



**OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

YEAR Three

NEWSLETTER

News updates from Old Buckenham Primary School
February 2026: Spring 2

KEY DIARY DATES

2nd Mar: Parent Rep Meeting with Mrs Mitchell @ 0845

3rd Mar: Reading Café @ 2.45pm in Willow Class- *come and share a book with your child*

4th-10th Mar: Book Fair @ OBPS-more information to follow

4th & 5th Mar: National Spelling Competition: Emile

5th Mar: Non-Uniform Day: World Book Day

10th Mar: International Women's Day

16th Mar: STEM sharing assembly for KS2 parents @ 2.30pm

18th Mar: Choir singing at Norfolk Music Festival

25th Mar: Rocksteady Concert to parents

26th Mar: Easter Service at All Saints Church, Old Buckenham

27th Mar- Easter Egg Raffle

Swimming continues every Wednesday



Welcome back to Willow Class - Weaving a tapestry of knowledge.

Welcome back. We hope the children had a lovely half term break and are feeling well rested, refreshed, and ready to learn. There are lots of exciting times ahead this half term, and we're really looking forward to getting started.

At Home

Homework: We are continuing to use our homework books. Homework is due in on Wednesdays please.

Reading: Reading is an important part of the Key Stage 2 curriculum, and there are strong links between regular reading and academic success. We ask that you try to hear your child read daily and log this on Boom Reader. If you have problems accessing this app then please let us know, I can reissue log ins. We send home a reading for pleasure library book and a reading level book with all children. We have our Words of the Week in class for the children to learn.

Maths: Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic tool to help children learn and practise their multiplication and division facts. Regular practice at home really helps to build confidence and fluency.

If your child needs their login details, please let me know and I will be happy to provide them. There is a statutory Times Tables Check at the end of Year 4, so starting and building good habits now will be a huge benefit for the children.

Year 3 Team

Mrs Stroud, Mrs DaCosta, Miss Cooper and Mrs Cook

Our Lessons: Curriculum Information

Spelling: We will be using Emile Spellings to support spelling homework each week. The children can access a range of fun and engaging games that link directly to the spellings they are learning in class. Regular practice will really help to reinforce their understanding.

If you need login details, please let me know and I will be happy to provide them.

English (Reading): We have daily whole class reading activities which build reading fluency focusing on simple texts in different genres. Our books we will be using are 'Around the World in 80 Days' by Jules Vern (Fiction) and 'The Star Whale' by Quinn Tisdale.

English (Writing): In English this half term, the children will be exploring a humorous narrative called *The Book Eating Boy*, focusing on storytelling, character, and creative language. Alongside this, they will also study a thoughtful and emotive poem titled *I Asked a Little Boy Who Could Not See*, encouraging discussion, reflection, and deeper understanding of language and meaning.

Maths: Our key maths focus this half term is exploring fractions and then moving on to lots of practical work with mass and capacity.

Science: We will be investigating rocks and soil. We began our learning journey on this topic in Geography last term when learning about 'Earthquakes', also in Whole Class Reading we have further deepened our knowledge by exploring the book 'The Rock Factory' and then in English last term, we examined an explanation text 'The Earth Beneath our Feet'. This is a super opportunity for our children to really embed their knowledge through practical enquiries.

RE: Focusing on the Jewish faith, we will be answering the learning question, 'How important is it for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do?' Following on from our super trip last term to The Norwich Synagogue we can further explore this religion.

PSHCE: Healthy Me Jigsaw, will help us reflect upon what we need to create a happy and healthy me tool box, including things we need to be healthy and stay safe.

History: Investigating answers to the following learning question, 'What is the secret of the standing stones (Bronze Age Britain)? Mrs Stroud is particularly looking forward to this unit – we will be discovering more about Stonehenge and the Amesbury Archer.

DT: Our theme is 'Structures' specifically 'Shell structures.' We will investigate packaging, learn about product design and the design brief, learn skills to then support us create our own packaging 'gift box'.

Computing: Focusing on 'Branching databases', we will be learning about the importance of structuring information and examining the use of 'yes/ no' questions. We will also think about how technology can be used safely in ways which promote good wellbeing.

Music: In Music this half term, the children will be learning about a range of different genres of music. They will listen carefully, compare pieces, and begin to think critically about what they hear, sharing their opinions and ideas using musical vocabulary.

PE: In PE this half term, the children will be continuing our swimming lessons, where they are building confidence in the water and developing key water safety and stroke skills as part of the national curriculum.

We will also be learning how to play football, focusing on teamwork, coordination, and applying basic skills in fun game situations.

French: We will be learning the vocabulary to be able to speak about animals in French, especially to be able to converse about pets at home where appropriate. We will continue to develop our knowledge of counting from 11-20 in French as well as how to describe someone we know.

How to Help Your Child At Home

Useful websites

- **Times Tables Rock Stars** – Practice multiplication and division facts in a fun, interactive way.
- **Emile Spellings** – Reinforces weekly spellings through engaging games and activities.
- **Dyslexia Gold** – Supports children with reading, spelling, and phonics skills.

Reading:

[Recommended reading list for Year 3](#)

(There are some real epic stories amongst this list!)



[Reading - Oxford Owl for Home](#)

This website has a vast range of resources and has a specific section for reading at home too

[hoopla](#)

This website is linked to your library card and will give you access to hundreds of different ebooks.

English:

[Spelling and Grammar, English Games for 7-11 Years - Topmarks](#)

Topmarks offer lots of engaging Spelling and Grammar games. Check the different tabs as they offer activities across the curriculum too!

[KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

You will find an amazing array of top-quality activities to support your child's English skills.



Maths:

[KS2 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

You will find an amazing array of top-quality activities to support your child's Maths skills.

[Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search](#)

Computing:

[Scratch - Imagine, Program, Share](#)

For children interested in gaming/technology, creative builders and makers

[Dance Mat Typing for 7 - 11 year olds - BBC Bitesize](#)

Teaches children how to touch type.

Useful apps

Some Apps are free, some are free up to a point and some are prepaid.



1-Minute Maths is a free app that helps children build number confidence & fluency through engaging, 1-minute tasks.



Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice. The children have logins for this already.



Hit the Button has quick fire questions on number bonds, times tables, doubling and halving, multiples, division facts and square numbers.



Spelling Shed helps children to progress through essential spelling skills, key sounds, rules, patterns and vocabulary.



MentalUP is a problem-solving app that incorporates a range of activities across the curriculum. It is engaging and exciting!

Reminders

Outside shoes: As our children will be playing outside on the field every day, all children must please bring in a change of shoes. Wellies are good for this as the children can put them on and take them off quickly. Please provide a plastic bag for the wellies/ outside shoes to go in. Thank you

Coats: I think that it will continue to be cold for some time yet, so please ensure that your child has their coat with them every day.

PE: PE Days and Kit Reminder

Wednesday – Swimming: Please ensure your child brings a swimming hat.

Thursday – PE: Children should wear their PE kit: a white T-shirt, dark shorts or tracksuit trousers, and their school jumper.

Please remember that children with longer hair should have it tied back for all PE lessons. Thank you for helping your child be fully prepared and safe during PE activities.

Reading: Library 'just for pleasure' books and reading books matched to your child's current fluency level are changed bi-weekly on Thursdays. Please continue to read daily at home and log your reads on Boom Reader. Reading supports progress in writing, spelling and fluency across all subjects.

Homework: We will continue to use our homework books. At the start of the term, you will find the homework for the whole term. It is up to you which order you complete the activities. It is always very exciting to see the super homework that the children have produced.

Spellings: We use Emile Spellings to support spelling practice at home. It offers a range of fun games and activities that are directly linked to our weekly spelling lists, helping to reinforce learning in an engaging way. Regular use will really support your child's progress.

TTRS: Please continue to practise times tables. We have several incentives to use TTRS. In class if the children practice for 5 mins or more they can colour in a number on the class 100 square. A completed 100 square gives us a treat! If your child goes on TTRS 5 times in 1 week they will get a shout out! 3 shout outs means they have a 'Hot Choc Friday'. If every child in the class logs onto TTRS in a week there is a longer breaktime. These incentives are all to really promote and support the importance of our children learning and practising their times tables.

Contact: If you have any queries or concerns, please speak to one of the team at the start or end of the school day. Alternatively, you can always email using Year3@obps.set.education

Many thanks for your continued support,

Ms Stroud