



NEWSLETTER

3RD FEBRUARY 2025

SAFEGUARDING AT DPA

Keeping your child safe is of paramount importance to all of us at Didcot Primary Academy. There are stringent procedures that we follow when recruiting any member of staff. These include:

- Checking the employment history of potential applicants and questioning gaps.
- Requesting two professional references - one which must be from the headteacher of the last school that the applicant worked at.
- These references are checked with a phonecall to the referee, calling the school number (not a personal mobile).
- There are safeguarding questions within the interview itself.
- Social media is checked for all applicants
- Every member of staff has to have an enhanced disclosure and barring service check. These are repeated at regular intervals once employed.

When we have supply teachers and college or university students their credentials, identity and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service Check) are also checked and retained and they also have to undergo our safeguarding training and follow the school policies.

All staff receive regular training on Safeguarding throughout the academic year. This is led by Lianne Vickers, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for our school. Staff are trained to report any concern - this includes concerns about other members of staff.

If there are allegations against staff, the procedure is to contact the Local Authority Designated Officer who will then investigate or provide advice.

Children are taught about appropriate relationships through our PSHE programme, Jigsaw. This allows them to form an understanding of what is right and what is not and they are encouraged to speak out to a trusted adult to discuss their concerns and questions.

If you have any questions or queries about our safeguarding procedures, please do make an appointment to speak to Mrs Vickers or myself.

The next two weeks	
3rd February	Forest School Year 4 Birch pm
4th February	
5th February	
6th February	
7th February	Weight and measuring NHS programme. Reception and Year 6
10th February	Forest school Elm class Didcot Library visiting Reception Learning Reviews
11th February	
12th February	Learning Reviews
13th February	Chestnut Class start swimming
14th February	Rocks and Fossils Workshop Year 3



Year 2 had a wonderful time at Hampton Court Palace



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LEARNING REVIEWS MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY AND WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

The second of our learning reviews will take place immediately before half term, and you will soon receive an invitation to book the slot for your child. These are important meetings and teachers are expected to see 100% of parents. Their academic progress will be discussed. On Friday 13th February, you will be emailed the mid year academic report, which will have been discussed with you at the learning review. You will not receive a physical copy (there was an error in the last newsletter). All meetings will be in person, unless you request a **telephone** appointment. All meetings will last for a maximum of 10 minutes. These meetings are placed half way through the academic year and will have a focus on the academic progress of your child.

CHOIR AT YOUNG VOICES, O2 ARENA

It was an absolute pleasure to take 68 children to sing at the Young Voices concert held at the O2 arena. It really is difficult to describe how amazing the whole day and the concert is. The children were true ambassadors for our school and sang their hearts out. This is a long day, and would not be possible at all without staff **giving up their time till 12:45 am** to accompany them. Staff are not paid extra for these trips as this would make experiences like this unaffordable for all. A huge thank you to Mrs Scrivener for organising and rehearsing the children once again, and for all the staff that accompanied the choir.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS FOR TRIPS AND RESIDENTIALS

School trips are often the highlight of a child's time at primary school as they bring the learning to life. Over the years, we have carefully chosen and developed the trips to ensure that they continue to offer enrichment to our curriculum and are value for money. Very often, the coach element of the trip is the most expensive -for example the coaches to the O2 arena cost over £2000 and our swimming coach to take us just to the Wave currently costs the school £110 per week.

For all curriculum trips we ask for voluntary contributions. There is never any profit made from these trips and costs are worked out purely based on entry fees and coach travel (or other arrangements). Similarly, if we have a visiting guest in school there is usually a charge for the day as well as any travel costs that they might have incurred. We would never leave a child behind on a year group curriculum trip because their family could not afford to pay. However, we are having to consider cancelling trips when insufficient contributions have been raised as the school budget can not afford to subsidise trips.

Residential trips are different because these are 'chargeable' trips as there is bed and board, as well as the coach travel and activities. We appreciate that these are expensive trips and can work out a payment schedule with you to help spread the cost out. However, it does need to be paid in order for your child to participate in the residential.



2025 Spring 1

When	who	What
3rd February	Birch Class	Forest School
6th February	Year 2	Presentation to parents. This will start promptly at 3pm
7th February	Cherry Class	Forest school
10th February	Whole school	Learning reviews
10th February	Reception	Didcot Library to visit school
10th February	Reception	Didcot Library visiting reception classes
10th February	Elm Class	Forest School
12th February	whole school	Learning reviews
13th February	Chestnut Class	Chestnut class starts swimming
14th February	Year 3	Rocks and Fossils workshop
14th February	Whole school	End of half term at 3:30pm. Gates open 3:25pm as usual.

2025 Spring 2

When	Who	What...
24th February	whole school	Spring 2 starts
27th February	Year 1	Great Fire of London workshop
4th March	Whole school	Roving bookshop in school
6th March	Year 3	Presentation to parents. This will start promptly at 3pm.
7th March	Whole school	World book Day dressing up - The theme this year is 'Read your way'. Children may come as a book character, as a reader (own clothes) or in their uniform.
10th March	Parents/carers of children with SEND	Learning Plan review meetings will be held this week
11th March	Year 1	Presentation to parents at 3pm (this date has changed since the last news letter - it is now on the TUESDAY and not Thursday afternoon.
17th - 21st March	Year 6	Kilvrough Residential Trip
20th March	Year 2	Elizabeth 1st to visit Year 2
24th March	Year 6	Junior Citizens
25th March	Year 6	Presentation to parents. This will start promptly at 3pm.
27th March	Reception	Presentation to parents. This will start promptly at 3pm.
4th April	Acorn Class	No pre-school sessions
4th April	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am

2025 Summer 1

When	Who	What...
Tuesday 22nd April	Whole school	Summer 1 starts at 8:40am
24th April	Reception	Vision Screening
30th April - 2nd May	Year 4	Year 4 Residential to PGL Liddington
1st May	Pre-school	Acorn Class to visit Earth Trust
5th May	whole school	Bank holiday
8th May	Sycamore	Sycamore Class starts swimming
12th May - 15th May	Year 6	SAT's Week
13th May	Year 5	Earth Trust visit
15th May	Year 1	Victorian Sit Up Straight workshop
19th May	Pre-school and reception	Sports afternoon 2:15pm
20th May	Whole school	Group photos
21st May	Year 4	Lego workshop
22nd May	Year 6	Lego workshop
22nd May	Reception	Beale Park trip
23rd May	Years 1-6	Sports Day

2025 Summer 2

When	Who	What...
2nd June	Whole school	INSET DAY school closed to children
3rd - 13th June	Year 4	Multiplication Tables Check (National test)
6th June	Year 3	Chedworth Roman Villa
9th June - 13th June	Year 1 (and some Year 2)	Phonics Screening
19th June	Selected team	Swimming gala
25th June	Year 6	London Theatre trip - The Lion King
30th June	parents of children with SEND	Learning Plan reviews this week
4th July	Year 2	Hengistbury Head
8th and 9th July	Year 6	Transition days at Aureus School, Didcot Girls School and St Birinus
8th and 9th July	Reception to Year 5	New class days moving into their new classrooms and an opportunity to meet their new teaching teams.
10th July	Year 5 and 6	Skateboarding Workshop
15th July	Year 6	Year 6 party 3 - 5:30pm
17th July	Year 6	Year 6 performance 2:30pm and 6pm
18th July	Acorn Class	No pre-school session
18th July	Year 6	Last Assembly and presentation to parents 10:15am to be held in the amphitheatre, weather permitting.

Term Dates for School Year September 2025 - 2026 (the NEXT Academic Year)

Autumn 1	3rd September - 24th October (INSET DAYS 1st and 2nd September, 10th October school closed to children) <i>Reception children will have half days on the 3rd and 4th September 2025 and then start full time on Friday 5th September.</i> Pre school sessions will start on Monday 8th September.
Autumn 2	3rd November - 18th December 2025
Spring 1	6th January - 13th February 2026
Spring 2	23rd February - 27th March
Summer 1	13th April - 22nd May
Summer 2	1st June - 17th July 2026 (Inset day 12th June) There will be no pre-school sessions on 17th July

Term Dates for School Year September 2024-25 (The CURRENT academic Year)

Autumn 1	Wednesday 4th September 2024 - 25th October 2024 (Inset days 2nd and 3rd September and 11th October).
Autumn 2	4th November - 19th December at 12 noon (gates open at 11:50am) No pre-school sessions (Acorn Class) on 19th December.
Spring 1	6th January - 14th February 2025
Spring 2	24th February 2025 - 4th April at 12 noon (gates open at 11:50am) No pre-school sessions (Acorn Class) on 18th July
Summer 1	22nd April (Tuesday) - 23rd May
Summer 2	3rd June (Tuesday) - 18th July at 12 noon No pre school sessions (Acorn Class) on 18th July