



NEWSLETTER

2ND SEPTEMBER 2024



A very warm welcome back to Didcot Primary Academy , especially for those children and families who are joining us for the first time.

This newsletter will be longer than most as it aims to provide you with key information for the year. Do also check our website regularly.

The school newsletter is emailed out once a fortnight, usually on a Monday. It includes important information and an updated diary for the year.

The staff team have worked hard over the summer to prepare for another year of enriching learning and exciting trips and visits. They are a phenomenal team and everything they do has your child at the heart of it.

How to help your child to be successful and enjoy school

We want every child to enjoy school and will work with you to try to achieve that. There are simple things that you can do to support this and give your child every chance of success.

- Sensible bed time free of devices.
- Ensure your child attends school every day unless they are too ill to attend. Avoid routine appointments with dentists etc during the school day.
- Ensure your child is brought to school **on time every day and they are picked up on time.**
- Ensure that they eat breakfast before coming to school
- Ensure your child attends school in the correct uniform every day with everything they need - water bottle, reading books
- Keep toys, jewellery and other things that are special to the child at home.
- Read to your child, with your child and talk about the books building up vocabulary
- Talk to the staff in your class team if you have concerns as soon as they arise so that they can be dealt with as soon as possible
- Check texts, apps, and access to the internet and limit this where it is not suitable.

The next two weeks

2nd September	INSET day school closed to children
3rd September	INSET day school closed to children
4th September	Years 1-6 start at 8:40am Reception EITHER 9-11:30 or 1pm -3:30pm your slots will be already allocated. NO NURSERY SESSIONS
5th September	Years 1-6 start at 8:40am Reception EITHER 9-11:30 or 1pm -3:30pm you slots will be already allocated NO NURSERY SESSIONS
6th September	Reception - Yr 6 in full time 8:40 am - 3:25pm NO NURSERY SESSIONS
9th September	Nursery children start Choir starts today
10th September	DGS and SBS information evening for children and parents in Year 5 and 6 at 5.30pm
11th September	Rocksteady lessons start
12th September	Birch class Swimming
13th September	



01235 606012



www.didcotprimaryacademy.org



office@didcotprimaryacademy.org

Your School Team

<p style="text-align: center;">School Office</p> <p>Please speak to our friendly office team if you need to see a member of staff, have an issue with Arbor, or to check any queries or questions.</p>	<p>Roza Kozłowska (Office Manager) Annie Hobbs Jo Douglas</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Executive Principal</p> <p>I am very proud to be the Executive Principal. I have led the school since it opened in 2016. I also lead Sires Hill Primary Academy and spend time at both schools over the week</p>	<p>Alison Ashcroft</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Assistant Principals</p> <p>The Assistant Principals work alongside me to lead the school.</p>	<p>Chris Lamming (Behaviour lead) Lianne Vickers (SENCO and DSL) Andrea Brown (Curriculum) Ben Hyde (Induction and training)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pastoral Team</p> <p>Family Support Worker: will work directly with families to improve attendance, behaviours and other issues. Learning Behaviour Mentor supports children and families with more challenging behaviours</p>	<p>Alex Wright (Family Support)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Caretaker</p> <p>Our caretaker works hard to ensure our school is safe and ready for learning.</p>	<p>Raf Kozłowski</p>

Early Years Early Years Leader: Emma Clements

<p style="text-align: center;">Nursery Team Oak Class</p> <p>Rea McMordie, Hannah Brett, Rachel Spencer and Zuzi Ziman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reception Team</p> <p>Hazel Class: Sarah Scrivener, Emily Holden, Afraa Farhat Cherry Class: Bella Mills, Bethany Scane</p>
---	---

Key Stage 1 Key Stage 1 leader: Emmy Taylor

<p style="text-align: center;">Year 1</p> <p>Maple Class: Emma Clements, Angharad Evans Beech Class: Claire Middlemore, Salina Chalise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 2</p> <p>Rowan Class: Emmy Taylor, Louise McMaster, Kelly Marshall Willow Class: Elle Paterson, Di Bradley</p>
---	---

Key Stage 2 Key Stage 2 Leader: Ed Helliwell

<p>Year 3</p> <p>Sycamore Class: Charlotte Truscott, Elsie Waligo Chestnut Class: Hannah Mason, Gemma Smith and Lucy Taylor</p>	<p>Year 4</p> <p>Birch Class: Andrea Brown, Chris Lamming, Michelle Sagoo Elm Class: Ben Little, Tina Bone</p>	<p>Year 5</p> <p>Ash Class: Jen Tully, Daisy McDonald, Hayley Gage Alder Class: Claudia Challis, Lucy Wilson, Becky Fiori</p>	<p>Year 6</p> <p>Oak Class: Ben Hyde, Sally Foster Cedar Class: Ed Helliwell, Kate Smith, Nicole Bennett</p>
--	---	--	---

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

<p>All teachers are entitled to 10% of the timetable for planning, preparation and assessment (known as PPA). In our school this is usually covered by specialist teachers.</p>	<p>Sarah Scrivener: Music specialist/ Forest School Cara Sullivan: computing</p>
---	--

Safeguarding at Didcot Primary Academy

Safeguarding is everyone's business. The staff team at Didcot Primary Academy are all trained in Safeguarding and have to be curious. All concerns are noted on our system and the majority of these will be discussed with parents and carers before contacting social services. The only time when there will not have been an initial discussion is when it is felt by professionals that a child could be put in danger.

If a member of staff has a concern about your child they have to report it on our safeguarding system. The Designated Safeguarding Leaders: Mrs Vickers, Mrs Ashcroft, Mrs Wright, Mr Lamming and Mrs Brown will all be able to view this concern -but no other member of staff. They will then make a decision about what happens next: to monitor, to discuss with yourself or your child, or to seek further support. If further information is needed you will then be contacted by a member of the team. You may be asked to provide information to complete a Strength and Needs form as this is usually requested by social services. The main aim of any of this is to help your child and to support your family. If a referral to social services is made they will then carry out an assessment to determine what happens next. This could be nothing and the case could close, you may be offered family help or, for more serious cases, it could progress to a Initial Child Protection Conference where professionals will decide if a child should be placed on a Child protection Plan. The school will continue to work with you to support your child throughout the process.

Please help us to help you. If your child has been upset about something that has happened at home or has sustained an injury at home, please let your child's teacher know (or email the office) as soon as possible.

UNIFORM

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD WEARS THE SCHOOL UNIFORM EVERY DAY.

RECEPTION - YEAR 4

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Purple sweatshirt with logo
- Dark grey shorts, trousers (not leggings), pinafore, skirt
- Grey, white or purple socks/tights
- Black school shoes or plain black trainers

YEAR 5 and 6

- Same as above with the option of wearing white shirt (tucked in) with school tie.

PE Uniform

You will be told which days are PE days and this is when the PE uniform will be worn. Children do not get changed at school and must come to school in their PE kits on these days.

- House colour top with logo
- Plain black hoodie, school sweatshirt or Omnia hoodie
- Black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- trainers (any colour)

Long hair (past shoulder length) must be fully tied back every day. Small purple/black accessories may be worn. No animal headbands.

No jewellery (exception of small studs but not on PE days)

BIRTHDAYS

When it is your child's birthday on a school day, this will be celebrated in school with

class singing to them. Due to the number of serious allergies in school please **do not bring sweets** or other treats in to share with the class. Please note that having a day off for a birthday is not permitted!



PARKING

- Please be considerate if you have to drive to school to drop your child off and park in a safe place without blocking the driveways of residents.
- **DO NOT USE THE STAFF CARPARK**
- You are able to use the Station Garden car park which is only a few minutes walk away.

CONCERNS AND QUERIES

If you need a longer discussion with your child's teacher, please do speak to the office to make an appointment so that you can be allocated sufficient time. This will be made at a mutually agreeable time and could be a phone call if that is preferable.

BEFORE SCHOOL....

- The playground outside the school grounds is a public playground. Parents and carers are responsible for their child's behaviour in this space.
- Whilst it is a public space, please could you refrain from smoking (if applicable) and using bad language near the children - especially outside the school gates.
- This is really not the best space for football and we ask that all balls are put away at 8:35am when the area is busy.
- The main gates (by the public playground and by the car park) will open at **8:40am** - please make sure that you allow for both gates to open before you come in.
- The same person (member of SLT) will also open the Cherry Tree Road gates so this will be slightly later.
- The gates will be shut promptly at **8:50am. So please make sure that you have left the grounds by this time. There is sufficient time to do so.**
- Parents and carers remain responsible for their child until they are within the classroom.
- Your child's teacher will be at the classroom door to greet each child as they come in.
- This is not the best time to try to have a discussion with your child's teacher as they will be busy settling children in the classroom and getting ready to teach.
- If you have an urgent message to give to the class team, please speak to the school office.
- Please do not allow your child (or younger children) to use the play equipment or any other equipment that has been set up ready for the day ahead.
- Nursery children will need to be dropped off at the Nursery main entrance.

AFTER SCHOOL....

- The school gates will open at 3:25pm for you to go and pick your child up.
- Children will only be dismissed to a known adult. If a different person is picking up your child (play date etc) please contact the office to let them know. They will then issue you with a password to give to the adult. The password changes daily. Children will not be handed over to a different adult without the password.
- Year 5 and 6 children are able to walk home independently but you have to give permission first. They are only able to walk home independently if this happens EVERY DAY.
- School play equipment is not to be used after school.
- The gates will shut promptly at 3:35pm
- If you need to speak to your child's teacher quickly, please wait until all children have been dismissed from the class so that staff can continue to dismiss the other children.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There is a wrap around service run by 'Get Active' that operates daily at school for those children in reception and above. This operates until 6pm

There are a few other clubs that happen after school. These are usually for Key Stage 2 and are usually run by external providers and have a charge (with the exception of choir). These other clubs are NOT childcare facilities and will be cancelled if staff are not available.

We run clubs within the school day on a Friday afternoon so that 100% of our school population can benefit from pursuing an interest. Children are expected to commit to their selected club for a half term.

BREAKFAST CLUB

School staff run our breakfast club which operates from 7:30am daily. Please note breakfast will not be served after 8:15am. This service needs to be paid for in advance and booked with the school office team.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please make sure that you have selected your child's lunch on the Fresh Start website in good time to avoid disappointment. We have a fantastic catering team but they need to know in advance so that sufficient ingredients are sourced!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED...

We aim to work with you, in partnership, to keep you informed about your child's progress and curriculum - both academic and pastoral. There are a number of ways that we do this:

1. **Curriculum Information** - you will receive information, each full term, about your child's curriculum for that term. This is a summary of the content that will be taught to your child so that you can have informed discussions about this at home. This leaflet will also be available on the school website.
2. **Meetings with the class teacher** - we call these 'Learning Reviews' and they are held twice a year - in October and again in February. These ten minutes appointments are an opportunity to hear and talk about how your child is doing. These will be held in person or via the telephone. You will also be able to view their books.
3. **Progress Reports:** You will receive a report in February with your child's latest assessment against areas of the curriculum. In July you will receive a more detailed annual report. These will be emailed to you.
4. **Meetings/Workshops:** We will be running a series of meetings/workshops during the year which will start at 9am. The PowerPoints will be available to those that are unable to make it during the school working day.
5. **Newsletters** - This newsletter is sent out at least once a fortnight - usually on a Monday. There will be information about things that have happened/will be happening in school as well as an updated diary.
6. **Website** - Our website holds a huge amount of information which is updated. You can find information about your child's curriculum and year group (including timetable) on the Curriculum tab of our school website: Curriculum Information by Year group
7. **School App** - our website has an app attached to it - TheSchoolApp, download this and select our school to get instant access to the diary, newsletters and other information.
8. **Emails** - Our school office team endeavour to keep you informed and reminded through emails. They might not be able to remind you about every single event - so make sure you put the dates in the diary
9. **Responding to your queries:** If you send an email into school this will be dealt with as soon as feasibly possible. If you have not had a response within 48 hours, please do contact the office again to ensure that we have received it.
10. **Facebook:** We have an official school Facebook account where we post various information and celebrations - do follow us to keep up to date.

TOILETS

Please note, we are not able to admit any child (apart from those in breakfast club) to use the toilets within school, prior to 8:40am when the gates open.

We are also not able to allow children back into school once they have been dismissed at the end of the day to use the toilets. Please encourage your child to use the toilet before they leave the school grounds.

WE ARE CASHFREE

All payments for school need to be paid by BACS or card payments. We have a device in the school office for these transactions.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIPS AND EVENTS

As per our 'Charging Policy' curriculum trips and events (with some exclusions) do not carry a payment but in order for the trip to go ahead we will ask for a 'parental contribution'. This is purely the cost of the trip divided by the number of children as the school does not make any profit on any trip. The bulk of the cost is usually transport as the coach costs are enormous. The office staff work hard to keep these as low as possible. We would never leave a child behind because they have not paid, however, should insufficient funds be collected, the whole trip could be cancelled as there is not sufficient money within the school budget to fund this.

VOLUNTEERING FOR TRIPS

We do often ask for volunteers to attend trips. You will be allocated a group (which will most likely not include your child) and will be briefed on what to expect. This is not an opportunity for a day out with your child.

ATTENDANCE

In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts and as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.

STEP 1 – Identify, Assess & Prevent

Our daily actions & processes aim to promote relationship building with children & families to prevent absence. This involves monitoring data trends & absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (& your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absence is at risk of reaching the new National Threshold (**10 sessions (10 half days/5 days) within a 10 week rolling period**). Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively, using praise & incentives, swift absence follow up, email &/or letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns, processing requested or unrequested 'Term Time Exceptional Absence' & doing Home Visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.

STEP 3 – Formalised Support

Where absence continues & initial support needs to be increased an Attendance Contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of improvement to prevent further escalation. Achievable & individual targets will be set & reviewed regularly. Medical &/or other information will be actively sought at this point if required to work collaboratively with you & other agencies. An AC can run alongside other meetings e.g., TAF meeting.

STEP 5 – Legal Action – No Improvement

Legal action (Penalty Notice or Prosecution) MAY be requested from the Local Authority (LA) if Unauthorised Term Time Absence is taken, or if overall absence continues to occur & reaches or exceeds the National Threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory Guidance States a Referral to Children's Social Care for children with 'Severe Absence' (less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'Intense Support'.

STEP 2 – Early Absence Support

We move to this step if the National Threshold for absence is met (authorised or unauthorised) to prevent further absence occurring. Discussions & meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done using discussions &/or meetings to create a supportive action plan. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be required for some support to be accessed along with a Team Around the Family (TAF) Meeting Process

STEP 4 – Warnings – Concerns Remain

Where STEP 2 or STEP 3 support has been unsuccessful &/or declined, a 'Formal Warning' if AC has failed, or a 'Notice to Improve' Letter if no AC appropriate, will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement. A Family Court Order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.

PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION

1st Offence (after 19th August 2024) of Term Time Leave &/or Irregular Attendance (10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence or more) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. If paid within 21 days fine is reduced to £80 per parent, per child.

2nd Offence within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days, no reduction available.

3rd Offence within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) NO PENALTY NOTICE considered. The case will be presented to **Magistrates' Court** under s444(1) or (1a) of the Education Act. If found guilty, a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued. Convictions for s444(1a) offences will show on DBS record.

Term dates 2024-25

First Day of term	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half term	28th October – 1st November 2024
Last day of term	Thursday 19th December 2024 at 12 noon (nursery sessions finish on Wednesday 18th December)
Winter Holidays	20th December -3rd January
Further information	Wednesday 4th September 2024 and Thursday 5th September 2023 half days for Reception children, allocated as either morning or afternoon. 6th September in full time. 9th September Nursery children start on allocated days INSET DAYS Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September Friday 11th October 2024
Spring Term	
First day of term	Monday 6th January 2025
Half term	17th February 2025 – 21st Feb 2025
Last day of term	Nursery – Thursday 3rd April 2025 Friday 4th April (school finishes at 12 noon)
Easter/Spring holidays	7th April 2025 – 21st April 2025
Further information	Inset Days. Friday 3rd January Inset Day
Summer term	
First day of term	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Half term	26th – 30th May 2025
Last day of term	Nursery – 17th July 2025 18th July 2025 (school finishes at 12 noon)
Further information	INSET DAYS 2nd June

2024-25 Autumn 1

Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.

Date	Who	What
2nd Sept 2024	Whole school	Inset Day - School closed to children
3rd Sept 2024	Whole school	Inset Day - School Closed to children
4th September	Years 1-6	Term starts at 8:40am
4th September	Reception	half days either morning or afternoons
4th September	Nursery	No nursery sessions. 1:1 appointments for new starters
5th September	Reception	Half days either morning or afternoons
5th September	Nursery	No nursery sessions 1:1 appointments for new starters
6th September	Reception	Reception in full time
6th September	nursery	no nursery sessions 1:1 appointments for new starters
8th September	nursery	full time (30hrs) children start
9th September	nursery	part time (15hrs) children start
10th September	Year 5 and 6 children and parents	Didcot Girls School and St Birinus School information evening held at DPA at 5.30pm
12th September	Birch Class	Swimming starts
17th September	Year 4	River and Rowing Museum trip
18th September	Reception parents	Phonics Workshop 9am
23 September	Whole school	World Celebration Day - Children to come to school wearing clothes that are special to them, wear for special occasions to learn more about each other and our cultures and backgrounds.

2024-25 Autumn 1

Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.

25th September	Nursery	Didcot Fire Station to visit school
30th Sept - 11th Oct	Year 6	Bikeability all week
1st October	Year 5	Ancient Greece Workshop
3rd October	Year 3	Trip to Stonehenge
11th October	Whole school	Inset day - school closed to children
15th October	Whole school	Individual photographs
18th October	Whole school	Show Racism the Red Card day - wear red to school today
21st October	Whole school	Learning reviews 3:40pm till 7pm ten minute appointments in school or by phone
22nd October	Nursery	Little City to visit Acorn class
23rd October		childhood flu vaccination programme
23rd October	whole school	Learning reviews 3:40pm till 7pm ten minute appointments in school or by phone
28th -1st November	Whole school	School closed Get Active will be running holiday camp

2024-25 Autumn 2

Date	Who	What...
8th November	Early years and Year 1	Big Machines Roadshow
11th November-15th November	Parent/careers of children with SEND	Learning plan reviews will be held this week
12th November	Reception	Visit to Didcot Railway Station
15th November	Year 6	Trip to Milestones Museum
21st November	Elm class	Elm class starts swimming
10th December	Reception	Reception Christmas performance 2:30pm. Please note, no children under 5 will be admitted into the audience.
10th December	Year 5	Year 5 to watch High School Musical at Aureus School
12th December	Year 2	Christmas performance 2:30pm and 5:30 pm. Please note, no children under 5 will be admitted into the audience.
18th December	Years 3-6	Christmas Concert Red and Yellow house 9:15am Blue and Green House 2:15pm
Thursday 19th December	Nursery	No nursery sessions
Thursday 19th December	Whole school	End of term. School Closes at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am.

2025 Spring 1

When	who	What
6th January	whole school	Term starts at 8:40am
14th January	Year 5	Winchester Science Museum trip
24th January	Choir	Young Voices O2 Concert. children will leave school at 9:15pm and will return around midnight
10th February	Whole school	Learning reviews
12th February	whole school	Learning reviews
13th February	Chestnut Class	Chestnut class starts swimming
14th February	Year 3	Rocks and Fossils workshop

2025 Spring 2

When	Who	What...
24th February	whole school	Spring 2 starts
4th March	Whole school	Roving bookshop in school
10th March	Parents/carers of children with SEND	Learning Plan review meetings will be held this week
17th - 21st March	Year 6	Kilvrough Residential Trip
20th March	Year 2	Elizabeth 1st to visit Year 2
24th March	Year 6	Junior Citizens
4th April	Nursery	No nursery 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
30th April - 2nd May	Year 4	Year 4 Residential to PGL Liddington
1st May	Nursery	Acorn Class to visit Earth Trust
5th May	whole school	Bank holiday
12th May	Year 5	Earth Trust visit
12th May - 15th May	Year 6	SAT's Week
8th May	Sycamore	Sycamore Class starts swimming
19th May	Nursery and reception	Sports afternoon 2:15pm
20th May	Whole school	Group photos
23rd May	Years 1-6	Sports Day

2025 Summer 2

When	Who	What...
2nd June	Whole school	INSET DAY school closed to children
15th July	Year 6	Year 6 performance 2:30pm