



"The World for our Children, our Children for the World"

Headteacher: Mrs C. Sánchez

Family Newsletter

30th January 2026

Dear Families

It has been another purposeful and vibrant week at our school. We have seen a wonderful focus in classrooms as the children progress their Spring term projects, and it has been a pleasure to observe the collaborative spirit across all year groups. Whether in the classroom or representing us further afield, the children continue to demonstrate the values that make our school community so special. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the children are well-prepared and ready to learn each day.

Mrs Sanchez



Sportsmanship and Perseverance: Y5 & Y6 Football

On Wednesday, our Year 5 and 6 boys travelled to Wallingford to represent the school in a football tournament. The squad was a mix of seasoned players and those new to the game, and while there was a touch of trepidation, the excitement was palpable.

After a challenging opening match that served as a "shock to the system," the boys conducted themselves with maturity. During the break, they took the initiative to self-reflect, discussing how to organise themselves more effectively as a team. This led to a marked improvement in their second game. By the third match, the team truly hit their stride, battling hard and competing with intensity. Though they narrowly lost their final game to the eventual winners, their camaraderie and respect for their opponents were exemplary. They were, as always, a credit to our school.

Mr Matthews, PE Lead

International Day at Didcot Girls' School

This week Year 5 and 6 attended International Day at Didcot Girls' School. The event has been running for over 20 years and brings together schools from Didcot and the surrounding villages to celebrate global learning. The children had the opportunity to visit four different country stalls where they explored aspects of language, culture, art, and traditions.

The atmosphere at the event was colourful and lively, and the children particularly enjoyed collecting stamps in their passports as they travelled "around the world." Our pupils showed excellent engagement, curiosity and confidence throughout each of the sessions. They also valued spending time at Didcot Girls' School and seeing familiar faces, including former pupils from South Moreton Primary and even family members. This made the experience especially enriching, particularly for our Year 6 children as they begin to prepare for future transitions.

Many thanks to Mrs Dance and Didcot Girls' School for hosting us and organising our transport!

Mrs Mupita

READING NIGHTS AT SOUTH MORETON

**We don't set homework at South Moreton
(research says it's not impactful for Primary pupils, and
parents told us they agree)**

BUT - we do expect children to read at home.

1 night of Reading = 1 "Reading Night"
15 minutes R / KS1, 20 mins KS2
Recorded in their Reading Diary
4 nights = 1 point to win prizes

**Reading is the single biggest way parents can support their
child's academic success.**

HOW WE MEASURE

Engagement in reading at home forms part of our assessment of your child. Those that don't read, fall behind.

Children should read at home every day Monday - Thursday. Reading diaries are checked on a Friday.

Those with 4 Reading Nights will be entered to win prizes for their House and Class.



School Meal Provision

We would like to remind families that our school menu is carefully planned and costed to provide nutritious, popular meals based on the specific orders received. If the order cut-off is missed, we will always ensure your child receives a hot meal; however, please be aware that this may result in them being served an alternative dish that they may not personally prefer. We appreciate your cooperation in using the ordering system promptly to help our kitchen run smoothly and ensure every child enjoys their lunch.

Spring Term Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Further Info
Thursday 5th Feb, 2.15pm	Spring Concert	Choir, recorder club and instrumentalists only. Parents of performers warmly invited.
Thursday 12th Feb	KS1 Cricket Skills	Held at Didcot Girls' School. Details within email.
Friday 13th Feb, 2.30 - 3.15pm	Whole-school Art Exhibition	All families warmly invited. Please note that the exhibition will close at 3.15pm and will not run after school.
Wed 4th & Thurs 5th March	Parents' Evening	3.30pm - 5.30pm. Appointment details to follow.

Pupil Premium eligibility - help us to support your child

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals and a variety of other financial supports, and school receives additional funding to support your child's teaching and learning. Please help us to claim this funding by contacting the Office if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits.

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Don't forget to join our [@SouthMoretonPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/SouthMoretonPrimary) Facebook page!
We welcome you to search and 'like' so that you get the best insight into the school day to discuss and celebrate with your child.
www.facebook.com/SouthMoretonPrimary



What parents & carers need to know about... AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



PRIVATE



Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

