



**OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

YEAR FOUR NEWSLETTER

News updates from Old Buckenham Primary School

January 2026: Spring 1

KEY DIARY DATES

7th & 8th Jan: Parents evening

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

3.2.26: Choir performing at Young Voices, Wembley

6.2.26- Non-Uniform Day: NSPCC Number Day

9.2.26-15.2.26: Children's Mental Health Week

12.2.26: Safer Internet Day Sharing Assembly to parents @ 2.15pm in hall

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

PE: Monday and Thursday

Happy New Year!

Happy new year Maple Class! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and new year.

I am really looking forward to our new year together and all the fantastic learning we will do.

At Home

Homework: We will continue to use a homework book. This will be given out at the beginning of half term. We will be using a termly grid for the children to complete one piece of work each week in any order. Please continue to prioritise Times Table Rockstar and reading at home.

Reading: Reading is a vital part of learning. 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 are still using our initiative to encourage reading for pleasure in KS2 this year, Reading Bingo. There is a Bingo sheet in the front of their homework book to work their way through with different reading challenges for the year. They will receive a certificate when they complete a line of challenges and a full house. Please remember to write the name of the book on their Bingo sheet.

Maths: Your child's target is to use Times Tables rockstars every day. The children have been working so hard on these in class. Any extra practice at home can make a massive difference!

Our Lessons: Curriculum Information

Spelling: We continue to use our spelling scheme and the children will be practising the spelling rules they learn in class. This half term we be focusing on suffixes.

English (Reading): This half term we will be reading 'The Magic of Myths' thinking about myths from other cultures and exploring a range of stories. We will also be reading 'Classic poems' developing our understanding of poetic devices and performing poems. We will continue to use our Vipers skills to develop our comprehension skills.

English (Writing): We will create our own adventure story based upon Charlie and the chocolate factory using, unique language and inventing our own words. Next, we will create our own diary entry based on 'The Journey of Illiona- A Young Slave' by Richard Platt, using emotive language to create feeling in our writing. This will continue our learning about the Romans from last half term.

Maths: We will be exploring fractions, learning about equivalent and improper fractions. Then we will be learning about decimal points with a focus on place value. We will also continue our maths mastery work with 'going for gold' multiplication facts.

Science: We will be focusing on Living things and their habitats. We will explore the different ecosystems that animals live in and learn about the classifications of different living things.

RE: Our enquiry question is: *How important is the prophet Mohammad to Muslims?* We will explore the ten commandments and understand the prophet Mohammad's role in Islam.

PSHCE: Within the theme of 'Dreams and Goals', we will explore our ambitions and hopes for the future. This includes setting ourselves targets, discussing things we want to achieve in the future and our next steps.

Geography: Our enquiry question is *How is our local environment changing?* We will consider our own local environment and explore its history focusing on the changes over time.

Art: We will be exploring artists working with the genre of still life, contemporary and more traditional. The children will create their own still life inspired art work.

Computing: 'Repetition in shapes' – we will be developing our coding skills using scratch.

Music: We will be practising our singing and recorder playing. We will be focusing on composition skills and experimenting with creating our own songs.

PE: On Mondays we will be doing Gymnastics and on Thursdays we will be doing Tag rugby.

French: our new unit is 'Les Fetes' we will be talking about key dates and important festivals. Additionally, we will be learning the numbers 31-60.

How can you help your child at home?

- Please read regularly with your child asking them questions about what they are reading. These questions can be linked to V.I.P.E.R.S. Then please complete BoomReader to confirm that they have read with you **every day**. Please also encourage them to read a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts.

Vocabulary	Infer	Predict	Explain	Retrieve	Summarise
Find and explain the meaning of words in context. 	Make and justify inferences using evidence from the text. 	Predict what will happen based from the details given or implied. 	Explain how content is related and contributed to the meaning as a whole. Explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of language. Explain the themes and patterns that develop across the text. Explain how information contributes to the overall experience. 	Retrieve and record information and identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. 	Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph. 
Example questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood? Which word tells you that....? Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood? Find one word in the text which means..... Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to..... Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that..... 	Example questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find and copy a group of words which show that... How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this? How do the descriptions of show that they are How can you tell that..... What impression of do you get from these paragraphs? What voice might these characters use? What was thinking when..... Who is telling the story? 	Example questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about? What is happening now? What happened before this? What will happen after? What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this? Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops? Do you think... will happen? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. 	Example questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the text arranged in this way? What structures has the author used? What is the purpose of this text feature? Is the use of effective? The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this. What is the author's point of view? What affect does have on the audience? How does the author engage the reader here? Which words and phrases did effectively? Which section was the most interesting/exciting part? How are these sections linked? 	Example questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you describe this story/text? What genre is it? How do you know? How did...? How often...? Who had...? Who is...? Who did...? What happened to...? What does... do? How is? What can you learn from from this section? Give one example of..... The story is told from whose perspective? 	Example questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened? What happened after? What was the first thing that happened in the story? Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story? In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?

- Encourage your child to learn their spellings from the Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spelling list: [SpellingWordList_Y3-4.pdf \(oxfordowl.co.uk\)](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/SpellingWordList_Y3-4.pdf)
- Please practice any spelling sent home in their homework books.
- In maths, you can support your child at home by practising times tables up to 12 times 12 regularly. This can be incorporated into their day through quick questions, times table songs and games. Turn it into a family competition! Please log in to Times Tables Rockstar at least three times a week.
- Please also encourage your child to access Times Tables Rockstars at home. It is extremely important that the children practice regularly throughout the year to develop their recall. The soundcheck feature gives the children a countdown similar to the Multiplication Table Check.
- If your child shows any interest in their learning outside of school, I would love to see it. Whether this is carrying out their own science experiments, exploring their local area, using their DT skills, or doing some history research!

Please ensure **all** belongings are labelled, including jumpers, wellies, coats and water bottles.

As the weather is changing, please ensure that your child has a change of shoes in school which they can use when playing on the field.

PE: Children should wear their PE kit (white T-shirt, dark shorts/tracksuit trousers, school jumper) to school, with long hair tied up and earrings removed.

PE days will be Mondays and Thursdays.

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, email using Year4@obps.set.education

Many thanks for your support,

Miss McConochie.