



OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception – Ash Class

NEWSLETTER

News updates from Old Buckenham Primary School

April/May 2026: Summer 1

KEY DIARY DATES

15/04 and 16/04: Parent Consultation meetings (3.15-6pm)-please sign up via MCAS

17/04: PTFA Non-Uniform Day Fundraiser: Rainbow Day

17/04: EYFS/KS1 Archery Club starts – Sign up now! Every Friday Until 10th July (3:15-4:30pm)

20/04: EYFS/KS1 Multi-Sports Club starts – Sign up now! Every Monday Until 13th July (3:15-4:30pm)

28/04: Class Photographs

30/04: Reception School Trip to Bewilderwood.

04/05: May Bank Holiday – School Closed

12/05: Movie Shorts; Reception Fundraiser

6/05: PTFA Bag 2 School Fundraiser

15/05: Non Uniform Day: Mental Health Week: 'Take Action'- wear green- more information to follow

18/05– 22/05: Walk to school Week.

22/05: Children break up for half term.

25-29th May- Half Term

Welcome!

The Summer term is about to begin and this is a really exciting time for our Reception children! We have an engaging school trip to Bewilderwood planned on Thursday 30th April, and we will be hatching our own chicks after the Easter celebrations subside.

We also will have our annual visit from Laraine, a local Beekeeper, who will be able to enrich our children's understanding of how important bees are within our natural world! We love to have visitors come in to enrich our children's experiences further, so if you think you can help, please do get in touch.

During the Summer term, we will be starting to focus on key end of year assessments too, as we celebrate your child's achievements over the year and plan for a smooth transition into Year One. Please do continue to engage with Tapestry, as we share what we are learning about in school and continue to give ideas about how you can support your child with their learning at home. Thank you!

Reception Team

Mr Briscoe – Early Years; Computing, Art and DT Lead. Reception Class Teacher Mon-Fri.

Miss Buck, Mrs Deneva, Mrs Cook, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Stanbridge, Miss Noyes, Mrs Lynam and Mrs McCleod-Tonkin – Teaching Assistants at OBPS who may support your child.

Reception Fundraising and Enrichment

Thank you so much for supporting us again last term. More 'Movie Shorts' experiences are coming up for our EYFS / KS1 children on: **Tuesday 12th May**

Please book your child a place via your MCAS app if you would like to do so. All money raised will reduce the cost of our second school trip.

Hook for the new half term: Breath-taking Nature

This half term, we will learn about how plants grow, giving your child opportunities to plant seeds and study different flowers; exploring their immediate natural world! We will go on a school trip to Bewilderwood, as we explore storytelling and adventurous activities outside. We will make great use of our own outdoor area and school grounds to start digging and foraging to see what we can find under logs, leaves and different natural resources as we explore the habitats of different creatures. **A huge thank you to the NB Gardening Club for our new bug hotel!** It will also be exciting to explore the life cycles of some different minibeasts and animals, as we build on your child's understanding of 'new life' from the Spring term. I'm sure our children will be excited to hatch our own chicks in our classroom!



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Jigsaw / PSHE):

Our next theme is called '**Relationships**'.

We will encourage your child to reflect on their own family tree and recognise how families can all be unique and different. This will involve your child strengthening their friendships and relationships with their peers through play. They will learn in more depth about how to resolve conflicts and find resolutions within their play. We will be teaching them key strategies about how to do this with increasing independence. We will also be continuing to learn about how to develop self-regulation strategies, supporting your child to recognise and manage their own emotions.

Literacy Development:

Our next model texts are called 'Jack and the Jellybean Stalk' and 'Meet the Weather'. We will also engage in a recount of our school trip.

We will continue to focus on developing our children's oracy as we further deepen their understanding of vocabulary. We will also be strengthening your child's fine motor skills through our 'Brave Approach', as we focus on writing words and short phrases / sentences linked to our learning!

You might like to...

- Build your own castles and engage in imaginary play.
- Read these books at home or visit the library to go and look to see if you can find them.
- Plant seeds or bulbs at home and watch them grow. Measure and record their progress over time, noticing how they change and develop.

Mathematical Development:

This half term, we will focus on:

- Number Bonds:** Revisiting our prior knowledge of the composition of numbers from 1-10, learning number bond facts.
- 10-20:** Deepening our knowledge of numbers beyond 10, focusing on verbally counting; building and recognising patterns within this number range.
- Adding and Subtracting:** Explore how to recognise and solve problems within these concepts, using manipulatives to work out answers to challenges.
- Shape:** Explore different 2D and 3D shape language and properties, decomposing and recombining shapes in different ways, learning about shape rotation and composition.

Phonics:

We will continue to learn about the sounds that letters make, specifically focusing on **digraphs, trigraphs and consonant clusters** this half term. We will learn how to blend words like 'went' which has the 'nt' cluster (this is not taught as a digraph as it is not one sound, but two sounds closely spoken together). Other cluster examples include: cl, fl, bl, gr, cr, dr, st, sm, sn, among many others. Following on from last half term, we will also continue to develop the important skills of **blending and segmenting** at word level. Furthermore, we will continue to teach how to **read and write** high frequency words, many of which are tricky words (words that do not blend together, but have tricky sounds within them). These high frequency words are known as our '**Animal Words**'.

You could look for digraphs, clusters and animal words in so many different contexts. For instance, when you are out shopping at the supermarket or when you are playing board games you are likely to spot some. We will also teach your child how to use '**Capital Letters, Finger Spaces and Full Stops**' when writing short phrases or sentences and we are teaching them how to form accurate letters when focusing on handwriting. It would be helpful if you could support your child at home with these skills. Please see the weekly home learning sheet we send home to help with this and the handwriting guidance shared with you at parents evening.

Creative Development:

We will continue to explore more exciting artistic techniques this half term, building on our knowledge of how to paint effectively and start to create models in 3D form when exploring our 'Newspaper Heads' project. We will also continue to learn about pitch and rhythm as we learn how to sing. This is a fun song you could sing at home, to the tune of 'Bobby Bingo, B-I-N-G-O':

There was a castle in the clouds,
And in there lived a Giant.
G-I-A-N-T, G-I-A-N-T,
G-I-A-N-T,
Giant was his name, see.

The Giant had a magic goose,
It laid it's eggs all golden.
G-O-L-D eggs, G-O-L-D eggs,
G-O-L-D eggs,
It laid eggs all golden.

The Giant has a magic harp,
Alone it played its music.
M-U-S-I-C, M-U-S-I-C,
M-U-S-I-C,
Alone it played its music!



Perhaps you and your child could come up with another verse to extend the song!

Physical Development: Every half term, we focus on 'multiskills' in Reception, supporting your child to strengthen their gross motor skills. We will be specifically focusing on teamwork challenges, which involve travelling, balancing and footwork this half term.

Humanities Enquiry: We will focus on Geographical skills this half term, as we continue to learn about the natural and man-made features within our own locality, reflecting on what makes Norfolk special and unique. We will explore this area through our school trip, engaging in map work too. We will also learn about how Norfolk and England fit into the UK, as we expand our knowledge of the wider world.

Discovery RE: This half term, we will focus on what we can learn from stories. We will explore some stories from different cultural backgrounds, noticing and reflecting on different value systems. We will be teaching your child how to ask questions and learn key knowledge.

Computing: During our e-safety learning, we will be learning more about how we can use the internet to communicate with different people, thinking about relationships whilst online. We will also be learning about how to use different media to record and share information. For instance, our children will learn how to use IPAD's effectively to take photos and make videos.

Key Reminders & New Information:

Weekly Celebrations:

Thank you for your support at home. We are continuing to celebrate your child's learning at school. Each week, we are celebrating:

NUMBOTS: Please continue to encourage your child to play this at home, as this is a beneficial educational resource to support their Mathematical development. Each week, I have been logging on and printing certificates to promote 'best effort' giving out a certificate based on the number of minutes/gold coins children have been earning at school and at home. See if you can make the top 3!

Kindness Cup: We send this home to one child per week to celebrate several 'acts of kindness' that we have noticed from a child during the week at school. This goes home on a Friday and we ask that it returns to school on a Thursday please.

Values Certificate: Our school values are: Honesty, Respect, Resilience, Communication and Teamwork. This half term, we will be launching a new value, which our school council are currently deciding upon. It is great to get pupil voice to feed into this. Look out on Tapestry for the big reveal!

Hot Chocolate / Ice Lolly Friday: If your child receives 3 'shout out's' then we provide your child with the special treat of having a hot chocolate (in the colder weather) or an Ice lolly (in the warmer weather) with Mrs Mitchell or Mrs DaCosta. 'Shout Out's' are moments where we share your child's learning with the rest of the class, picking out outstanding examples of effort and skill!

Tapestry

Thank you so much for logging into Tapestry and sharing your child's learning with us! We love to see this and it is so rewarding when children in our class come to talk to us, saying 'Have you seen me do...' and we have been able to celebrate and share how proud we are of their achievements. This really helps us to promote how learning happens everywhere, not just at school! We also love it when you add your own comments or 'likes' to our posts. We aim to periodically update Tapestry each week with key updates about your child's learning and share the important language and skills that we are focusing on in school. Please do add your own feedback and comments too! It was really exciting last half term to be able to share our children visiting the lambs that we had on our school field!

Clothing

Please do continue to ensure that your child has a suitable coat at all times in school. Please can you also ensure that your child has a bag in school which contains a spare change of their own clothes. It would also be really helpful if you can place a packet of wet wipes into this bag, so that they can use these to clean themselves in the event of a toileting change. Our PE day continues to be on a Friday. It is important that your child is appropriately dressed for this. Please refer to our website if you need any help knowing what is appropriate for school uniform- especially being aware of appropriate footwear. Thank you.

Snack

We have a lovely range of snacks on offer at school for your child to eat. These snacks are free for your child and help them to build a positive relationship with eating healthy foods. In some cases, some children have come into school bringing in their own snacks. If this something that is currently supporting your child with their eating habits, please can you make sure that the snack is healthy. **We are a nut free school and also must make sure children are not having snacks that are high in sugar during the school day.** Healthy snacks should be a piece of fruit please. We thank you for this in advance.

Questions, Queries and Concerns

I would always welcome you to share any questions or concerns that you may have with a member of our team. We try to make ourselves available during morning drop off and at the collection time at the end of the day so that you can speak to us in person. We also have a class email address, which you may prefer to use: reception@obps.set.education Many thanks for your support. Mr Briscoe