



OLD BUCKENHAM  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.oldbuckprimary.org](http://www.oldbuckprimary.org)

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**Issue 9: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share with you some wonderful activities that have been happening across Old Buckenham Primary School since our last newsletter.

Recently, Mr Briscoe hosted an excellent session for prospective Reception parents, which was a truly engaging event. Parents and their children enjoyed a magical bedtime story and participated in a range of exciting activities. These included creating rockets, conducting a fascinating science experiment with dancing raisins, and designing meteor footprint creations. It was a fantastic opportunity for our new families to experience the vibrant learning environment we offer.

I also want to inform you about some upcoming events. Next Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, we are looking forward to our Families Association fundraiser - a fun pyjama non-uniform day. This is always a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and support our pupils.

We are also excited to welcome you all on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, for our special 'you are invited event'. We hope many of you will be able to join us and share in the warmth and energy of our school community.

These activities showcase the rich and diverse learning experiences we provide for our pupils, and we are proud of the engaging and supportive environment we continue to nurture.

Helen Mitchell

*Headteacher*

## Ash Class

Our fantastic Early Years children have had a great start to the Spring term. This week, we have started to explore 'Beebots' in our learning about Early Computing skills. They loved finding out about the long word 'programming' and had great fun exploring how they could make the Beebots move.!

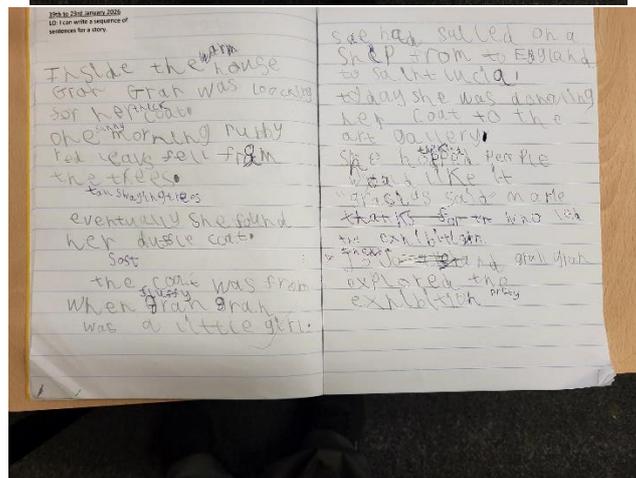
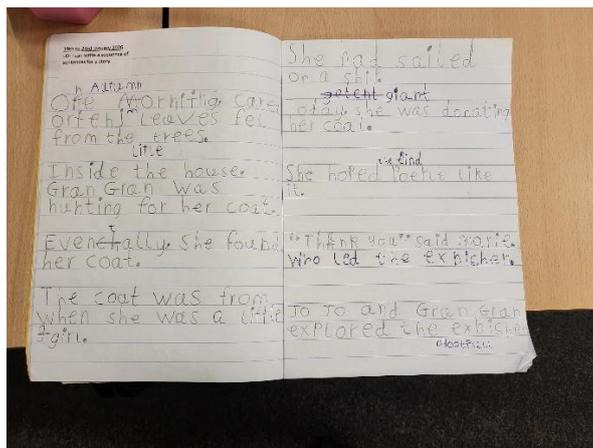
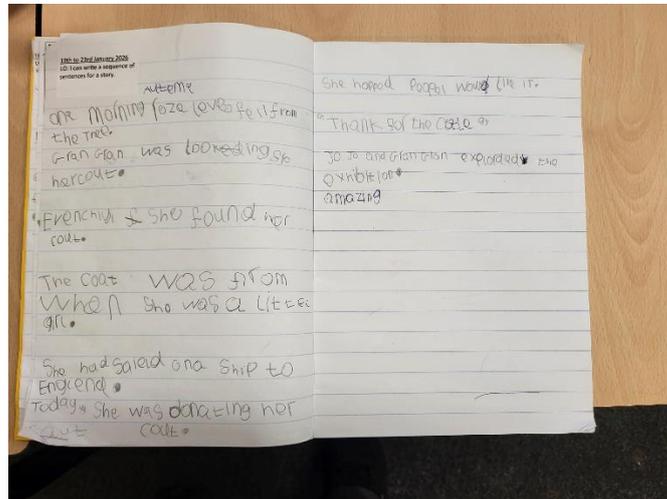


We have also started to raise the awareness of Handwriting Day, which is taking place this coming Friday. We have already started some exciting fun handwriting activities in sensory trays, mark making in 'moon dust' and 'sea slime' so far this week! Look out for more on Tapestry soon



## Oak Class

Year 1 have settled in magnificently to having a new teacher. They have blown me away with their independent writing about Jo Jo and Gran Gran. They have all even had a go at editing their work. Super job Year 1!



## Cherry Class

Cherry Class have been really loving beginning to explore composition in music and using the glockenspiels. Here we are playing based on our own graphic score, then working in pairs to play what that might sound like.



## Willow Class

We have had a very positive and productive few weeks in Willow Class, the children have settled in to having a new teacher very well.

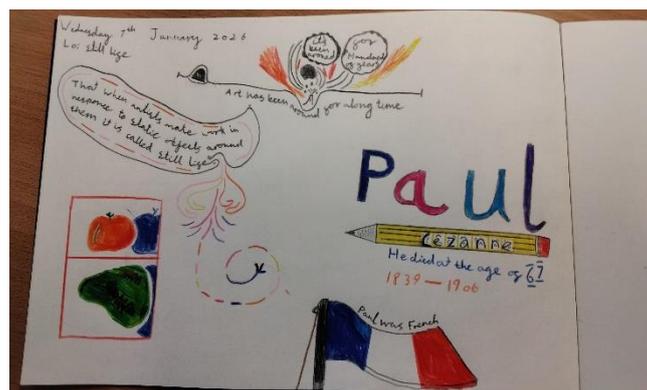
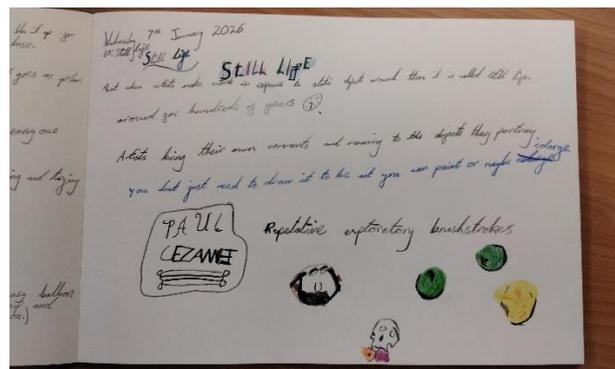
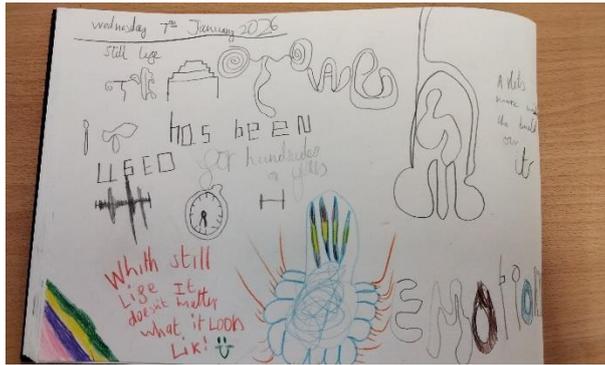
In maths, the children have begun learning a new, more formal method of division and multiplication. This approach builds on their existing understanding and will support them as calculations become more challenging. The children have shown great enthusiasm and resilience while learning these methods, and it has been encouraging to see their confidence grow as they practise step by step. We will continue to reinforce these methods in class, alongside opportunities for discussion and problem-solving.

Our swimming lessons in Diss have also got off to a fantastic start. The children have settled into the routine very well and are thoroughly enjoying their time in the pool. They have demonstrated positive attitudes and growing confidence in the water. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and willingness to try new skills each week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like further information about our learning.

## Maple Class

In year 4, we have started our new art topic: exploring still life. We have created some visual notes about still life and the artist Paul Cezanne.



## Beech Class

In Beech class we have been writing a narrative based on the story *The Nowhere Emporium* and working hard to learn long multiplication and short division. In Music we have particularly enjoyed using glockenspiels to improvise and compose and we have been experimenting with different mediums in Art to create landscape and cityscapes.



## Aspen Class

Year 6 have been busy creating wonderful portrait drawings of their friends, showing great care, observation, and creativity in every piece.



# Attendance

Current Attendance for the whole school	Old Buckenham Primary School & Nursery	National Average	Regional Average
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025- Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>93.6%</b>	<b>94.4%</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>94.5%</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>95.2%</b>

## Class Attendance

The following classes have met our school target of 97%:

<b>6<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
Ash class	Cherry Class
Beech class	Beech Class

### Reading Stars

Well done to the following children in our Reception class who have achieved the following reading stars this week:

Badge 3: Ralfy Rabbit: Arabella

Special Badge: William

Star Reader of the Week: Natalie



### Reading Rainbow

We are so proud of our children in Years 1 and 2 who have been working hard to make their way up the rainbow for reading:

#### Year 2

indigo - Harry, Fen

blue - Remi

yellow - Dylan

orange - Charlie B

Red - Edison



## **Handwriting Day – 23.1.26: Celebrating Creativity, Style and Skill**

EYFS are excited to be celebrating National Handwriting Day with a range of engaging, hands-on activities that bring early mark-making to life. Children will explore sensory trays linked to Letterjoin, giving them the chance to practise pre-mark-making patterns such as loops and spirals, as well as the ladder letter family with a focus on *i*, *l*, and *t*. These trays connect beautifully to our wider learning; for example, today's blue and white paint trays inspired by Antarctica linked to our class book *Lost and Found*. Throughout the week, we'll introduce different sensory materials such as rice to keep the experience fresh and exciting. Alongside this, children will take part in a focused handwriting task in small groups, using funky pens to practise forming *i*, *l*, and *t*.

To continue our celebrations, in Year One we're also creating a vibrant graffiti wall of children's names, showcasing each pupil's unique style and personality. Across the school, classes are embracing National Handwriting Day with activities tailored to their age and skills. Year 5 will begin with handwriting warm-ups and a focus on good posture, before moving on to crafting their best competition sentences and enjoying an afternoon of calligraphy. Year 4 will follow a similar structure, starting with warm-ups and their competition sentence, and then taking part in a special calligraphy workshop led by one of our parents—we're so excited to see the artwork they create. In Year 2, children will join the whole-school challenge of writing *the quick brown fox* as a clear comparison of handwriting progress, and they'll also design their own illuminated letter, inspired by the first letter of their name. These activities promise a wonderful celebration of creativity, individuality, and pride in handwriting. We cannot wait to share the wonderful work achieved through these activities—watch this space for a gallery of proud moments and beautifully crafted writing from every year group.

## **Families Association Update – A Bright Start to 2026** 🐣

### 👋 **Happy New Year**

Happy New Year to all our families! We hope you had a lovely festive break and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead.

### 💖 **Thank You for Your Support**

Thank you so much for supporting our fundraising throughout last year. Your generosity and involvement make a real difference to our school.

### 🏠 **Fundraising Plans for 2026**

Our fundraising in 2026 will focus on projects that benefit the **whole school**.

We will be working with the school and listening to pupil voice to understand what improvements they would love to see in the school grounds.

Some projects may initially support specific year groups, followed by a larger whole-school fundraising project.

### 😊 **Exciting News Coming Soon**

We're starting the year with some exciting news, which we'll be sharing very soon, about how funds raised will be used to improve damaged and older play equipment around the school.

### 🎭 **First Fundraiser of the Year – Pyjama Day**

#### **•Non-Uniform Pyjama Day / Friday 30 January 2026**

•Children can come to school in their comfiest clothes – pyjamas, onesies, oodies or hooded blankets are all welcome

•No slippers please (for safety)

**•£1 cash donation on the day**

### 👋 **Looking Ahead**

We're really looking forward to the fundraising year ahead. Thank you again for your continued support.

**The Families Association (PTA)** 💖



## Health Guidance for Going to School

**Showing up to school every day is critical for children's well-being, engagement and learning.**

**Make sure to send children to school if they are:**

- Generally healthy and well.
- Participating in usual day-to-day activities.
- Children can even go to school if they:
  - Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough.
  - Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness.
  - Have a mild stomachache.
  - Have a mild rash with no other symptoms.
  - Have head lice. Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school.
  - Haven't had a fever overnight and they have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time.

**Avoid keeping children at home unless they are too sick to participate. Please see the back of this handout for details. Note that in most situations, a health-care provider's note is not needed to return.**

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**Children may also avoid school due to anxiety (symptoms may include decreased appetite, feeling tired, stomachache, headache etc). If you are worried that your child may be suffering from anxiety, talk with your teacher, the school nurse, social worker or other school staff to discuss the challenge and identify what can help your child stay in school.**

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**If your child has a compromised immune system or is at high risk for complications from common illnesses, please talk to your school (school nurse if available) about developing a plan with you and your child's health-care provider to keep your child healthy and safe while attending school.**

*Please note: This document is not meant to take the place of local health department/school district guidance including about contagious illnesses such as Covid-19 and the flu.*



## Reasons to keep me home from school and what needs to happen before I can return

What is my symptom?	When should I stay home and when to seek medical care?	When can I return to school?
<b>Fever</b>	I have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher. <b>Seek medical care</b> if I have fever and any of the following: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.	If I have not had a fever overnight without the use of fever-reducing medication and I am feeling better.
<b>Vomiting and/or diarrhea</b>	If I have vomited 2 or more times in the last 24 hours. If my stool is watery and I may not make it to the toilet in time. <b>Seek medical care</b> if I have stomach cramping and fever, I have bloody or black stool, or I am showing signs of dehydration (tired and sleepy, dry mouth and not urinating at least once in the last 8 hours).	If I did not vomit overnight and I am able to drink liquids without throwing up. If my diarrhea has improved.
<b>Persistent cough or trouble breathing</b>	<b>Seek medical care</b> if I have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching my breath or if I develop a fever with the cough. These symptoms may be signs of Covid-19 or flu and should be evaluated by a health-care provider.	Once I am feeling better and I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider. If my symptoms were due to asthma, please make sure that I have permission to use breathing medication at school.
<b>Rash</b>	<b>Seek medical care</b> if the rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises and/or if I develop a fever.	Rash has healed or I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider.
<b>Eye irritation</b>	<b>Seek medical care</b> if I have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or an eye injury.	Once I am feeling better.
<b>Sore throat</b>	<b>Seek medical care</b> if I have drooling, trouble swallowing or a fever and/or rash.	Once I am feeling better. If I was prescribed an antibiotic by my health-care provider, then I can return 12 hours after the first dose, if I am without fever and I am feeling better.

*If you don't know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's health-care provider, a local urgent care or the school nurse.*

