



OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR ONE

NEWSLETTER

January/February: Spring 1 2026

KEY DIARY DATES

PE Days: Wednesdays and Thursdays

Books will be changed each Friday

Library books can be changed on a Wednesday

5th Jan- INSET day

7th Jan – Bring in your favourite small toy

9.1.26: Non-Uniform Day: Fundraiser for Livestock Day

23.01.26: Handwriting day

29th Jan-4th Feb: National story telling week

2.2.26: You are Invited: Parent drop in to class : Zones of Regulation

6.2.26- Non-Uniform Day: NSPCC Number Day

9.2.26-15.2.26: Children's Mental Health Week

13.2.26: EYFS/KS1 Safer Internet Day Sharing Assembly to parents @ 2.30pm in hall

Half Term: Monday 16th- Friday 20th February 2026

Welcome Back

Happy New Year, everyone! I am Mr Hurrell, your child's teacher in Oak Class. I have extensive experience in teaching in Year 1. I bring dedication, enthusiasm, and a commitment to making your child the heart of their learning journey. This newsletter will tell you what is coming up this term.

Homework: This half term we will provide homework as a one page plan which the children can choose to complete in any order they would like as they progress through the half term. Please bring in your homework books within the first week so that we can provide your child with their homework grid.

Maths Stars: We continue to ask that you encourage your child to access Numbots for a few minutes at least 4 times a week where possible. This will support them developing their addition and subtraction skills, becoming fluent in their knowledge of basic addition and subtraction facts, an essential skill to support improving their fluency and basic recall in mental maths. Going on numbots 5 times in one week will result in a shout out!

Reading: In Year 1, we use the reading rainbow to celebrate reading. Children can earn certificates based upon the number of reads they do which are awarded in values assemblies. Reading logs must be recorded on BoomReader to count towards these certificates.

Year 1 Team

Mr Hurrell, Miss Buck, Miss Cook, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Stanbridge

Our Lessons: Curriculum Information

Phonics (Reading): We read daily in class, using a 'flood the room' system. This means we work in ability groups. Reading sessions are based upon three key skills: decoding, prosody, and comprehension. Each group will be given the same book to read daily. On Friday this book will then be sent home with your child for them to read for the following week. Phonics sessions take place daily. At the end of our newsletter, please find attached the overview of phonics we will be teaching this half term.

English (Writing): In English, we will begin the half term by writing a narrative based upon 'Jo Jo and Gran Gran' from CBeebies. This text will take the children on an adventure to a gallery, with a focus on someone having to move from a home they once loved. After completing this unit, we will then explore writing an information text all about the four seasons. Please attempt to homework linked to this to support your child in their understanding of the differences between the seasons.

Maths: Our focus in math's this half term will be place value and addition and subtraction within 20. Within our place value learning, we will look at understanding the numbers up to 20 before learning how to successfully use a number line to order and compare numbers. When learning addition and subtraction, we will develop the skills we have already been practicing whilst taking our learning one step further to include doubling numbers.

Science: In Science, we will be learning about animals. This involves naming common animals as well as identifying what they eat. The children will practise the key skill of making close observations as well as work on labelling.

RE: This half term we will be introducing the religion of Buddhism, with the learning intention of reflecting on Is it possible for everyone to be happy? This will involve thinking about people's different life circumstances and also learning about the life of Buddha and exploring how he tried to stay happy.

PSHE: Our PSHE for this half term is called 'Dreams and Goals'. In this unit, we will set ourselves simple goals and decide how we are going to achieve these. We will reflect on our feelings when something is challenging to us but also celebrate our achievements when we have been successful.

Geography: In Geography, we will be learning about how the weather affects our lives? This will involve us understanding what the weather is, recording it daily and seeing how it changes across the seasons. We will also compare weather across different countries.

Art: In art topic this term in Flora and fauna. Within this topic we will observe and recreate art from artists such as Eric Carle and Jan van Kessel. By the end of our topic we will have used line, shape and colour to create a collage inspired by flora and fauna around us.

Computing: In computing we will be using the skill of programming to move a robot. We will practice using language to change direction and learn how to debug a program to find solutions to a problem.

Music: In our music, we will be learning the unit "exploring sounds". Within this unit we will begin learning how to use recorders and glockenspiels. We have a class set of recorders so you do not need to purchase your own.

PE- In PE we will be doing gymnastics and basketball. In gymnastics we will learn to perform movements with control and co-ordination and will develop the skill of balance. In basketball we will be developing our passing and dribbling skills.

How can you help your child at home?

Reading regularly at home is vital. Decodable books are closely matched to children's phonics learning; the sounds and words on the inside cover are a great starting place ahead of reading and provide additional practice. Reading is not just about decoding, but also about comprehension. Encourage children to read back sentences to build fluency and understand the content. Asking questions, such as those suggested on the back page of decodable books supports this.

Playing games which involve numbers, reading and counting is great for children, helping them learn through play and building these skills alongside turn taking and dealing with winning and losing.

PE

Our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday.

Please can children arrive in school wearing their PE kit on these days. Please bear in mind that lessons may continue in light rain, so a long-sleeved top/sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms in line with our uniform policy would be suitable. Earrings should be removed or covered with tape. We can not do this for the children at school.

Snacks and Water Bottles

Fruit/vegetable snacks are provided in school at break time, so children **should not** bring in additional snacks for the school day. Children **must** bring a bottle of **still, plain water** to school so that they may drink whenever they are thirsty (a sip bottle is ideal, helping avoid spills). They are not allowed to bring fizzy or flavoured water.

Equipment

Children should bring their book bags in daily. Reading books must be returned on a Friday; we cannot send new reading books home until the previous ones are returned. All belongings should be clearly labelled. We have got a substantial pile of unlabelled jumpers in class- please collect these if you are missing any.

Questions, Queries and Concerns

If you have any queries or concerns, please either telephone or email the school office who will forward your message as appropriate, or use the class email address year1@obps.set.education and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your support

Darrell Hurrell

Year 1 Spring 1

	Phase 5 graphemes	New tricky words
Week 1	/ee/ y funny /e/ ea head /w/ wh wheel /oa/ oe ou toe shoulder	any many again
Week 2	/igh/ y fly /oa/ ow snow /j/ g giant /f/ ph phone	who whole where two
Week 3	/l/ le al apple metal /s/ c ice /v/ ve give	school call different
Week 4	/u/ o-e o ou some mother young /z/ se cheese /s/ se ce mouse fence /ee/ ey donkey	thought through friend work
Week 5	Grow the code: /oo/ u ew ue u-e ui ou oo fruit soup /ee/ ea e e-e ie ey y ee /s/ c se ce ss /z/ se s zz /oa/ ow oe ou o-e o oa	