



NEWSLETTER

1ST JUNE 2026



Welcome back to Summer 2!

I hope that you were all able to enjoy the lovely weather that we had over half term - it really was glorious. The temperatures are not meant to be as high this week, but please do remember to apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school and a hat that shields their face is also very helpful. As always, please make sure that all items are named. Sandals must NOT be worn for school as these are not safe for running around in at playtimes. Please also make sure that length of shorts and skirts is appropriate.

Sensory and Fidget Objects

An increasing number of children are bringing sensory objects or squishy toys into classes and onto the playground. A number of these items have then broken and leaked, or upset has been caused when children have 'swapped' or gifted the object to another and then wanted it returned. As per school policy, there should be NO toys brought in from home as they get broken, lost or can become a distraction to themselves and others.

There are a limited number of children who use clinically recognised fidget/sensory objects in the classroom and this is written into their individual learning plan. In these instances, it has been agreed with school staff and parents, that these objects are useful to help a child focus due to their individual needs. In all circumstances, these children should be using school provided sensory objects (unless otherwise agreed) as they are from clinically recommended providers. Most of the objects that are available in local shops or online may be advertised as sensory objects but they have no proven evidence to suggest that they are useful.

I appreciate that it may be difficult for some children to understand why they are not allowed while some do have objects, but we spend a lot of time teaching the children the importance of equity and that fairness does not mean that we all get the same but that everyone gets what they need.

If you feel that your child would benefit from a school issued sensory object, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

The next two weeks...

Please make sure you have checked the calendar at the end of the newsletter for forthcoming dates, many of which are set months in advance.

Monday 1st June	St Birinus and Didcot Girl's school transition visit/ talk 9am Forest School Maple class
Tuesday 2 nd June	Selected year 4 Cricket festival at boundary park
Wednesday 3 rd June	
Thursday 4 th June	Amazon workshop Year 6 Artist Workshop Year 4 Year 5 Earth Trust trip Tree sculpture celebration at 4pm
Friday 5 th June	Author visit - Clare Pollard
Monday 8 th June	Year 3 Chedworth trip Beech Forest school
Tuesday 9 th June	Year 4 Ashmolean Museum trip - Ancient Civilisations selected years 5/6 Cricket tournament
Wednesday 10 th June	Year 6 London Theatre trip - Matilda Online author event - Rod Bidduiph
Thursday 11 th June	New reception parents meeting 2pm - for children starting September 2026
Friday 12 th June	Inset Day - school will be closed to all children



Photographs

Due to increasing numbers of children whose photograph can not be used on line, there will be limited photographs on our social media platform and newsletters. This includes residential and trips where the adults accompanying the trip will be focused on the children and not ensuring that every child has had their photograph taken.



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Coming up this half term....

Curriculum:

At the beginning of last half term, you were sent curriculum information for the summer term - please refer to this to find out what your child will be learning.

PSHE: The theme this half term is 'Changing me'. Please refer to the information that has been sent alongside this newsletter so that you can see what your child will be learning.

Transition

You will soon be receiving information about class structure for September 2026. We are still in the process of finalising this. If your child has special educational needs, you will, as in previous years, be invited to a meeting where you will be discussing your child's plan with both your child's current teacher and their new teacher to aid a smooth transition. This is very tricky to schedule, so we will not be able to be particularly flexible about timings.

Some children find the idea of moving year groups very unsettling and we will do our utmost to support them during this half term so that they can be successful in the autumn term.

Year 6 pupils will also be having their transition sessions at their new secondary schools. Please get in touch with the secondary schools for more information about this.

Concerts, presentations, sports events and performances...

Again, the diary is packed with various events over this half term. It is sometimes very difficult to fit things in. There will be concerts for our musicians, Rock Steady Bands and choir, Year 5 ukulele, Year 3 Djembe to which you are all invited.

Year 6 have started work on their production: Shakespeare Rocks and there are some year group presentations planned.

New for this year we will be having our own Didcot Primary's Got Talent. This is a school only performance and parents will not be invited to join us - there will be no room in the hall!! The Google Form was already sent to you for your child to apply to take part.

Sports events also populate the diary - some dates are out of our control and we get informed of them with very little notice. We will get the information out to you as soon as we are able to.



'What to expect' meetings...

You may have seen on the calendar a series of 'What to expect' meetings for parents. These will be held during the school day to give an overview of any changes, curriculum and (where applicable) national tests that occur during the new year group. This will help you support your child as they progress through the school. We will also produce a leaflet that we will email out after the meetings.

Lots of trips!



There are a lot of trips and visits planned for this term. Please make sure that you have looked at the diary dates and, where possible, please do contribute towards the cost of the trip. We would never leave a child behind due to non payment, but insufficient contributions will lead to cancellation of the trip for the year group.



Calendar

I have organised the calendar differently this term. Please find whole school events listed first, followed by Key Stage specific event. I hope that you will find this more useful.

Whole school or multiple Key Stage Events Summer 2		
4 th June	All welcome	Tree sculpture celebration event. Meet the artists and find out more about this piece of art work. This will start at 4pm.
5 th June	multiple year groups	Clare Pollard Author visit
10 th June	multiple year groups	Online meet the author event - Rod Biddulph
12 th June	Whole school	Inset Day - school closed to all children
16 th June	Tuesday Rocksteady Groups	concert at 2pm. Hall needs to be clear by 2:40 ready for another event. Please note, this concert has been moved from 9 th June to avoid Year 4 missing the event.
18 th June	multiple Year groups	Selected team for Swimming Gala
19 th June	multiple year groups	Selected choir (limited spaces) at Dorchester Festival of Voices
20 th June	PTA event	Colour Run (this replaces the summer fete)
29 th June - 3 rd July	Parents of children with SEND	Transition meetings with current and new teachers
7 th July	Reception to Year 5	Transition Day 1 - drop off your child to their current classroom and pick up from their new classroom
8 th July	Reception to Year 5	Transition Day 2 - drop off and pick up will be at the new classrooms
9 th July	Key Stage 2	DPA's Got Talent
10 th July	Whole school	Your child's end of year report will be emailed to you today
13 th July	selected musicians and choir	Summer concert. Parents of selected children invited.
15 th July	Families of Wednesday RockSteady Bands	Concert at 10:30am and 2:30pm
17 th July	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon. Gates will open at 11:50am.

Reception and Pre-School Summer 2

11 th June	Pre school families whose children are transitioning to Reception at DPA	New Reception families Welcome meeting 2pm
16 th June	Reception	Reception Presentation to parents - this will start promptly at 3pm
3 rd July	current reception families	What to expect in Year 1 parent meeting 9am school hall
8 th July	Pre-school children moving to Reception at DPA	Pre- School children will have a 2 hour session in reception either morning or afternoon. Please bring them to their Pre-school session as usual and collect them from pre-school as usual.
14 th July	Pre-school parents	Pre-school celebration assembly. This will start promptly at 2:30pm
16 th July	Pre-School	Last pre-school sessions today

Year 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) Summer 2

1 st June	Maple Class	Forest School
8 th June	Beech Class	Forest School
15 th June	Maple Class	Forest School
17 th June	Year 1 and 2	Get Active KS1 Olympic style event
18 th June	Year 2	Hengistbury Head Beach Visit
22 nd June	Beech Class	Forest School
23 rd June	Year 2 parents	Year 2 Parent Presentation - this will start promptly at 3pm
29 th June	Maple class	Forest School
29 th June	current Year 2 families	What to expect in Year 3 parent meeting 9am School hall
30 th June	Year 1 families	Year 1 presentation to parents. This will start promptly at 3pm.
6 th July	Beech Class	Forest school
10 th July	Year 1 families	What to expect in year 2 workshop 2:45pm School hall

Year 3 and 4 (Lower Key Stage 2) Summer 2

2 nd June	Selected Year 4	Year 4 cricket Festival
4 th June	Year 4	Art workshop
8 th June	Year 3	Chedworth Roman Villa Vist
9 th June	Year 4	Ashmolean Museum Visit
23 rd June	Current Year 3 Families	What to expect in year 4 parent meeting 9 am (school hall)
25 th June	current Year 4 families	What to expect in year 5 parent meeting 9 am (school hall)
24 th June	Years 3 and 4	KS2 Olympic Style event run by Get Active. Please wear PE Kits.
6 th July	year 3 parents	Djembe Concert at 11 am

Year 5 and 6 (Upper Key Stage 2) Summer 2

1 st June	Parents of Year 5 and 6 Year 6 children moving to DGS and St Birinus	Didcot Girl's School and St Birinus Parent meetings (Aimed at Year 6 parents of children who are moving to these schools in September. Interested Year 5 Parents also able to attend. 9am
4 th June	Year 5	Year 5 trip to Earth Trust - Food and Farming
4 th June	Year 6	Amazon Workshop for Year 6
9 th June	Selected year 5 and 6	Dynamo Cricket Tournament
10 th June	year 6	London Theatre Visit - Matilda
24 th June	upper Key Stage 2	KS2 Olympic Style event run by Get Active. Please wear PE Kits.
30 th June	Current Year 5 families	What to expect in Year 6 parent meeting. 9am School hall
1 st July	Selected year 5 and 6	Omnia Sports Cup
2 nd July	Year 5 and 6	Home, fire and Road Safety Talk
6 th July	Year 5	Ukulele concert at 2:30pm
7 th and 8 th July	children transitioning to the mentioned schools	transition days at Aureus, DGS and St Birinus
9 th July	Year 6 children	Year 6 party 3:30pm - 5:30pm. Please note that all children will need to be picked up from this event.
16 th July	Year 6 Families	Year 6 proudly presents: Shakespeare Rocks at 2pm and 6pm.
17 th July	Year 6 families	Final Year 6 assembly. Amphitheatre (weather permitting) 10:15am

Looking ahead.....Term dates 2026-27

First Day of term	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Half term	26 th October - 30 th October 2026
Last day of term	Thursday 17 th December at 12 noon (pre-school sessions finish on Wednesday 16 th December)
Winter Holidays	18 th December - 1 st January 2027
Further information	Thursday 3 rd September 2026 and Friday 4 th September 2026 half days for Reception children, allocated as either morning or afternoon. 7 th September in full time. 9 th September Pre-school children start on allocated days INSET DAYS Tuesday 1 st September and Wednesday 2 nd September Friday 9 th October 2026
Spring Term	
First day of term	4 th January 2027
Half term	15 th February - 19 th February 2027
Last day of term	Pre school 24 th March 2027 Rest of school 25 th March at 12 noon, gates will open at 11:50am
Easter/Spring holidays	26 th March - 9 th April 2027
Further information	
Summer term	
First day of term	12 th April 2027
Half term	31 st May - 4 th June 2027
Last day of term	Pre school: Monday 19 th July Rest of school: Tuesday 20 th July at 12 noon. Gates will open at 11:50am.
Further information	Inset day on Friday 11 th June and Wednesday 21 st July

Whole school or multiple Key Stage Events Autumn 2026 1

3 rd September	Year 1-6	School term starts at 8:40am
2 nd October	whole school	Individual photographs
9 th October	whole school	Inset Day -school closed for all children
22 nd October	Reception - Year 6	Flu Vaccination programme

Pre-School and Reception Events Autumn 1

3 rd September	Reception children	Children will be allocated either the 8:40 - 11:10am session or the 1-3:30pm session
4 th September	Reception Children	Children will be allocated either the 8:40 - 11:10am session or the 1-3:30pm session
7 th September	Reception children	children start full time
9 th September	Pre-School	<p>Pre-School starts. Please note new starting time of 9:30am.</p> <p>30 hours: 9:30am - 3:30pm (please provide a packed lunch)</p> <p>15 hours: 9:30am - 12:30pm (please provide a packed lunch)</p> <p>15 hours 12:30pm-3:30pm</p> <p>Extended hours 8:40am - 9:30am available to book and pay for in advance £8 per session.</p>

Year 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) Autumn 1

15 th December	Year 1	Jack and the Beanstalk theatre trip Cornerstone Theatre Didcot
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Year 3 and 4 (Lower KS2) Autumn 1

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Year 5 and 6 (Upper KS2) Autumn 1

14 th - 18 th September	Year 6	Kilrvough Residential Trip
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