



OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception – Ash Class

NEWSLETTER

November 2025: Autumn 2

KEY DIARY DATES

- 03/11:** School Closed- Staff INSET Day
- 04/11:** First day back at school for Autumn 2
- 10/11-14/11 Anti-Bullying week: Power for Good
- 10/11 Wearing Odd Socks- awareness day as part of Anti-Bullying Week (11-15th Nov)
- 11/11:** Prospective Reception Parents for Sep 2026 – Open Session. Book through the office.
- 14/11 TTRS Battle of the Bands -Non-Uniform Day: Dress Like a Rockstar
- 18/11 Anti-Bullying Week Sharing Assembly @2.30pm
- 19/11: Reception Fundraiser – Movie Shorts Experience
- 21/11 Children In Need non-school uniform day
- 28/11: School Closed- Staff INSET Day
- 9/12 EYFS and KS1 Nativity Performance @9.30
- 12/12 Christmas Jumper Day and Santa Dash
- 15/12 Whole School Panto trip to Norwich Theatre Royal
- 17/12 Christmas lunch and Christmas Service at All Saints Church, Old Buckenham

Welcome!

Thank you so much for all of your support last half term. We have loved teaching our class and we are delighted that they are increasing in confidence every day!

This half term, we will continue to build their confidence and enthusiasm for school as we engage with some really exciting new learning opportunities. In the build up to Christmas, the Nativity show is always a highlight and our focus on storytelling this half term should be really fun and engaging too.

We really hope your child has had the chance to rest and relax after a busy first half term. We can't wait for another fun one to begin!

Tapestry:

Please do log onto our Tapestry account and see what your child has been engaging with during Autumn 1! We would love you to make comments and share your own 'Home Learning' experiences. Thank you so much to those of you who have already engaged with this!



Reception Fundraising:

We will be running a fun 'Movie Shorts' session afterschool to raise money for our Reception School Trips later in the year. We hope that this will help to reduce the cost of the trips. This will run on: Wednesday 19th November. Look out for a separate letter to book a place for your child.

Reception Team

Mr Briscoe – Early Years, Art, DT & Computing Lead.
Reception Class Teacher Mon-Fri (Full Time).

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.

Hook into the new half term: Terrific and Terrifying Tales!

The focus of this half term is to develop your child's vocabulary and speaking skills through a rich range of exciting experiences. We will be learning about how stories can be told for lots of different purposes, as we explore how traditional tales and historical stories have been passed down from generation to generation. We will be encouraging your child to understand how some stories are based on real events, whilst others are interpretations of what might have happened. We will also be teaching imaginative stories, giving your child the opportunity to make up their own adventures whilst developing their social and creative skills.

Some of the things we will be learning about will include:

- the roles of 'goodies and baddies' within stories; reflecting on how characters can be portrayed in stories, such as the 'Big Bad Wolf' within the story of the Three Little Pigs and 'Pigs Might Fly'.
- how stories can help us to learn about the past; thinking about how things have changed over time.
- how we can use drama, acting and creative skills to bring stories to life and make up our own stories too!
- how to work together to join in with a Nativity show, learning how to sing and dance to actions of the Nativity story.

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

Our next topic is called 'Celebrating Difference'. This will involve your child:

- reflecting on their strengths and talents, and what makes them unique and special
- beginning to develop resilience to keep going with a task; gaining confidence and skill as they do this
- understanding and celebrating that everyone is different
- including others within play and group games
- trying to begin to solve problems and develop independence in the way they approach different situations
- learning what 'kind words' are and how to give compliments whilst making friendships

Literacy Development:

Our next model texts will be called 'Poppies', linking to Remembrance Day and 'Pigs Might Fly', which is based upon the traditional tale 'The Three Little Pigs'. We will be learning about this story, developing your children's oracy and mark making skills through our 'Brave Approach'. We will also deepen our understanding of instructions by engaging in another cookery project linked to our Nativity!

You might like to...

- Help your child to learn the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and compare this to other traditional tales, such as the Gingerbread Man. Perhaps you could visit a Library to read these!
- Create your own range of structures and investigate whether they fall down! Why is this?

Mathematical Development:

During this half term, these are some of the skills that we will be teaching:

- It's Me (0-5):** learning about how to recognise and create these numbers; thinking about their number bonds and composition. We will have a big focus on the representation models of Whole-Part-Part this half term. See Tapestry about this!
- Subitising:** learning how to recognise numbers through different spatial arrangements. Subitising means that your child can spot a number and identify the total in the set without counting it.
- Shapes:** we will also be learning about the properties of different shape patterns.

Phonics:

We will continue to learn about the sounds that individual letters make, and how these sounds can blend together to make words through our Phonics scheme called 'Little Wandle'. As mentioned in the Phonics Meeting, I have indicated which sounds we will focus on each week here, so that you can support your child to learn these sounds at home. The sounds we will learn this half term are as follows:

(03/11) ff, ll, ss, j **(10/11)** v w x y **(17/11)** z zz qu ch **(24/11)** sh th ng nk **(01/12)** s/z word endings **(08/12)** Assessment Week **(15/12)** Review Week

There is a video which shows a young child enunciating the sounds correctly on the Little Wandle website which is really useful. This is the way we will teach your child to pronounce the sounds, so it would be helpful if you could be consistent. Link:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> (Watch the video: 'Phase 2 Sounds taught in Reception Autumn 2')

Creative Development:

During this half term, there will be opportunities for your child to improve their singing and acting skills! Here is one song you could sing at home (Sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star!') Can you think of another verse which is about a fire engine?

Planes fly up into the sky,
Sit and watch until you fly.
Hear the pilot in the cockpit,
Wait for the cabin crew to show us
where to sit.
Planes fly up into the sky,
Sit and watch the clouds go by.

Hear the trams go clickety clack,
As they go along the track.
Wave to the driver, pay for your fares,
Wave to the passengers sitting on
their chairs.
Hear the trams go clickety clack,
As they go along the track.

Ferries sail across the sea,
Lots of space for you and me.
Wave to the captain, hear the
engine roar,
Wave to the people standing on the
shore.

Ferries sail across the sea,
Lots of space for you and me.

We will also be focusing on our design skills this half term, teaching your children different joining techniques and developing their spatial awareness to improve their modelling skills.

Physical Development: Within our PE sessions, we will be learning multi-skills across the half term to the fun theme of 'The land of fairytales'. We will be supporting your child to learn how to work in teams, as they develop their co-ordination and balancing skills during games and activities. They will have the chance to explore different equipment too.

Historical Enquiry: We will also be exploring stories and sources from the past whilst focusing on 'The Great Fire of London'. This will involve teaching your child about the important role of fire fighters within this context and how London has changed over time. We will be developing children's chronological, inference and deduction skills, whilst encouraging them to ask lots of questions!

Discovery RE: We will begin to learn about another important story- the Nativity story. Again, we will be encouraging your child to reflect on their own thoughts and ideas about this, giving them the chance to ask questions and act it out. We can't wait to share our nativity story with you!

Science: Through lots of practical and hands on explorations, we will be learning about materials and forces this half term. There will also be lots of opportunities for 'awe and wonder', within simple chemistry based challenges.

Computing: We will learn how to use some simple IPAD applications, such as using the camera app to take photos and short videos within our Computing learning. Each and every half term, we also start our term by finding out more about E-Safety. This half term, we will be focusing on how people can be kind or unkind online. We will be challenging your child to think carefully about how to stay safe online.

Key Reminders & New Information:

Tapestry

Please do continue to check and log-in to your child's Tapestry account. We love it when you engage with this and add your own comments or 'likes' to our posts. We aim to periodically update this each week with key updates about your child's learning and share the important language and skills that we are focusing on in school. We also encourage you to make your own posts of observations you have created through Tapestry which your child can share with ourselves and their peers at school. This is the way we effectively do a 'Show and Tell'. If you have not yet activated your account, the link may have expired. You are more than welcome to get in touch, and I will help reactivate the link for you. We would really love your engagement with this!

Literacy & Maths

It was great to see parents/carers attend our Phonics and Maths Meetings last half term. Thank you so much for joining us. We will continue to support your child to grow in confidence this half term as they further learn and refine these core skills. Please continue to use the new systems that we introduced to you last half term to help further strengthen our communication together. Remember that we actively encourage you to write in your child's 'Animal Words' booklet and log the books that you read at home on Boom Reader / Go Read. We will continue to celebrate this as your child moves through the bands of the 'Early Years Reading Stars'. Please do log onto Boom Reader and share with us how your child is getting on at home. It is lovely to be able to praise them!

Outdoor Clothing

We use our outdoor area regularly, as it forms an essential part of our curriculum. Therefore, it would be extremely useful if your child could bring a coat and a pair of wellington boots with them to school (if they have not already done so). We have a few spare pairs which children may borrow, but these are limited. Thank you for your support here! A waterproof coat is also essential for lunch time play in the cold weather. Gloves and hats are welcome to be stored in your child's bookbag and we will teach them how to be independent to place these on. Please name these, as our children are still learning to take responsibility for their own belongings.

Spare Clothes

Please continue to provide your child with a backpack which contains a set of clothes that they can change into, should they need to do so. Please also place a packet of wet wipes into this bag, so that your child can clean themselves when needed.

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. Our class email address is: reception@obps.set.education Many thanks for your support. Mr Briscoe