



Newsletter – 21st September 2026

Dear Parents

This week's newsletter has some news to share about reading in school and some upcoming dates and reminders for everyone.

Attendance

Please can I remind all parents of our school's attendance policy. Family holidays are not authorised absences because they rarely meet the criteria for 'exceptional circumstances' (see below).

If a child has 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence, the law states that the Headteacher has to consider referring the child's parent to the Local Authority to issue a fixed penalty notice (fine).

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as

- If a parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
- The death or terminal illness of a close relative
- Out of school programmes such as music, arts or sport operating at a high standard of achievement. Documentary evidence of this event will be required.
- To attend a wedding or funeral of a close relative if the Headteacher is satisfied that the circumstances are truly exceptional

Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.

As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, a leave of absence will not be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

The school must consider requesting Buckinghamshire Council issue a fine to parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age and the national threshold has been met. Fixed penalty notices are issued in accordance with the Local Authority Penalty Notice Code of Conduct

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-libraries-and-parks/school-attendance-and-support/pay-your-childs-penalty-fine-for-missing-school/code-of-conduct-for-issuing-penalty-notices-for-unauthorised-absence-from-school/>

If issued with a fine or penalty notice each parent must pay £80 (per child) if paid within 21 days rising to £160 thereafter. If not paid within 28 days the Local Authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice – note there is no right of appeal in court by parents against a fixed penalty notice. The national framework for penalty notices sets out that a maximum of 2 penalty notices per child, per parent can be issued within a rolling 3-year period (the second one being payable at £160 with no option to reduce fine by making payment earlier). If the national threshold is met for a third (or subsequent) time

within 3 years, the Local Authority will consider prosecution through the magistrates' court under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.

In Education Law (Section 576 of the Education Act 1996) 'parent' means:

All natural parents, whether they are married or not

Any person who has parental responsibility for a child or pupil

Any person who has care of a child or pupil i.e. lives with and looks after the child

Reading – what happens after Read Write Inc?

As you will be aware, our reading and phonics scheme for early reading is Read Write Inc. There are eight colour bands in Read Write Inc, with grey being the final colour in the scheme. Most children reach grey in Year 2, although some will get there sooner. From September 2026, we have introduced a new scheme to follow on from Read Write Inc. This is called 'Pathways to Read'.

'Pathways to Read' develops the more complex reading skills that children need to master to progress with reading. It focuses on developing vocabulary, oracy and specific comprehension skills e.g. inference and critical thinking. During lessons, children focus on a key text for approximately half a term. Alongside this, children will be bringing home books of their choice to read for pleasure at home.

Author Event Year 1 and 2 – Thursday 24th September LAST CALL FOR A SIGNED BOOK

We are delighted to announce that acclaimed, award-winning author **Max Porter** is visiting our school this Thursday to share his laugh-out-loud new book, *Dogs and Bears*, with our Key Stage 1 children!

Illustrated by world-renowned French illustrator Dorothée de Monfreid, this sublimely ridiculous and funny story follows the rivalry between the dogs and the bears. Nobody quite knows why they're brawling—is it the bandanas? The sickly-sweet snacks? But during their epic final showdown, an unexpected airborne surprise (raining squid!) changes everything. It is a wonderfully inventive, heartwarming tale about playground squabbles, friendship, and peace.

He will be signing books for the children at the event.

IMPORTANT – Parents, you can order a signed copy from Our Bookshop- click below...

<https://www.ourbookshoptring.co.uk/product/dogs-and-bears/>

The signed books will be given to your child on the day.

This will be very exciting for all the children.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BEN AT OUR BOOKSHOP - Please include your child's name and class so the books can be labelled up for the event. Postage is not required; we will deliver all the books on the day.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) 'Stay and Play'

Tuesday 29th September, 9.00-10.15 am

Come and join the children to experience for yourself what an OPAL session is.

Entrance will be via the playground gate from 8.25am drop off for a 9am start.

Gates will be locked for at 9am safeguarding.

From 9am to 9.20am there will be a talk in the hall, when Mrs Glen will explain what OPAL is. Parents/carers will then join the children in the playground for OPAL play. Please wait in the big playground until the class your child is in comes out to meet you.

At the end of the session the children will leave the playground first and then parents will exit via the playground gates.

Please note, there will be no entry to the playground after 9am or via the main office.

Phonics Workshop for Reception parents

Wednesday 30th September, 9.00-10.00 in the school hall

From 9am to 9.30am Mrs Ochiltree and Mrs Stockwell will explain the first steps in learning to read, and how we teach phonics in school with the Read Write Inc reading and phonics scheme. We will also offer you some ideas on how you can help at home.

Following the talk in the hall, parents will be invited to go to their child's classroom and see a phonics lesson in action.

Entrance will be via the playground gate from 8.25am drop off for a 9am start.

Gates will be locked for at 9am safeguarding.

Please note, there will be no entry to the playground after 9am or via the main office.

KEY DATES - 2026-27	
September	
Tuesday 22 nd	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt 9.00 -10.00 am
Tuesday 29 th	OPAL Stay & Play (am)
October	
Thursday 1 st	Flu immunisations (Nursery-Year 2)
Monday 5 th	Photographer in for individual photos
Monday 5 th	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 6 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 7 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Friday 9 th	Year 2 Harvest Assembly, 9.15 am
Friday 16 th	Year 2 Road Farm visit
Wednesday 21 st	Parent involvement morning
November	
Monday 2 nd	Staff training day (children not in school)
Monday 16 th	Diwali dance with Kalpesh
Tuesday 17 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt 9.00 -10.00 am
December	
Friday 4 th	Pantomime (in school)
Monday 7 th	Reception walk to the post box (am)
Friday 11 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 14 th	Year 1 Christmas production, 9.15 am
Tuesday 15 th	Year 2 Christmas production, 9.15 am
Wednesday 16 th	Reception Christmas production, 9.15 am
Thursday 17 th	Christmas party day
Friday 18 th	Carols around the tree, 2.30 pm (whole school and parents)

January	
Monday 4 th	Staff training day (children not in school)
Thursday 14 th	School Health Screening for Reception children – measurement of heights and weights
Tuesday 19 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt 9.00 -10.00 am
February	
Wednesday 10 th	Parent involvement morning
March	
Tuesday 9 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt 9.00 -10.00 am
Monday 15 th	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 16 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 17 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Friday 19 th	Eid party
April	
Tuesday 27 th	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt 9.00 -10.00 am
Tuesday 27 th	School Health Screening for Reception children – vision checks
Thursday 29 th	Year 2 to Woburn Safari Park (<i>provisional date</i>)
May	
Wednesday 5 th	Year 1 to Warwick Castle (<i>provisional date</i>)
Monday 17 th	Year 2 SATs week 1
Monday 24 th	Year 2 SATs week 2
Friday 28 th	Staff training day (children not in school)
June	
Monday 14 th	Year 1 Phonics check / Year 2 recheck week
Monday 21 st	Meeting for new parents (starting school in September 2027) 6 pm
Tuesday 29 th	Year 2 SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt 9.00 -10.00 am
July	
Thursday 1 st	Open Evening
Friday 2 nd	Beach Day
Tuesday 6 th	Move up day 1
Wednesday 7 th	Move up day 2
Thursday 15 th	Sports Day
Monday 19 th	Year 2 Leavers' Party

TERM DATES - 2026-27		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Thursday 3 rd September 2026	Friday 23 rd October 2026
	Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026
Spring Term	Tuesday 5 th January 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027
	Monday 22 nd February 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Summer Term	Monday 12 th April 2027	Thursday 27 th May 2027
	Monday 7 th June 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027
Staff Training Days	Tuesday 1 st September 2026 Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 Monday 2 nd November 2026 Monday 4 th January 2027 Friday 28 th May 2027	
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May 2027 (school closed)	

TERM DATES - 2027-28		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Monday 6 September 2027	Friday 22 October 2027
	Monday 1 November 2027	Friday 17 December 2027
Spring Term	Wednesday 5 January 2028	Friday 11 February 2028
	Monday 21 February 2028	Friday 31 March 2028
Summer Term	Tuesday 18 April 2028	Friday 26 May 2028
	Tuesday 6 June 2028	Friday 21 July 2028
Staff Training Days	Wednesday 1 September 2027 Thursday 2 September 2027 Friday 3 September 2027 Tuesday 4 January 2028 Monday 5 June 2028	
Bank Holiday	Monday 1 May 2028 (school closed)	