can download the current newsletter using the QR code below;

Andrew Lewcock
Newbury Street PPG



Annie Dee
Church Street PPG