



# Reception – Ash Class

## NEWSLETTER

News updates from Old Buckenham Primary School

September 2026: Autumn 1

### KEY DIARY DATES

**03/09:** First Day at school!

**07/09:** Reception Start School Lunches

**09/09:** Reception First Full Day at School

**23/09:** New to Reception 'Phonics Meeting' for Reception Parents/carers – Please Come!

**24/09:** Reception 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' Afternoon- Bring photo of your house / bedroom (Or share on Tapestry) and a cuddly toy

**29/09:** EYFS / KS1 Movie Shorts Fundraiser 1- Raising Money for Reception. See information in this Newsletter

**07/10:** New to Reception 'Math's Meeting' for Reception Parents/carers – Please Come!

**08/10:** Reception Cooking - Chocolate Mug Cakes

**13/10:** EYFS/KS1 Movie Shorts Fundraiser 2

**19/10:** Children break up for half term

### Welcome!

The new school year is here! Your child is starting 'big school' and I'm sure you will be experiencing many emotions as you see them transition into their new class. We are incredibly excited to get to know them and look forward to helping them settle into school. We hope you have had a wonderful summer and that you are feeling excited about the new school year!

Within this newsletter, you will find some useful information about what your child will be learning about this half term. Please take note of the key diary dates and other key information about the half term ahead. Thank you so much for your support and patience as we help our youngest learners to settle. It is appreciated!

### Transition Timetable:

Please note the timetable that was shared with you in July below for the first two weeks of this half term.

#### Reception Children: Week 1

Thursday 3rd September 8:30am – 11.45am (First Day at School)

Friday 4th September 8:30am – 11.45am

#### Reception Children: Week 2:

Monday 7th September 8:30am – 1.15pm

Tuesday 8th September 8:30am – 1.15pm

Wednesday 9th September 8:30am – 3:10pm

(Full time every day from now on)

### Reception Team

**Mr Briscoe** – Early Years, Art, DT & Computing Lead. Reception Class Teacher Mon-Thurs. **Mrs Cooper** – Reception Class Teacher on a Friday.

**Miss Buck, Mrs Deneva, Miss Cook, Mrs Bailey and Mrs Stanbridge** – Teaching Assistants that Work Across the school, sometimes supporting your child.

### Hook into the new half term: Wonderful Me!

The focus of this half term is to help your child to settle into their new school routines and learning environment. We want them to feel as confident and happy as possible to come to school! Our theme 'Wonderful Me' focuses on teaching our children about how we are all special and unique members of our school community!

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

- what makes us special: Similarities and differences between ourselves and others
- what our interests are and what strengths we already have
- the value of friendship and collaboration with others
- how we can initiate or join in with play, building relationships with others
- how homes and houses are special, unique, and diverse



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

Our first topic is called 'Being Me'. This will involve your child:

- reflecting on their interests and what makes them unique and special, building confidence to share this with everyone
- thinking about their family tree, reflecting how all families are different and special
- learning about feelings and emotions; recognising how these can be experienced by themselves and their peers
- understanding why we have rules, rights and responsibilities; thinking about how we will keep ourselves and others safe and happy within our new learning environment

**Teddy Bears Picnic:** We would like to invite your child to bring in a photograph of their family home to share with their new class, along with their favourite cuddly toy to play with on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September**, as part of a fun learning task.

### Literacy Development:

We will be focusing on two core texts this half term which will inspire some of our learning around children developing their understanding of friendships and talking about their emotions. These are called 'On Sudden Hill' by Linda Sarah and 'Ruby's Worry' by Tom Percival. We will also be learning about how to follow instructions in a really fun way. Inspired by the story 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen, we are going to learn how to make our own Chocolate Mug Cakes. We will make our own later this half term!

You might like to:

- Visit a library and see if you can find any of these books to read. You could also find other new books we will be reading in class, such as 'The Colour Monster', 'Ralfy Rabbit: Book Burglar' and 'So Much!'

### Mathematical Development:

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

- Counting:** learning how to count with 1:1 correspondence; understanding cardinality- knowing when to stop counting as a set is complete; knowing the order of number names through verbal sequencing and many more skills too.
- It's Me (1,2,3):** learning about how to subitise (recognise without counting) and understand these early numbers in depth, thinking about their number bonds and composition.
- Let's Talk About Measure and Patterns:** learning to recognise, make and recreate patterns from natural materials and loose parts. We will also learn about weight and capacity when engaging with different resources.

### Phonics:

We will begin 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'. Below, I have indicated which sounds we will focus on each week, so that you can support your child to learn these sounds at home.

The sounds we will learn this half term are as follows:

(14/09) s, a, t, p (21/09) i, n, m, d (28/09) g, o, c, k (05/10) ck, e, u, r (12/10) h, b, f, l (19/10) Review All

You could look for these sounds when you are shopping in a supermarket or play games of I-Spy to draw attention to the initial sounds that words start with. There is a fantastic video online on the 'Little Wandle' website, 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 2 Sounds taught in Reception Autumn 1')

### Creative Development:

During this half term, there will be opportunities for your child to learn about drawing, mark making and many other creative skills, specifically focusing on self-portraits. We will learn lots of nursery rhyme songs too, and this is one fun song you could sing at home, to the tune of 'Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush':

This is the way I swish my tail,  
Swish my tail, swish my tail.  
This is the way I swish my tail,  
Because I am a T.rex!

This is the way I stomp my feet,  
Stomp my feet, stomp my feet.  
This is the way I stomp my feet,  
Because I am a T.rex!

This is the way I roar out loud,  
Roar out loud, roar out loud.  
This is the way I roar out loud,  
Because I am a T.rex!



### Physical Development:

Your child will have access to fine and gross motor challenges every day throughout our continuous provision. In busy fingers, children will be developing their muscle strength and co-ordination within their hands and fingers. Outside, they will be learning how to safely engage in larger body movements, such as when transporting construction blocks to build models. They will also have discrete PE teaching on a Friday morning, whereby they will be learning how to play some simple team games with their peers. Our focus will be to develop your child's ability to listen and follow instructions safely, whilst working as part of a team during different activities.

### Geographical Enquiry:

Our first topic is called 'A Place Called Home'. This will involve your child thinking about how families are all unique; providing opportunities to compare and contrast similarities and differences between themselves and others. We will start to reflect on our own locality, thinking about how our bedrooms and homes are special. Through activities such as our 'Teddy Bears Picnic', we will be able to see how our family homes are similar or different than those of our friends.

We will also launch our new Pen Pal project! It will be exciting to find out how there are different countries around the world, as we learn about children attending a school in Kenya.

### School Focus Value:

At Old Buckenham Primary, we have a motto: Ready, Respectful, Safe, that underpins all of our curriculum and daily school life. We also have 6 values which we focus on throughout the year. We chose our school values as staff and children collaboratively, with our school council recently asking for the sixth value of 'effort' to be added themselves.

**Our 6 Values are: Respect, Resilience, Communication, Honesty, Teamwork and Effort.**

**This half term, our focus value is Respect.**

Some examples of what we will be teaching your child include:

- How to be respectful to other children in play.
- Why we need to use 'listening ears' and 'looking eyes'.
- How to join in with whole class carpet discussions and activities, helping everyone to feel able to contribute and take part.
- How to invite other children to play with you, or how to ask if you can join in with others.
- Why we need to look after our classroom learning environment and how we care for it.
- How to care for our school belongings.

We would love to see how you could engage with this at home too. Please think about how 'respect' is shown by different family members, as well as your child. For instance, it could be something simple that you do every day, such as making sure you have fed your cat in the morning, with fresh water ready to drink. Please share some examples this half term on Tapestry, which your child can then share with the rest of their class.

### Science:

This half term, we will introduce our class to learning concerning 'humans' and 'materials'. We will find out about family members and how we have jobs, homes and families that are special and unique to us. We will learn about 'changing states' as we cook chocolate mug cakes and observe changes to ingredients. We will also focus on developing a sense of 'awe and wonder' within our children, as we strengthen our looking eyes and observational skills through engaging practical experiments linked to our learning.

### Discovery RE:

We will begin to learn about the importance of families, friends and special relationships people have with one another. We will learn about what role models are and encourage your child to take on responsibilities within the classroom. We will introduce some short religious stories and give your child the chance to talk about their opinions on why these are important.

### Computing: E-Safety

At the start of every half term, we learn about 'e-safety'. Our first 'e-safety' session this year will involve learning about the theme of 'Self-Image'.

We will start by learning about the use of Tapestry as an online learning journal which we share with our families. We will learn about the word 'consent', as we find out about why we take photographs and videos with technological devices. We will learn that everyone has a right to say 'no' as well as 'yes', and that being informed about why people are making choices online is a 'right and responsibility' of everyone who is interacting with technology.

### Computing: Systems and Networks

We will also learn to recognise what technology we have around us at home and at school. We will reflect on the purposes and uses of technological devices and how they can connect together to be used effectively. We will reflect on our use of Tapestry, I-Pads and online programmes such as NUMBOTS at school and at home.

## Key Reminders & New Information:

### Key Paperwork

Please submit any outstanding paperwork from our 'Welcome Pack' (given to you during our information evening in June) to the school office as soon as you possibly can. This information is essential in setting up key systems for your child within school. It is also so important that we know about key information that may affect their participation with activities in school- such as whether they have any allergies during snack or lunch time.

### Tapestry

You will soon receive an email link to activate your child's Tapestry account. If you have not yet returned your child's paperwork for this, please do so at your earliest opportunity. You are welcome to request another copy of the letter if you need to do so. We will use Tapestry as a key method of communication, so please do check periodically to see what your child has been engaging with at school!

### Reading

Our focus during the first two weeks is to help your child to settle into the new routines within their indoor and outdoor learning environment. We will be starting to teach Phonics during Week 3 and will start to read with your child too from a very early stage, as this is obviously so important too! I will send home a separate letter, which will explain how reading works, once we send home your child's first reading book. Please look out for this. I will also be running a 'New to Phonics Meeting' during this half term to give parents and carers the opportunity to find out more about how you can support your child to learn to read at home. This will take place on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 3.30pm** after school in the Reception classroom. Please collect your child as normal on this day and then sign in via the school office. I will start as promptly as I can afterschool, once I have dismissed all of the children. It would be helpful if I know how many people intend to join me for this, so please email our class email address ([reception@obps.set.education](mailto:reception@obps.set.education)) if you are interested in attending.

### Maths

As well as supporting you and your child to familiarise yourself with Phonics and early Reading, we will also be offering an opportunity to talk about Maths in Reception. We have an exciting and engaging Maths curriculum, which like Reading is an absolutely essential part of our school day. I will run a 'Maths Meeting' on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm** after school in our classroom for those of you who are interested in supporting your child further at home. Once again, please email our class account above to let us know if you are interested in attending. Thank you!

### Outdoor Clothing

We use our outdoor area every day, as it forms an essential part of our curriculum. Therefore, it would be extremely useful if your child could bring a pair of wellington boots with them to school. We have a few spare pairs which children may borrow, but these are limited. We also would strongly encourage your child to have an all-in-one outfit (or something very similar) that they can place over their clothing when engaging in 'messy play' activities, such as when using mud and water in the mud kitchen. This can stay in school each day in your child's backpack and can be sent home from school whenever we think it may need a wash. Thank you for your support here! A waterproof coat is also essential.

## Key Reminders & New Information:

### Movie Shorts Fundraising

We strive to provide our children with exciting and educational enrichment throughout the year which greatly benefits their education. One of the ways we do this is to offer our children 2 school trips in Reception. These take place later on in the year. To support our families with the cost of these trips, we raise money throughout the year to help cover some of the money needed to be able to make these happen. We do this through events called 'Movie Shorts'. A separate letter will be sent out about 'Movie Shorts' with more information. The premise is that you can sign up for your child to attend an afterschool session, where they can watch some short children's tv episodes (such as Bluey) from sources such as BBC iPlayer. They will be treated to squash, biscuits and popcorn and get to socialise with their friends. A £4 donation is required. All profit made goes to our Reception enrichment events. You will be able to sign up shortly through your MCAS app.

### Equipment

We provide stationery; therefore, your child does not need to bring in their own pencil case.

### PE Uniform

Our PE lessons will be on a Friday morning. **They will start from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.** We ask that child **arrives at school wearing their PE kit on this day, and every Friday afterwards.** Please note that lessons may continue in light rain, so a long-sleeved top/sweatshirt (in line with our uniform policy) would be suitable. Your child can also wear tracksuit bottoms in line with our uniform policy. They do not need to bring in a PE kit in a bag to hang on their peg.

### Snacks and Water Bottles

We encourage children to have a healthy snack at break time. Reception children are entitled to a piece of snack, which is provided daily for them at school. Therefore, there is no expectation that you must send one in from home. We do however request that children **must** bring a bottle of **still, plain water** to school so that they may drink whenever they are thirsty. They are not allowed to bring fizzy or flavoured water.

**Family Photograph** Please do send in a family photograph for our 'Family Tree' display within our classroom. Thank you for the photographs we have already received. This is a lovely opportunity for your child to celebrate how important their family is to them and will also be used within several learning activities during the next few weeks. 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. Our class email address is: [reception@obps.set.education](mailto:reception@obps.set.education)

Many thanks for your support. Mr Briscoe