



OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception – Ash Class

NEWSLETTER

News updates from Old Buckenham Primary School

Jan / Feb 2026: Spring 1

KEY DIARY DATES

05/01: School INSET DAY

06/01: First day back at school for children
- Spring 1

07/01 and **08/01:** Parents Evening 3.15-
6.15pm

09/01: Non-Uniform Day; Livestock 2026
Fundraiser- for STEM WEEK Science
Experience

23/01: Handwriting Celebration Day!

28/01: EYFS / KS1 Movie Shorts Fundraiser (2)
3.15-4.30pm

29th Jan-4th Feb: National story telling week

2.2.26: You are Invited: Parent drop in to
class : Zones of Regulation

06/02: NSPCC Number Day: Non-Uniform

9.2.26-15.2.26: Children's Mental Health
Week

13.2.26: EYFS/KS1 Safer Internet Day
Sharing Assembly to parents @ 2.30pm in
hall

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

Welcome!

Thank you again for all of your support during the Autumn term. It will be a pleasure to reflect on the great progress your child has made so far when we meet for Parent's Evening at the start of this term. I really hope your child has now had chance to have a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break, ready for lots of exciting new learning this half term. Please do take a look at the information in this newsletter, informing you about the key skills and events coming up! We look forward to another great half term teaching your children. Please check out what we have been learning on Tapestry too!

Reception Fundraising and Enrichment

During the Summer term, your child will have the chance to engage in two school trips. We have planned this in, as we know how exciting and enriching learning outside the classroom is. Our Reception children in the past have often loved to go on a coach and love the fun, practical activities involved.

We have realised that the challenge to this is that the cost of a school trip now can be significantly more than in years gone by. Therefore, I will be running a few fundraising events in the Spring term to take away from the overall cost of the trip. The first one is to have a 'Movie Shorts' event afterschool, like I did in the Autumn term. If you are interested, please note the date and return the upcoming letter with more information.

Reception Team

Mr Briscoe – Early Years, Art, DT & Computing
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.

Hook for the new half term: Astonishing Animals (Science Enquiry)

This half term we will be learning about different polar and arctic animals, as we explore how these animals are adapted to live within such an extreme habitat. We will learn about how delicate and fragile the world is, as we reflect on the impact our choices have on the environment that these animals live within. We will also aim to inspire your child, as they find out interesting facts and information about the amazing adaptations these animals have through exciting play based and adult led opportunities throughout the half term. At home, you could encourage your child to ask questions and make positive choices to look after our planet. Educating your child about simple actions, like recycling and saving energy, could have a long-lasting impact!



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

Our next theme is called 'Dreams and Goals'. This will involve your child:

- Setting targets about what skills they wish to try to improve upon this half term/this year.
- Supporting your child's learning behaviours; specifically focusing on motivation, engagement, resilience and honesty. We will focus on developing a 'Growth Mindset' and share this via Tapestry with you!
- Celebrating their own achievements and the achievements of others.
- Beginning to learn about different job roles; finding out about some inspirational people that help to positively make a difference to their own dream or goal for the world.

Literacy Development:

Our next model texts are called 'Lost and found'; 'If Sharks Disappeared' and 'Penguin Fact Files'. 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 Writer Approach', as we focus on writing words and short phrases linked to our learning!

You might like to...

- Visit the Library and find some exciting non-fiction books about Antarctica to read.
- Watch David Attenborough on programmes like Blue Planet. What different sea creatures can you see? What is their habitat like? What adaptations do they have to thrive?
- Read for pleasure- Great examples include 'The snail and the whale' & 'Lost and Found'.

Mathematical Development:

This half term, we will focus on:

- 0-8:** Deepening our knowledge of 0-8, focusing on subitising and representing 0-8.
- One More/One Less:** We will explore addition and subtraction number sentences using different mathematical resources.
- Problem Solving & Number Bonds:** Learn the number bonds for 0-8 and focus on reasoning skills, such as working out missing numbers within 'Whole Part Part' Models.
- Mass & Capacity:** We will develop our skills of comparison and refine our vocabulary.
- Exploring Doubles:** We will learn more about this special type of addition, and what equal, unequal, odd and even vocabulary means.

Phonics:

We will continue to learn about the sounds that letters make, specifically focusing on digraphs. Following on from last half term, we will also continue to develop the important skills of blending and segmenting these sounds together at word level. In turn, this will help us to read sentences.

Our focus each week will be:

(05/01) ai, ee, oa, igh **(12/01)** oo / oo, ar, or **(19/01)** ur, ow, oi, ear **(26/01)** air, er & double letter consonants- e.g. tt, pp, bb **(02/02)** polysyllabic words **(09/02)** Review & Assess Week

You could look for these sounds when you are reading books for pleasure, or when playing board games. On the 'Little Wandle' website, there is a video which shows a young child enunciating the sounds correctly. 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 3 Sounds taught in Reception Spring 1')

Creative Development:

This half term, we will focus on Art skills, as we explore 'surface and colour' through some interesting printmaking skills and techniques.

We will explore plasticine and the use of recycled and natural and sustainable materials, whilst engaging in teamwork challenges! We will also continue to learn new songs and experience music from different genres. There is a fun song you could sing at home below, to the tune of 'Down in the Jungle Where Nobody Goes':

*Down in the ocean where nobody goes,
There's a humpback whale washing his clothes.
With a rub-a-dub here and a rub-a-dub there, That's
the way he washes his clothes.*

*Boogie, a woogie, a boogie woogie woogie
woogie. Boogie, a woogie, a boogie woogie
woogie woogie.*

*Boogie, a woogie, a boogie woogie woogie
woogie.*

That's the way he washes his clothes.

*Down in the ocean where nobody goes,
There's a bottlenose dolphin washing his clothes.
With a rub-a-dub here and a rub-a-dub there, That's
the way he washes his clothes.*

(Repeat chorus x1)

*Down in the ocean where nobody goes,
There's a loggerhead turtle washing his clothes.
With a rub-a-dub here and a rub-a-dub there, That's
the way he washes his clothes.*

(Repeat chorus x1)

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

Physical Development: This half term we will be focusing on core fundamental skills within PE. We will focus on movement, co-ordination and balance during fun games and challenges. We will also focus on how to work as part of a team, trying to approach challenges with a 'Growth Mind-set' and a positive attitude. We will also focus on your child's footwork, as we focus on strengthening Gross Motor Skills.

Geographical Enquiry: This half term, we will be focusing on our observational skills to notice key features about the world around us. We will explore our school grounds and features of our local area, using tools such as Google Earth and different maps to help us. We will also compare what we learn about our locality to a contrasting one; as we explore Antarctica and the Polar Regions.

Discovery RE: We will continue to deepen our children's understanding of different stories by exploring how other significant events at this time of year link to different cultures and communities. For instance, we will learn more about how the 'New Year' is celebrated, as we learn about the traditions of 'Chinese New Year'.

Computing: We will continue to support your child to learn about e-safety, as they find out more about their own identity and how to protect their own personal information, discussing 'consent'. We will also be giving your child the chance to understand more about how to engage with some simple early programming skills.

Key Reminders & New Information:

NUMBOTS

Thank you for supporting your child to log onto NUMBOTS. This really does have a great impact on your child's speed and confidence to engage with number fluency challenges. Please continue to encourage your child to play, 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', which we give out in our 'Values Assembly' to further celebrate that it is all about trying your best! This usually takes place on a Tuesday.

Boom Reader / Go Read!

As a reminder, we currently use an online version of a 'reading record' where we log your child's reading progress at school. We encourage you to log the books that your child reads too. This can be the **Phonics decodable books** that we send home each week **and** you can log books that your child has chosen to read for pleasure with yourselves too. We reward effort. Therefore, certificates are sent home for key milestones reached. For example, once your child has read a combined 30 times at home and at school, they will get the 'Ralfy Rabbit' book badge and certificate as part of our 'Early Years Reading Stars'. Please do log on and share with us what your child has read, so that we can celebrate this with them at school. There are lots of badges and certificates to collect! We've been making this into a fun competition and our children are enjoying trying to get to 1st Place in the class overall! A huge shout out to Lotta from our class before Christmas, who has already managed to achieve her 8th Reading badge! Who can catch her up?!

DT – Junk Modelling Still Welcome!

A huge thank you for your junk modelling donations last half term. You were so amazing once again in helping us to keep our Creative Area stocked up with amazing treasures for our children to explore! Please do keep on sending any resources that you can save from your recycling bin! This could include bottle tops; cardboard boxes, yoghurt pots, lollysticks, cardboard rolls or tubes, small paper bags, etc. Thank you!

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!

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. Please ensure that you 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. Thank you.

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