

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

October/November 2025 Issue 234



'Arrangement in a hat' by Millie Goves

As the leaves turn and autumn settles across Oxfordshire, I find myself reflecting on a wonderful summer in Ducklington. The annual Village Show was a huge success, welcoming people from local communities and businesses. Thank you to everyone who came, and who volunteered on the day. As 2025 will be my last year as a committee member, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful team for the last 7 years. It has been a pleasure to be part of something very special to me and so many others – thank you. We can now look forward to the next season of village gatherings! This issue contains updates on local events, community projects, and reviews that celebrate the spirit of our village.

We hope you enjoy reading and, as always, if you have any news, photos, or ideas to share for future editions, please get in touch. newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you.

Emma Buckard

Local Police

PC Josh Bennet:

Josh.Bennett@thamesvalley.police.uk PC Kat Giles

Katherine.Giles@thamesvalley.police.uk



Cllr Thomas Ashby

E: thomas.ashby@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07425 152459



Dates for the Diary

- Tuesday 7th Oct. Village Hall AGM, 6.30pm
- Sunday 12th Oct. Apple Pressing Day
- Sunday 26th Oct. End of British Summer Time, clocks go back 1 hour
- Monday 27th Friday 31st Oct. Ducklington School half-term break
- Friday 31st Oct. Deadline for Secondary School applications
- Saturday 1st Nov. Barn Dance, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Monday 3rd Nov. Ducklington School return from half-term break
- Sunday 9th Nov. Remembrance Sunday
- Tuesday 11th Nov. Remembrance Day
- Sunday 30th Nov. Christmas Fayre, Village Hall, 1-4pm
- Wednesday 17th Dec. Carols around the Christmas Tree, 6.30pm

Reminders

Dog waste – We kindly ask all dog owners to be responsible and considerate by cleaning up after their pets. Please respect our beautiful village and keep an eye on your furry friends.

Safe and considerate parking in Ducklington - Ducklington Parish Council is keen to promote safe and considerate parking in the village. This means being aware of others and not blocking their access or causing a hazard.

The Parish Council



The Parish Council meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall

(The Lilac Room) at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and observe the meetings. For any queries please contact:

The Parish Clerk – Mr Steve Smith

Post: The Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington OX29 7UX

E: clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

More information about the Parish Council, services, local events and news updates is available on the Parish Council website:

www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

December/January Newsletter deadline for entries is 14th November 2025: newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk







Ducklington Village Hall



For bookings please contact Amanda Armitage on: adrianarmitage5@aol.com

or complete the form on the website: ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Village Hall News

The Ducklington and Hardwick Village Hall AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025. All villagers are very welcome to attend. As usual, the posts of Chair will be open for any interested parties.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sarah Varnom, Vice-chair.

Ducklington Village Hall weekly timetable

- Monday Seated Exercise Class 11am 12pm
- Monday Chess from 7pm
- Tuesday Tai Chi Quigong 12 1pm
- Tuesday Pilates 10.30 11.30am
- Tuesday Duck Morris Dancers from 8pm
- Wednesday Dance from 4.30pm (Dancemania)
- Wednesday Ducklington Parish Council meeting 7.30pm (1st Wednesday of the month only)
- Thursday Quigong 9.30am 10.30am
- Thursday Warm Welcome Space 11.30am 3pm
- Thursday Dance 4.45 6.45pm (Dancemania)
- Ducklington WI from 7.30pm (2nd Thursday of the month only)
- Friday Zumba 11.15am 12pm
- Saturday Dance 9.15am 1.45pm (Dancemania)



The local community and all users of The Village Hall are reminded that this fantastic facility continues to enjoy Gigaclear's free hyperfast 900Mbps full fibre broadband.



Autumn is upon us once again and the long hot summer seems in the distant past. The weather number crunchers tell us that it has been the hottest summer on record, very likely a consequence of the changing climate. Whatever the figures, I think we can all agree that it's been an exceptionally dry period, confirmed by the 'hose pipe ban' currently in place by our local water authority. It's traditionally a time of harvest, an important time in the yearly cycle, when literally the fruits of human labour through the spring and summer are collected and stored, ready for the leaner times of winter.

As I have been going round the village, I have been constantly reminded by people about their apple trees being particularly heavily laden this year. The lower branches on a large Bramley tree in my neighbour's garden were touching the ground due to the heavy weight of the fruit. By the middle of August, the apples were beginning to drop, almost as if the tree was trying to lessen the strain on its overloaded boughs.

This situation was going on all around, and it seemed such a waste of fruit. There was only one thing for it, so we decided to collect as many apples as we could and press them at the village show on Bank Holiday Monday. It was a lovely hot day, and we finished up with about 250 litres, a lot more than I was expecting. As there were a lot of eating apples, we bagged and pasteurised 75 litres and will be having some available at this year's main pressing day for people to try.

This year's event will be on 12th October and we shall once again be setting up the steam-driven apple mill on the village green. Let us hope there are still plenty of apples ready for us to mill and press into juice. It's an event for the whole community, so come along and bring all the apples you can and take away some of the juice.

We are expecting a good selection of visiting old tractors, steam engines and vintage vehicles to add to the day. As usual the village events team will be providing refreshments in the vintage tea tent and there will be a selection of ciders to taste, made from last year's juice.

The harvest festival service at St Bartholomew's is also on the same day at 10.00am and the Reverend Andrea welcomes anyone who would like to attend. The service ends at 11.00am when the congregation are invited to come over to the tea tent and we will be starting this year's apple pressing. Please come along and enjoy the day.

Regards Jim Shackell

DUCKLINGTON APPLE PRESSING DAY



BRING YOUR APPLES AND A CONTAINER TO TAKE AWAY SOME OF THE FRESHLY PRESSED JUICE

TEA — CAKE — CHAT

CIDER TASTING - VINTAGE TRACTORS & VEHICLES

Contact Jim on 07971 985301 or email Jimshackell1@gmail.com for more info





Councillor Thomas Ashby
Oxfordshire County Council
Follow me on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CllrThomasAshby
thomas.ashby@oxfordshire.gov.uk
07425 152459

Introduction

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer holidays - we have well and truly been spoilt with wonderful weather this year. I know I've had a great time. I spent two weeks down in Devon on a Scout and Explorer Scout Camp where we hiked, went coasteering, cycled the Tarka Trail and surfed. North Devon really was a great location, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Ducklington Flower Show

Once again this year, we must say a huge thank you to everyone who helped organise the Annual Ducklington Flower Show. We saw some wonderful submissions, whether it was flowers, fruit & veg, cakes (which looked delicious) or some fantastic photography – it's so great that so many people entered.

I was lucky enough to chat with so many great people and spent quite a bit of time at the bar, sharing laughs and stories. The wonderful weather made the Sports Club come alive, and I was genuinely moved by the energy in the air. Congratulations to everyone who took part—it was a memorable day for me, and I'm already looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Witney Town Council Grant Funding

As a Town Councillor in Witney, I spent time over the summer reviewing grant funding applications to support young people and organisations that support them. As the Chair of that Committee, I was thrilled to approve an application for funding for Ducklington Sports Club for £1,700 to support young people in the community. Sport is really important for young people, so to be able to support the sports club in this way is great. I know it will go some way to supporting our young people in the community.

St Bartholomew's Church - Councillor Grant Funding

As a County Councillor, I get allocated £10,000 so that I can allocate grant funding across our community over a two-year period. It is therefore a privilege to announce the award of just under £1,000 to St Bartholomew's Church in the village. This grant will facilitate the enhancement of the Church's video technology, enabling those unable to attend services in person to participate in the church community by viewing services online.

Ducklington Solar Farm Update

Many people have been in touch with me about the noise of the construction of the solar farm over the last couple of months. Having spoken to developers, they have taken this feedback on board, and they state that they will be putting in measures to try and reduce this noise as much as possible.

If you are still being affected by noise during what should be "out of hours", please let me know.

Oxford Congestion Zone

Despite over 70% of respondents to the consultation stating that an Oxford Congestion Zone would have a negative impact on their lives, the County Council have approved plans for an Oxford Congestion Zone. Here in Ducklington, we will get 25 passes to travel through the areas below. Once you have used your 25 passes, you will need to pay £5 to travel through the areas in the table.

Charging point	Charging days	Charging times
Hythe Bridge Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
St Cross Road	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
St Clements Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
Thames Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
Marston Ferry Road	Monday to Saturday	7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm
Hollow Way	Monday to Saturday	7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm

Further information can be found on the County Council website:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/connecting-oxfordshire/temporary-congestion-charge

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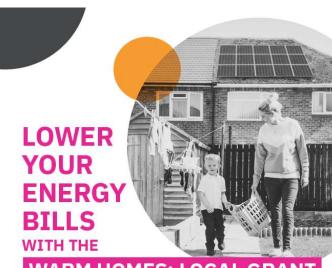
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www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk or call the Welcome the Warmth team on 0800 038 6775





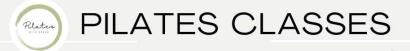




The next Barn Dance will be on Saturday 1st November from 7.30pm, with Levity and Richard, as usual. (This is a change from the original planned date, due to a busy Village Hall.) Tickets will be £6.00 and there will be a raffle.

Hope to see you there to dance away the November gloom.

Richard



Discover the power of Pilates - a full body workout that builds strength, improves flexibility and enhances posture. Pilates targets your core, boosts mobility and supports a healthier, more balanced body. Whether you're looking to tone, prevent injury, or simply move better, Pilates offers results you can feel. Come and join us to feel the difference!

Ducklington Village Hall Tuesday @ 10:30am

Madley Park Hall Tuesday @ 7:45pm

Windrush Primary School Thursday @ 7:00pm

Turley Farm Barn, Hailey Friday @ 9:30am

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: pilateswithsarah@yahoo.com

pilates with sarah

👩 pilateswithsarah.witney



West Oxfordshire Hand me on - Families GOT OUTGROWN SCHOOL SHOES OR UNUSED LUNCH BOXES? HAND THEM ON OR FIND WHAT YOU NEED. Join our community of families to re-use items needed for children or households. Everything is free, just hand on again for another family to use later. Family Group www.facebook.com/groups/handmeonwestoxon Community Page www.facebook.com/handmeonwestoxon



The hand me on community group is for families of all backgrounds within West Oxfordshire. Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint while helping families.





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https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/better-travel



Million Hours Fund. Have you heard of the million hours fund? Grants of between £30,000 and £100,000 are available to give extra support to young people in Witney Central and Witney South.

This money will fund new engagement initiatives or additional hours if for existing work. The Application deadline is 22nd October 2025. More information is available on their <u>website</u>. If you are considering applying, <u>James</u> would like to hear from you to assist in coordinating applications focused on work in Witney.

https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/million-hours#section-3



Applications for the Community
Capacity Fund open on 12th
September 2025. Grants from
£5,000 to £20,000 are available to
support disadvantaged adults to live
well in their community, remaining

independent and healthy for as long as possible. For further information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit the <u>Oxfordshire Community Foundation</u> website.

https://oxfordshire.org/ocf_grants/community-capacity-2/

Ducklington WI

Perhaps you've been considering coming to see what Ducklington WI is all about because we are, indeed, a varied bunch! Going from strength to strength, we would be delighted to welcome newcomers on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. For any further information, please contact Jennifer Pratley via email: jenniferpratley@hotmail.co.uk



<u>Ducklington and Hardwick with</u> <u>Yelford Charity.</u>

The object of the Charity is to relieve, either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parishes of Ducklington, Hardwick and Yelford, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. For example: help with heating, transport costs etc.

The Charity also considers requests from young people who reside within the Parishes of Ducklington, Hardwick or Yelford, who are embarking on Further Education or Apprenticeships. Grants can be made for books or to help with the purchase of equipment. In the first instance please write to the Clerk, Mrs Gillian Caton:

10 Lovell Close, Ducklington, OX29 7YQ Tel: 01993 702261 / 07720868954 Email: gilliancaton5@gmail.com





We offer the highest standards of care where dignity is respected, interests are nurtured, and our residents are cared for like family. With a range of residential, nursing and dementia care on offer as well as specialist care for younger people with disabilities, Cedar Court is the ideal choice.

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Call us on 01993 226400 or visit healthcarehomes.co.uk





Walking Netball



A new walking netball session is starting at Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney on Monday 12.30-1.30pm from 1st September until 6th October (if popular, then we will continue!).

Walking netball is a low impact version of netball, perfect for those returning to the sport after a long break, coming back to activity after injury or those wanting something slower paced. Sessions are led by our fantastic host, Gill, who will get you warmed up, into a few practice drills and playing the sport.

Book via the Better UK app, online or turn up on the day.

Kate Mulrey

Community Sport Manager – Oxfordshire 07477 507151







Ducklington Sports Club Update

We'd like to start this month's update with a big thank you to Witney Town Council for their generous support. The club has received a grant of £1,700, which has already gone towards new footballs and first aid kits for all of our youth teams. These essentials make a real difference to players and coaches alike, keeping training sessions safe and giving every child the chance to play with quality equipment. Pictured here are our Under-11 Blues proudly showing off their new footballs, ready for the season ahead.







Late August was as lively as ever, with the Flower Show football tournament drawing in players, families, and plenty of community spirit. It's always a highlight in the village calendar and a great way to bring everyone together before the competitive action kicks off.

That tournament rolled straight into a packed schedule of pre-season friendlies, with players of all ages dusting off their boots and getting back into the swing of things. Now, as the season begins, it's fantastic to see the pitches buzzing again every Saturday and Sunday morning. A huge well done to all of our volunteers, coaches and families for helping to make Ducklington Sports Club such an important part of village life.

Football

All age group fixtures, along with league tables and results for U12s+, can be seen on the Ducklington Sports Club website:

www.ducklingtonsportsclub.co.uk

Contact

If you would like to get in contact with the Sports Club to hire, play football, or just ask about what we do, please use the website or give the secretary, Ed Todd, a call / email:

07500 284693

secretary@ducklingtonsportsclub.co.uk



Walking in Another Person's Shoes

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest gifts of living in a community is the opportunity to learn from one another. Every encounter, every story shared, is an invitation to step into another person's shoes—seeing the world through their eyes, feeling something of their joys and their sorrows, and recognising the common threads that bind us together.

Life is full of choices. Sometimes they are bold steps into a new chapter; at other times, they are choices we never thought we'd face—redundancy, illness, or bereavement. And sometimes the hardest choices are those that are made for us, when life changes direction unexpectedly. In these moments, empathy—our willingness to walk in another's shoes—becomes a lifeline. As Paul reminds us, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).

This autumn offers us many opportunities to deepen that empathy and understanding. At our **Apple Pressing Day** we gather to celebrate the fruitfulness of creation and one another's company. At the **Pet Service** we honour the unconditional love of our animals, giving thanks for the joy they bring and reflecting on what they teach us about loyalty and care. At **All Souls'** we pause to remember those we have loved and lost, entering tenderly into one another's grief. And at **Remembrance** we stand side by side in silence, acknowledging the sacrifices of the past and committing ourselves to peace for the future.

Each of these moments—joyful, reflective, even bittersweet—invites us to practise empathy, to see life from another's perspective, and to grow together in compassion.

So, as you walk through this season, I encourage you to take time to reflect not only on your own story, but on the stories of those around you. Step into another's shoes, if only for a moment. You may find that in doing so, your own path is enriched with greater understanding, deeper love, and the quiet strength of community.

With every blessing, Andrea Rector, St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington

01993 776625

rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

Sun 12 October	Church Harvest Service
Sun 12 October	Apple Pressing Day
Sat 18 October	Church Harvest Supper
Sun 19 October	Pet Service – 4pm
Sat/Sun 25/26 October	Clocks go back 1 hour
Sun 02 November	All Saints Day Service (Holy Communion)
Sun 02 November	Memorial Service of All Souls – 4pm
Sun 09 November	Remembrance Parade at War Memorial – 10.50am; Service in Church
	10am
Sun 23 November	Safeguarding Sunday
Sun 30 November	Advent Sunday
Sun 30 November	Confirmation Service with Bishop Gavin – 4pm



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World Mental Health Day 10th October 2025

Looking after your mental health



Studies have shown that naturebased practices can lead to better mental health. The Community Wellbeing and Nature Recovery teams are collaborating on a number of projects funded by Public Health, kicking off in the summer with a family walk through Deer Park Wood, learning about different species of trees and doing

foraging. Deer Park Wood and Deer Park South are child friendly and great for walks with little ones who can discover more about the animals that live there by having a go at the new brass rubbing trail. https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/zpxdeqz4/deer-park-south-nature-trail-booklet-2024.pdf

Further opportunity for connecting with nature can be found at **Chipping**Norton Green Gym. It is a friendly volunteer group caring for green spaces in and around Chipping Norton, on the edge of the Cotswolds National

Landscape. They meet Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., with tasks for all abilities.

New members welcome, no experience needed.

https://livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ Services/6355

Deer Park Wood Deer Park Brass A special thanks to Windrush Church of England Primary Rubbing Nature Trail School for helping to choose the wildlife featured on the trail, and local artists for creating the artwork for the trail. Deer Park Wood and Deer Park South are home to lots of different plants and animals - the woods, grassland and stream act as perfect places to forage and shelter. Use a wax crayon to take a rubbing of each plaque next to its name and learn about the Deer Park South flora and fauna found at the site. Please take care when crossing Range Road to LEVELLING access the two sites

Do you work or volunteer with areas of the community with an elevated risk of ill mental health? Oxfordshire Mind are running FREE Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Courses. Commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council to compliment the County-wide efforts to support mental health, the training will equip people with the knowledge and skills they need to help their families, friends and individuals that they work or volunteer with. To find out more, including the dates of the courses, click <a href="https://example.com/here-butter-butte

https://www.oxfordshiremind.org.uk/training/fr ee-mental-health-and-suicide-preventiontraining/











Free Adviceline: 0808 169 6031

You can call us for advice from Monday to Friday, between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

What is Witney Baby
Bank?

Witney Baby Bank is a registered charity, run by volunteers to support families

Look out for the Ducklington Art Trail, or join the Wild Duck group to help relieve day-to-day stress. We also have the Warm Welcome Space, open to all. For information on groups or support in the Village, please do get in touch.

A number of national charities have resources and campaigns that you may be interested in:

https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/world-mental-health-day

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/https://www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/world-mental-health-day/

Witney Baby Bank is a registered charity, run by volunteers to support families experiencing poverty.

We aim to support families on a temporary and emergency basis.

We provide vouchers for baby essentials and menstrual products.

In exceptional circumstances, we can also supply emergency packs of nappies, baby wipes, baby formula and baby food.

Witney Baby Bank is a member of the Baby Bank Alliance.

<u>Ducklington Warm</u> <u>Welcome Space</u>

Contact: Gill Long 07780 781839 <u>ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com</u>



The Warm Welcome Space, located in Ducklington Village Hall, continues to offer a friendly and inclusive environment for everyone in the community.

We are one of thousands of Warm Welcome Spaces right across the UK. Together, these community spaces bring connection, friendship, and human warmth to communities. Our space is a warm, welcoming, safe, and free space that is open to everyone in the community. We are open every Thursday 1130 -1500. Enjoy hot drinks, light lunches and lots of cake. Come for a short time or stay for the whole session. Everyone and all ages are welcome.

This month we had a pet visit and crafting session.







If you want to support us, join us as a volunteer or find out more about our space, we would love to hear from you.
Send us a message on:

ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com















The Committee would like to thank everyone who attended this year's event, along with all our suppliers and helpers, and to all of our Show sponsors, whose contributions mean we can continue each year:

The Shake & Sweet Shop • Smiths Bletchington • Cool Cuisine Foodservice Ltd • Abigail's Kitchen •
Denshams Butchers • Get Support • S&T Cotswold Plumbing & Heating Ltd • Nick Nurden Motor & Body
Repairs • C J Clarke (Timber Merchants) Ltd • Witney Trophy Centre • Ducklington Parish Council • Pheasant
Retreats • In Friendship Home Care Services • Philip Dennis Food Service

There were fantastic performances in the arena and many new stallholders this year – thank you!

The Village Show will be back again in August 2026 and preparations are already under way!

News and information will be shared on our Facebook page and website.

The Photography Classes for next year's Show will be announced in the next newsletter.

The next AGM will be held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7.30pm at the Ducklington Sports Club. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially those who are interested in helping or have suggestions for next year's event.

Thank you!

For any queries, feedback, ideas or interest in the events held at the Show, please contact Lauren Holifield: laurenholifield@live.co.uk or duckflowershow@gmail.com

Search "Ducklington & Hardwick Produce Association"

www.ducklingtonvillageshow.co.uk



Fern Meadows Extra Care Housing - Now Open for Applications

Fern Meadows in Faringdon offers 60 modern homes for residents aged 55+ with care needs. The scheme supports independent living with tailored on-site care and welcoming community facilities.

Apartments are available for rent and shared ownership. Features include a café, hair salon, lounge, guest suite, communal gardens, and secure mobility aid storage.

To find out more or apply, please search online for 'Fern Meadows Extra Care Housing'.







Pizza & Mac

Pulling up in Ducklington community car park every Friday



Menu

Pizza.

Margherita	10
Pepperoni	12
Ham & mushroom	12
Ham & pineapple	12
Ground beef, onions, peppers & jalapeños	12
Salami & chilli	12
Chicken & BBQ	12
Mediterranean veg	12
Butternut squash & feta	12

Mac&cheese

gherita	10	Classic mac	8
peroni	12	Mac & bacon	10
a & mushroom	12	Mac & garlic mushrooms	10
a & pineapple	12	musinoonis	
und beef, onions, pers & jalapeños	12	Garlic pizza bread	6
mi & chilli	12	Order at the hi	+6
eken & BBQ	12	or pre-order	on
iterranean veg	12	or pre-order 0779900140	5













The Parish Council has made aware of ongoing incidents at Ducklington allotments (adjacent to Lidl), including damage to crops, equipment and personal property.

We would ask that all local allotment holders remain vigilant of any suspicious activity; safely store and secure equipment / belongings; and contact the police if you believe any criminal activity has occurred.

We have made our local PSCOs aware of the situation and invited them to visit the allotments. We are also investigating the possibility of installing CCTV to provide additional security.



Do you have a child currently in Year 6?......



Make an application to secondary school

Parents of children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 (inclusive) need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2026.

Key dates when applying for secondary school

Key dates	Event
12 September 2025	Applications open.
31 October 2025	Closing date for applications.
2 March 2026	National offer day: look online, receive email and letters are sent out by second class post where needed.
September 2026	Start of the school year.

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications

