



OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception – Ash Class

NEWSLETTER

News updates from Old Buckenham Primary School

February / March 2026: Spring 2

KEY DIARY DATES

24/02: Reception Class 'Hearing and Vision' Session – Nurses in to visit selected children

25/02: Dental Team Visiting selected Reception Pupils

02/03: Parent Rep meeting @ 0845 with Mrs Mitchell

Reading Café @ 2.45pm in Ash Class- *come and share a book with your child*

03/03: Reception & KS1 'Movie Shorts' Fundraiser – please sign up via MCAS

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

05/03: Non Uniform Day: World Book Day!

10/ 03: : International Women's Day

13/ 03: STEM sharing assembly for KS1/EYFS parents @ 2.30pm

16/03: Exciting 'Learn About Livestock' Enrichment!

24/03: Reception & KS1 'Movie Shorts' Fundraiser – please sign up via MCAS

26/ 03: Easter Service at All Saints Church, Old Buckenham

27/03: Children break up for half term

Welcome!

Thank you so much for all of your support last term. Our children have made such great progress since September, and we look forward to that continuing this half term.

We will be moving on to learning about extraordinary and inspirational people this half term, as we explore the roles 'real-life superheroes' have within their own jobs. I would love to hear from you if you would be interested in sharing your own experiences with our class. We will be having a particular focus on doctors, nurses and the NHS, but this is by no means limiting the amazing other job roles people have. Please do get in touch with me if you can spare us your time and come and talk to our children!

Reception Fundraising and Enrichment

Thank you so much for supporting us last term with our 'Movie Shorts' fundraiser. We will be running this again, as our children appeared to enjoy this so much last half term! The money raised will contribute towards the enrichment activities that we engage with in Reception. Our next 'Movie Shorts' sessions will run on:

Tuesday 3rd March – Afterschool until 4.30pm

Tuesday 24th March – Afterschool until 4.30pm

If you are interested in this, please respond to the communication that will be sent out via the school office / MCAS.

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.

Half-termly Curriculum Strand: Extraordinary People

As a fun hook into this topic, we will begin in the fantasy world with play around Superheroes, as many of our children have shown us recently that they love this! We will reflect on the talents, skills and unique qualities that different superheroes have, as we engage in imaginative play and explore your child's interests. We will then encourage our children to think about real life extraordinary people. We will explore the important role that our incredible NHS staff have, reflecting on how to look after our mental and physical health and well-being. We would also love your parental engagement- Please do speak to us if you have any expertise that you would be willing to talk to our children about! This does not have to be NHS specific- there are so many other inspirational job roles too, such as carers, fire fighters, business owners, dentists, etc.

At home, you could:

- Encourage your child to think about what extraordinary talents they might wish to have in a fantasy context, as well as the talents that they have in real life. Build on our Jigsaw learning about 'Dreams and Goals' from last half term. What skill could your child focus on trying to improve at home? E.g. sharing, speaking, drawing, reading, etc.
- Discuss how different people help us through their professions and / or through their personalities and characteristics. You could talk to your child about your own job or jobs family members engage with!

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

Our next theme is called 'Healthy Me'. This will involve your child:

- learning how exercise and rest is essential to develop a healthy body
- finding out about the Eatwell plate, as we reflect on the importance of a balanced diet
- learning about the important role sleep plays in recharging the body
- understanding why cleanliness is very important for health and well-being
- understanding why it is important to brush our teeth and learn how to get dressed
- learning about how to stay safe in difficult situations (stranger danger)

At home, encourage your child to be like our Growth Mind-set character 'Olaf the Snowman'. Challenge your child to try to show resilience to be independent when brushing their teeth and getting dressed!

Literacy Development:

Our next model texts are called 'Nat Fantastic' and 'The Proudest Blue'. 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 Approach', as we focus on writing words and short phrases linked to our learning!

You might like to...

- Support your child to write for a purpose, encouraging them to help write shopping lists for your weekly food shop for instance.
- Encourage your child to use their confidence to talk to people from different professions. For instance, they could speak to a Librarian and learn about their job if visiting a local library!

Mathematical Development:

This half term, we will focus on:

- 9-10:** Deepening our knowledge of 9-10, whilst revisiting the relationships within 0-8.
- One More/One Less:** We will continue to work out early addition and subtraction number sentences using different mathematical resources.
- Problem Solving & Number Bonds:** Learn the number bonds that 0-6 have, focusing on problem solving skills, such as working out a missing number or a word problem.
- Doubling:** We will be focusing on doubling addition number patterns/sentences.
- Length, Height and Time:** We will develop our skills of comparison and learn accurate vocabulary when exploring these skills.

Phonics:

We will continue to learn about the composition of words this half term, studying digraphs, trigraphs and tricky words as we aim to read more fluently. Below, I have indicated what we will be focusing on each week, so that you can support your child at home:

(23/02) Reviewing ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, oo, ow, oi, ear, er, air **(02/03)** words with double letters and longer words **(09/03)** words with two or more digraphs **(16/03)** word ending in 'ing' and compound words **(23/03)** longer words with 's' / 'es' in the middle/end

You could look for these sounds when you are reading books for pleasure, or when playing board games. There is a fantastic video online on the 'Little Wandle' website, which shows a young child enunciating the sounds correctly, which you may find helpful at home. Watch: '**Phase 3 Sounds taught in Reception Spring 1**' to see this in action. This is a free resource, with no log in required.

Link: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Creative Development:

We will be focusing on widening your child's knowledge of different mark making and joining techniques this half term, creating finger puppets and other interesting designs. We will focus on building your child's resilience to persevere at a task and refine their skills.

Within our Music provision, we will continue to enable your child to have access to a range of instruments and encourage them to make up their own performances. In our whole school Music assembly, our children will be joining in with singing practise.

Here is a song that you could sing at home, which we will also teach at school: (This is sung to the tune of '1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Once I Caught A Fish Alive'.)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, take my super-car to drive.
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, turns into a car again.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, practising my superhero kicks.
5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, super-speedy super-run!

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, into the water I can dive,
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, my super suit is dry again.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, come and see my super tricks,
5, 4, 3, 2, and 1, being super's so much fun!



Physical Development: This half term we will be focusing on multi skills within PE. We will focus on movement, co-ordination and balance as we learn key kicking and throwing skills. 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.

Historical Enquiry: We will be studying a very influential and significant character in British history- Winston Churchill, as we find out about the role of Prime Ministers and leaders. We will be developing children's chronological skills as we explore resources and study stories and accounts of the past; encouraging children to infer and deduce from historical sources, making links into our prior learning about London.

Discovery RE: We will continue to deepen our children's understanding of the changes within seasons, as we think about how Spring can be a sign of new life. We will make links to the life story of Jesus Christ, making links from our Nativity story to the Easter story.

Computing: We will continue to support your child to learn about e-safety, as we reflect on health and well-being in relation to technology. We will also be giving your child the chance to understand more about how to engage with some simple early data handling skills, as we explore how to collect information about our children's interests on Tens Frames and using IPAD's.

Science: This half term we will be learning about 'forces', as we explore interesting experiments and make observations from play based learning opportunities. For instance, we will be exploring how cars can move and how objects travel in the air and in different liquids. We will be exploring vocabulary such as gravity, air resistance and friction. You could have fun at home building paper aeroplanes out of different resources and testing which one can fly the furthest or land the quickest.

We will also explore space, as we learn about how our planet is the 'blue planet' and make some simple comparisons to other planets in the solar system. Furthermore, we will revisit prior learning about 'humans', as we learn about job roles and professions that our 'real-life superheroes' work within.

Key Reminders & New Information:

Reading and Animal Words

Thank you for supporting your child to learn how to read at home. We will continue to celebrate this as your child moves through the bands of the 'Early Years Reading Stars'. Please do keep logging onto Boom Reader and celebrating your child's great effort at home. I check these each week and use this information to celebrate their effort when we are engaging with our Reading groups. Mrs Mitchell also loves to praise this great effort during our Values Assembly each week. We love to give out certificates! If you are having any problem accessing or doing this, please speak to a member of staff and we will happily try to help.

Please also note the guidance that I placed in the front of your child's 'Animal Words' booklet. It would be really helpful if you could leave staff to tick and check off the words when we are doing our check in's. It can become a little confusing for us if you are also ticking the words at home. We will endeavor to check your child's book approximately once every two weeks. If you are finding that you feel your child is progressing rapidly with these words, then please do focus on how they spell these words as an additional challenge. This will really support their writing fluency. It would also be really supportive if your child can focus on forming the letters within the words accurately, using the phrases sent home to do this.

A huge thank you also to the engagement with NUMBOTS at home. This is fantastic, thank you!

Water Bottles

Please can your child come into school with clear water in their water bottles, rather than squash.

DT – Junk Modelling Still Welcome!

A huge thank you for your junk modelling donations this year. You were so amazing in helping us 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, lollysticks, cardboard rolls or tubes, small paper straws, etc.

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'.

Key Reminders & New Information:

Clothing

Please do continue to ensure that your child has a suitable coat and wellies at all times in school, as we use our outdoor area to engage in 'messy challenges' and have outdoor play at lunchtime daily. Please can you also ensure that your child has a bag in school which contains a spare change of their own clothes. It would also be really helpful if you can 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. This can however be a busy time sometimes!

We therefore also have a class email address, which you may prefer to use:
reception@obps.set.education

Many thanks for your support.

Mr Briscoe