



Annual report 2024/25 – 1st Chesterton Rainbows.

The start to 2025 saw our largest cohort of Rainbows in one term with the team expanding places to 26 girls to try and reduce our waiting list. This expansion was made temporarily possible by the fantastic team of volunteers that support the unit.

In the second half of Spring 2025 term, we now have 23 girls in the unit, two leaders, three-unit helpers and one young leader. Our waiting list is still substantial, but we will have a large number of Rainbows leaving in July as they reach 7 and graduate to Brownies or other interests so we hope to be able to reduce our waiting list again. If anyone in Chesterton or the surrounding area has a 3 or 4 year old interested in trying Rainbows out, we recommend they register on Go Girlguiding as soon as possible.

www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

This Rainbows year has been a busy one so far with lots of exciting events. Some of the activities our Rainbows enjoyed were a trip with the Otmoor Division to see Moana 2 at Vue in Bicester, a Christmas trip to Sleeping Beauty at the Oxford Playhouse, a Sleepover at Jubilee House for the older Rainbows, a unit meeting at Clip and Climb in Bicester and a Pyjama Party at the Community Centre with Rainbows from the Otmoor Rainbow District.

Once again, we are proud of our girls who have completed many badges and achieved theme and section awards. We saw several girls achieving their Gold and Silver Section awards and many of the group achieved their Bronze Awards.

Our themes for Autumn and Spring were Express Myself and Skills for my Future. Many of our Rainbows achieved their Theme Award in the Autumn term by completing their Drawing or Storyteller badges at home, alongside their Skills builders badge and completing various Unit Activities at our regular meetings.

As part of our crafts in Express Myself we completed a Poppy Fields activity and decorated Poppies which were displayed in St Mary's Church, Chesterton for

Remembrance Day, an activity the girls really enjoyed. This term we will be completing Mothers Day and Easter crafting activities which are always popular with the Rainbows.

We are already planning our Summer activities and the Rainbows can look forward to enjoying many fun sessions where they can build skills and learn about the world around them.

At Christmas we said goodbye to Jen Walters, she supported us as a unit helper for nearly 3 years and was even brave enough to come on a sleepover with us – Thank you Jen for all you did to support the girls and the team. We also said goodbye to Louise Kerswell-Jensen at half term, Louise had been a unit helper with us for over 5 years helping as both her daughters were in the unit. Thank you Louise for all your help and support. We are still lucky to have 2 qualified leaders myself and Charlotte and also Emma who is a Leader in Training. Jasmine who joined us as a Young Leader in July last year has now turned 18 and has become a unit helper, hoping to start her becoming a leader training in the future. We have Beccy who is a Young Leader (14-18yrs) and is great with the girls and they all love her. Ali has recently joined us as a Unit / Occasional Helper who is around if we need extra support and is also willing to help at our sleepovers. Last but not least is Tracey Walker who is a unit helper but is also our unit administrator and has really made a difference and taken a lot of my plate. Thank you so much Tracey.

All of the Rainbow units in our area are oversubscribed and we always welcome and need new volunteers. Our roles are completely flexible, and we can work around your availability and the time you can give to help us. If you are interested in finding out more and register at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/> or email us at 1stchestertonrainbows@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk we'd love to hear from you.

Helen Hayes Unit Leader