



OLD BUCKENHAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Issue 1: 11th September 2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into September, it's wonderful to see our pupils returning with such enthusiasm and energy after the summer break. The transition back to school has been smooth, and it's clear that our children are excited to be reunited with their friends and ready to embrace the new term ahead.

This week has been particularly special as we've welcomed parents and carers into school for our meet the teacher sessions. It's been lovely to see Year 6, Year 5 and Year 4 families already, and we look forward to spending time with the remaining year groups as they get to know their new teachers and discover what's in store for them this year. These meetings are such an important opportunity for families to understand what's happening in their child's classroom and to build those vital connections between home and school.

I'm delighted to share that Year 2 have already ventured out on their first school trip of the year to Holkham Hall. After the trip was postponed from last year, it was wonderful to finally make it happen – and the weather certainly cooperated! The pupils had a fantastic time, and experiences like these are so valuable for bringing learning to life beyond the classroom.

On Tuesday, 8th September, we celebrated National Read a Book Day in style. During assembly, our pupils took part in a quiz about book quotes, and I was thrilled by how many of them could identify the correct books and authors. It really showcased just how much our children love reading and how engaged they are with stories. This celebration ties in perfectly with the introduction of our new reading record books, which parents and staff will be using to document and celebrate the wonderful reading our pupils are doing both at school and at home. I'd encourage families to make the most of these records – they're a brilliant way to track progress and share in the joy of reading together.

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind you that next Friday, 18th September, we'll be holding a non-uniform day. We're asking pupils to wear bright colours to mark both Youth Mental Health Day and National Fitness Day – two important occasions that remind us of the value of looking after our wellbeing, both mentally and physically. It's a great opportunity for our school community to show our support for these meaningful causes.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we embark on another exciting year together.

Helen Mitchell

Executive Headteacher

Ash Class

Our children were really excited to play outside on our first day at school! A couple of children came up to me pleading that I would read our Brilliant Bedtime story again- Ralfy Rabbit: Book Burglar! How could I refuse! I called over to everyone that I was going to start reading it outside and we had so many children run over to hear the story in their choosing time!

It was such a heart-warming moment to see so many children wanting to enjoy a story together. We sat on some of our new wooden logs and benches, which were hand crafted by a member of our grounds team at our Trust. Our new outdoor storytelling area will be a great place to enjoy ourselves this year. Such a lovely way to start bonding as a class together.



Oak Class

What a brilliant start Oak Class have had to the new school year! The children in Oak have displayed an excellent attitude towards learning and have thrown all of their effort into every task they have been set!

In RE, we have been learning about what it means to be a creator. All of the children were given 20 minutes to junk model anything they'd like, and they invented some very thoughtful and creative pieces. Some made faces, cups, wands- we even had a cat toy, which was certainly impressive!

It has also been wonderful to see that children have been reading at home already this week. All children have now been given their reading record, levelled phonics book and library book.

It has been a superb start to the year, and we can't wait to continue with our learning this term.

Cherry Class

Cherry Class have been very busy, as we have already made bird feeders, done gardening and been on a school trip. We will be writing instructions for making bird feeders, so if you are interested you know which children to ask!

Reading records have gone home, so I'm sure it's not long before we will be handing out our first reading rainbow certificates... but who to?

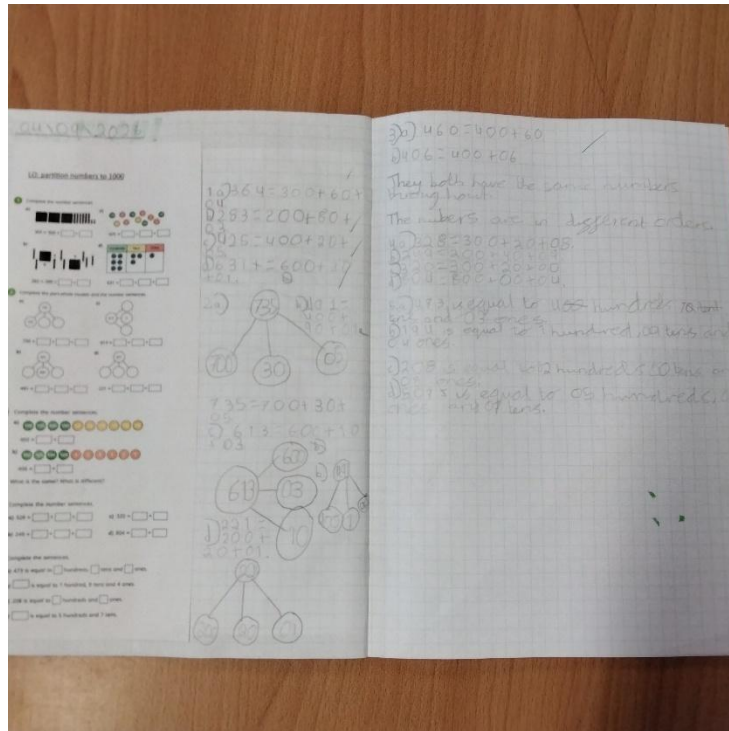


Willow Class

In Willow Class, children have begun the new school year READY to learn! They have demonstrated that they are a RESPECTFUL class and have been kindly helping their new teachers, Mrs Luck and Mrs Paulson, settle in as well! We have selected two class librarians to champion reading and Oliver and Victoria have done a wonderful job at keeping our class book nook tidy! Children have been learning about number and place value in maths and are enjoying our class book 'The Day the Crayons Came Home'. Well done Willow Class!

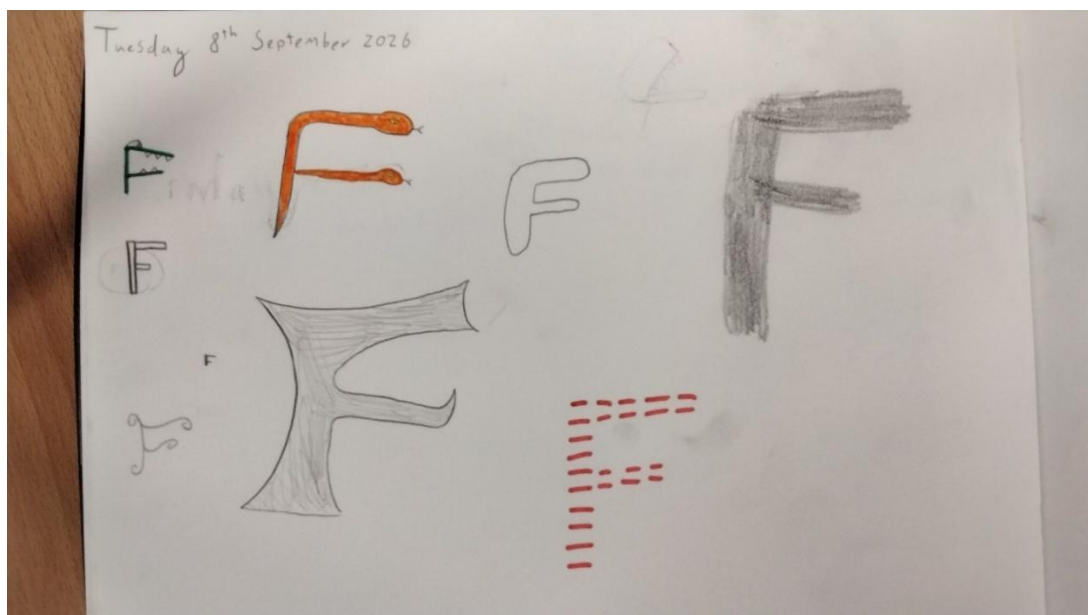
Maple Class

Maple Class have settled into year 4 and have been working very hard! The children have been learning about place value in Maths. I have been very impressed with their reasoning and problem solving around place value. We have also began working out our times tables on a counting stick. Keep it up Maple Class!



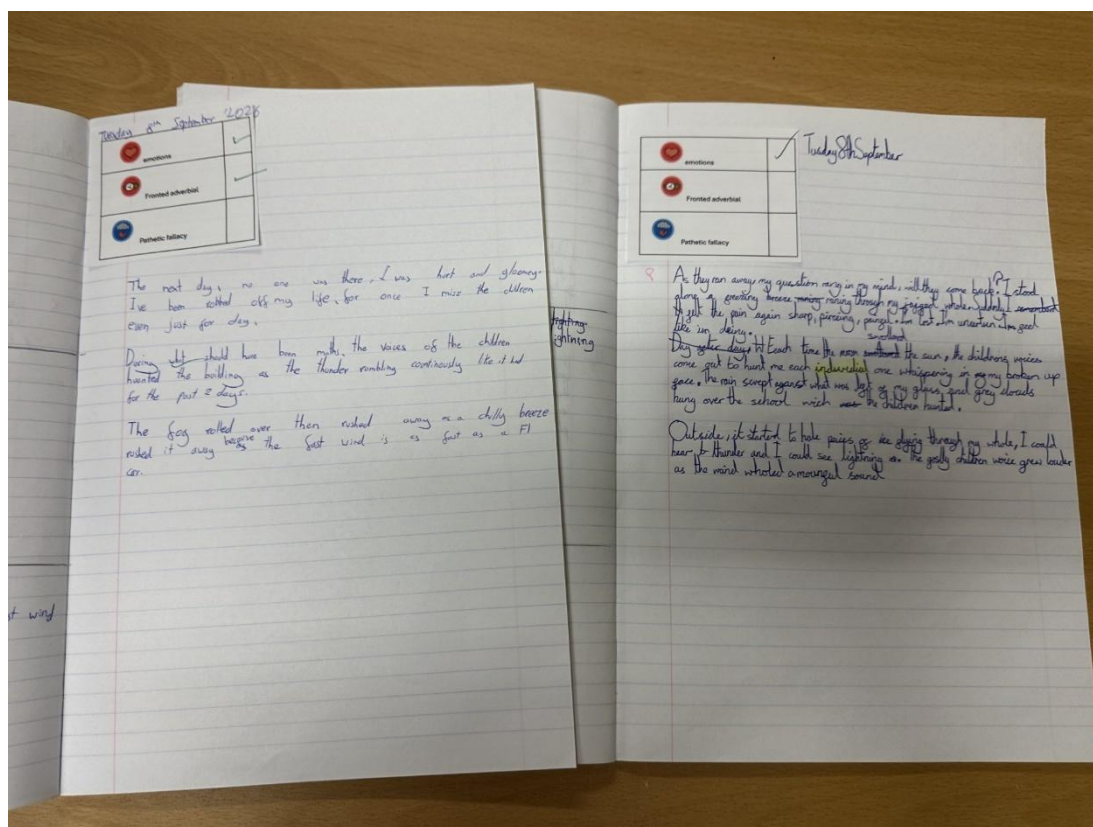
Beech Class

It's been a great start to year 5 and we have already been enjoying a wide variety of topics. In Science we did an experiment to recap learning on solids, liquids and gases and in Art we have also been experimenting with different ways to make letters. In PE we started our cricket unit with practising throwing and catching, including throwing for distance.



Aspen Class

This week, Year 6 have been developing their descriptive writing skills through some incredible emotional writing from the perspective of a window in the classroom. They have been working together to build powerful sentences, carefully choosing vocabulary and stretching their word choices to create atmosphere and emotion. We have been particularly impressed by the creativity and imagination they have shown!



Attendance

Current Attendance for the whole school	Old Buckenham Primary School & Nursery	National Average	Regional Average
3 rd September 2026- Thursday 10 th September 2026	96%		

Class Attendance

The following classes have met our school target of 96%:

3rd- 10 th Sept 2026
Oak- 100%
Cherry
Willow
Beech
Aspen

Don't forget that our children are working towards the class achieving the most attendance award stars this half term. The winning class gets to vote for their choice of award. Oak Class are leading so far

We want every child to feel safe, settled and ready to learn. Being in school every day helps children build routines, make friends and grow in confidence. We know that some children feel worried about coming to school at times. This is normal, especially at the start of a new term, a new class, or if there are issues with friends or in lessons. Sometimes there are other issues that make coming to school difficult, such as transport, uniform or difficulties at home.

If attendance is becoming a struggle, please talk to us – we are here to help. We can work together to understand what is happening and agree a plan together. If needed, we can help you find support from other services. Contact Helen Mitchell on office@obps.set.education to talk it through.

💎 Weekly Attendance Awards 💎

Each week, children with **100% attendance** will earn a raffle ticket for our prize draw at the end of this half term. The more weeks of full attendance, the more tickets they collect – and the greater their chance of winning a special prize! We'll also be celebrating our winning class each week.

Reminders

- Please remember to order school dinners via MCAS each day.
- As the weather becomes wetter, we would like to remind parents and carers to send children to school with a pair of wellies or a change of footwear where possible. We are keen for all children to continue enjoying outdoor play during breaktimes and lunchtimes, as fresh air and physical activity are an important part of the school day. Having suitable footwear available helps us ensure that children can access our outdoor spaces safely and comfortably, even when the ground is muddy or wet. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming dates this week for your diary

Date	Event
Monday 14 th Sept	Meet the Teacher: Y1- 2.30pm Please come to the school office to join this event taking place in the school hall. After school Club: until 4.30pm: Football Club for Yr1-Y6 (Premier Sport)
Wednesday 16 th Sept	Meet the Teacher: Y3- 2.30pm After School Club: Cookery
Friday 18 th Sept	After School Club: Creation Station until 4.15pm Premier Sports Basketball Club (Y1-Y6) until 4.30pm

H Mitchell



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

September 2026 | Primary | What parents and carers need to know about: Back to school | Device boundaries

Settling back into school: Supporting your child through the new term

The start of a new school year can be an exciting time, but it can also bring a mix of emotions for children. While some settle quickly, others may need a little longer to adjust to early mornings, busy classrooms, new routines and being away from home again. Even children who usually enjoy school can feel unsettled during the first few weeks. With patience, consistency and reassurance, parents can play an important role in helping their child feel safe, confident and ready to learn.

Supporting emotional wellbeing

It's common for children to be more tired, emotional or clingy during the first few weeks of term as they adjust to being back at school. They may need extra reassurance while they settle into new routines and friendships.

Try to:

- acknowledge their feelings without rushing to fix them
- let them know it's okay to have good days and difficult days
- keep home as a calm, predictable place where they feel listened to.

Feeling understood helps children build confidence and resilience over time.

The importance of sleep

After the summer holidays, many children have become used to later bedtimes and lie-ins. As the school term gets underway, it can take time for their bodies to adjust back to earlier mornings. A lack of sleep doesn't just leave children feeling tired; it can also affect their concentration, learning, emotional regulation and behaviour at school.

To help your child get enough rest:

- keep bedtimes and wake-up times as consistent as possible, even at weekends
- create a calming bedtime routine, such as reading together or listening to quiet music
- avoid screens for at least an hour before bed, as the light from devices can make it harder to fall asleep
- make sure bedrooms are calm, dark and comfortable to support a good night's sleep.

A well-rested child is often better able to manage the challenges of the school day, from learning in the classroom to navigating friendships and coping with big emotions.



When might your child need extra support?

It's normal for children to take time to settle back into school. However, if they remain very anxious, distressed about attending school, unusually withdrawn or emotional or frequently complain of headaches or tummy aches, speak to your child's class teacher. Early support can make a big difference.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Resetting device boundaries after the summer holidays

For many families, the summer holidays bring a more relaxed approach to technology. Children may spend longer watching videos, playing games or using tablets and routines around screen time, bedtimes and family time often become more flexible. This is completely understandable, but once school returns, those holiday habits can make it harder for children to concentrate, get enough sleep and settle back into their school routine. The start of a new term provides the perfect opportunity to reset expectations around technology. Rather than introducing lots of new rules, think of it as returning to the routines that help your child learn, play, sleep and thrive.

Why children may find it difficult

If your child complains that the new boundaries are "unfair" or says, "But I could do it in the holidays," they're not being difficult, they're adjusting to a change in routine. Remember that:

- holiday routines are often very different from school routines
- devices have become part of their daily habit over the summer
- children thrive when expectations are clear, predictable and consistent.

Creating family expectations

Children respond best when they know what is expected of them. Try agreeing a few simple family rules that everyone understands.

For example:

- devices are put away during meals
- homework is completed before recreational screen time
- screens are switched off at least an hour before bed
- parents know which games and apps their child is using
- children ask before downloading new apps or games.

What if they push back?

It's completely normal for children to be disappointed when holiday screen time comes to an end. Stay calm, acknowledge how they feel and remind them why the routines are changing.

You might say:

"I know you've enjoyed having more time on your tablet over the holidays. Now that school has started again, we need routines that help you get enough sleep so you can concentrate in class better."

Five ways to reset healthy digital habits

- Be clear about expectations**
Explain that school-time routines are different from holiday routines and why those changes are important.
- Focus on consistency**
Children adapt more quickly when boundaries stay the same each day, rather than changing depending on mood or circumstance.
- Protect sleep**
Keep devices out of bedrooms where possible and avoid screens during the hour before bedtime to help children settle.
- Create screen-free moments**
Protect family meals, homework time and opportunities to play, read or simply chat together.
- Show an interest in their online world**
Ask about the games they enjoy, the videos they watch and what they've discovered online. This builds trust.

Model healthy habits
Children learn by watching us. By putting your own phone away during family time and avoiding screens before bed, you show that healthy digital habits are important for everyone.