



Working in partnership

I hope that you found the learning review for your child helpful and informative. These are important meetings and give both teachers and parents information. The meetings were well attended.

Remembrance Day

We will be marking Remembrance Day on the 11th November. There are poppies and other items related to remembrance day available to purchase, for a donation, at the school office.



Applying For a place in Reception 2026.

If your child is born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 you will need to apply for a reception place for September 2026. Applications will open at Oxfordshire County Council on 4th November 2025. If your child is currently in pre school you will still need to apply for a place - transition to reception is not guaranteed. Unless your child has a sibling in school (in Year 5 or below) your school place will be allocated based on distance. Last year the last place was offered to child living 0.281 miles away from the school. Please do consider other schools if you do not live really close to DPA. Many are now offering tours.

The next two weeks	
3 rd November	PTA meeting at 7pm all welcome. Forest school Ash group A Alder group B
4 th November	Year 6 trip to Milestones Museum
5 th November	
6 th November	
7 th November	
10 th November	Start of Anti-bullying week - wear odd socks
11 th November	Lego workshop Year 4
12 th November	Lego workshop Year 5
13 th November	
14 th November	Individual photographs

Staff update

After 5 years at DPA, Mr K has left to grow his own business. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him every success. Our new caretaker is Mr Foggett.

We have appointed two learning support assistants: Miss Lai (working across Year 4) and Miss Akhundova (working in Alder Class).

Mr Hyde will be on paternity leave for the next two weeks, I am sure you will join me in sending him your best wishes for the new addition to his family. While he is away, Mr Robins will be taking the class.

Student teachers

It is incredibly important that we welcome student teachers who can learn skills and techniques from our phenomenal staff team. We work closely with Oxford Brookes University to provide placements in our school. There will be some classes who have student teachers working in classes over this half term - under the guidance of our experienced team.





Next week is anti-bullying week. This is not the only time that we talk to children about bullying, but it is an important time to remind children about what bullying is and what they can do about it - and how this is different from falling out with friends.

The Anti bullying Alliance defines bullying as:

The **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological, It can happen face to face or online.

As adults, we all have a role to play in creating communities where children feel safe and valued: where we use our power for good, stand up for prejudice and are united against bullying.

As a parent you have a vital role to play in helping your child recognise bullying and understand how you can help to stop it.

What bullying isn't: falling out

It is common for children to have arguments and friendship fall outs and they will need our guidance to resolve conflict, make amends and move on.

Not all incidences of conflict can be understood as bullying. Relational conflict usually involves individuals who are friends, or a situation with no power balance involved. It is generally behaviour which happens occasionally, and offence might be accidental. An example might be an argument or falling out with a friend, or experimental 'banter' that unintentionally offended the person on the receiving end.

What do we do as a school? Incidents of bullying are rare at DPA, but they have happened. The most important message for all children is to speak up when they think that something is wrong so that staff can take immediate action. We review our anti-bullying policy annually - please find this on our website. If we do find that bullying is taking place, all parents of all children involved will be informed as soon as possible.

Mrs Vickers has recently met with children in KS2 who have said that bullying happens in school to find out more. Whilst the children's feelings were valid this was more to do with falling out and fairness at playtime rather than bullying. However, what they did want to know was that the member of staff had acted upon their information - not to find out what happened next, but simply to know that action had been taken and we will take this forward. We will continue to meet regularly with the children so that we can ensure that bullying is not taking place at DPA.

Term dates 2025-6

First Day of term	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Half term	27 th October – 31 st October 2025
Last day of term	Thursday 18 th December at 12 noon (nursery sessions finish on Wednesday 17 th December)
Winter Holidays	19 th December -2 nd January
Further information	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 and Thursday 4 th September 2025 half days for Reception children, allocated as either morning or afternoon. 5 th September in full time. 8 th September Pre-school children start on allocated days INSET DAYS Monday 1 st September and Tuesday 2 nd September Friday 10 th October 2024
Spring Term	
First day of term	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Half term	16 th February 2026 – 20 th Feb 2026
Last day of term	Pre school – Thursday 26 th March 2026 Rest of school Friday 27 th March (school finishes at 12 noon, gates will open at 11:50am)
Easter/Spring holidays	30 th March till 10 th April 2026
Further information	Inset Days. Monday 5 th January Inset Day school closed to children
Summer term	
First day of term	Monday 13 th April 2026
Half term	25 th – 29 th May 2026
Last day of term	Pre school: Thursday 16 th July Rest of school: Friday 17 th July at 12 noon. Gates will open at 11:50am.
Further information	INSET DAYS Friday 12 th June, school closed to children

2025-26 Autumn 2

Date	Who	What...
3 rd November	Year 5	Outdoor learning (Ash Group A / Alder Group B)
4 th November	Year 6	Milestones Museum trip
10 th November	whole school	Odd socks day - Anti bullying week
10 th November	Year 5	Outdoor learning (Ash Group B / Alder Group A)
11 th November	Year 4	Lego workshop
12 th November	Year 5	Lego workshop
14 th November	whole school	Individual photographs. If your child is not present in school they will not have their photograph taken. Due to photos being taken on Children in Need day, we will not be dressing up.
17 th November	Year 5	Outdoor learning (Ash Group A / Alder Group B)
21 st November	Whole school	Non school uniform (not fancy dress) in return for chocolate and other sweet treats.
24 th November	Year 5	Outdoor learning (Ash Group B / Alder Group A)
24 th November	Year 3-6	Young Poets week National Zoom workshop
25 th November	selected team from year 3 and 4	Sportshall Athletics
1 st December	Year 5	Outdoor learning (Ash Group A / Alder Group B)
2 nd December	Whole school	Cross country competition - all children to wear PE kits today
3 rd December	Year 5	Humantopia Event at Aureus

Autumn 2 continued

4 th December	Year 3	stonehenge trip
4 th December	Whole school	Cake sale
4 th December	whole school	PTA - Christmas Disco event
8 th December	Year 5	Outdoor learning (Ash Group B / Alder Group A)
8 th December	Year 1 Beech Class	Christmas craft afternoon 2:15pm * please note change of date
9 th December	Year 1 Maple Class	Christmas craft afternoon 2:15pm. *please note change of date
10 th December	Rocksteady parents	Rocksteady concerts at 10:30am and 2:30pm
11 th December	Year 2	Year 2 Christmas performance at 2:30pm. Please note that children under 5 will not be admitted.
11 th December	Year 2	Year 2 Christmas performance at 5:30pm. Please note that children under 5 will not be admitted.
15 th December	Reception	Reception Christmas performance. Please note that children under 5 will not be admitted into the audience.
16 th December	Pre-school	Nursery Christmas craft and sing along
17 th December	Year 3-6	Christmas Concert Red and Yellow house at 9:15am Blue and Green house at 2pm choir will be performing at both concerts
17 th December	pre-school	last day of term
Thursday 18 th December	whole school	no pre-school sessions. School closes at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am.

2026 Spring 1

When	who	What
Tuesday 6th January	whole school	Term starts at 8:40am
8 th January	Chestnut class Year 3	Swimming starts
14 th - 22nd January	Year 6	Bikeability
16 th January	years 3,4 and 6	Virtual reality sessions: Year 3 - volcanoes Year 4: Vikings Year 6: The arctic
20 th January	Year 5	Trip to Winchester Science Museum
23 rd January	choir going to Young Voices	Young Voices concert at the O2 London. We will leave school at 9:15am and return at around midnight.
28 th January	Parents of children in Early years	Developing communication, English and Maths with your Early Years Child
29 th January	Year 2	Hampton Court Palace
29 th January	Year 3	Rocking Rocks workshop
4 th February	Parents of children in Early Years	Developing communication, English and Maths with your Early Years Child
9 th February	whole school	learning reviews
11 th February	whole school	learning reviews
11 th February	Parents of children in early years	Developing communication, English and Maths with your Early Years Child
16 th - 20 th February	whole school	half term.

2026 Spring 2

When	Who	What...
23rd February	whole school	Spring 2 starts
24 th February	Year 1	Great Fire of London workshop
25 th February	Parents	Supporting your child with managing feelings
3rd March	Whole school	Roving bookshop in school
4 th March	parents	Supporting your child with managing feelings
2 nd - 6 th March	whole school	Book week events
11 th March	Parents	Supporting your child with managing feelings
11 th March	Whole school	PTA Family Film night - more information to come date to be confirmed
18 th March	parents	Supporting your child with managing feelings
19 th March	Year 2	Elizabeth I workshop
25 th March	parents	Supporting your child with managing feelings
25 th March	Parents of Rocksteady children	Rocksteady Concerts 10:30am and 2:30pm
27 th March	pre-school	No nursery sessions
27 th March	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am

2026 Summer 1

When	Who	What...
13 th April	Whole school	Summer 1 starts at 8:40am
16 th April	Year 3 Sycamore class	Sycamore class start swimming
22 nd - 24 th April	Year 4	Residential trip to PGL
4 th May	whole school	Bank holiday
5 th May	Year 1	Victorian school workshop at Oxfordshire Museum
11 th May to 14 th May	Year 6	SAT's Week
19 th May	pre-school and reception	Early Years sports afternoon at 2pm
20 th May	Reception children	Vision screening
22 nd May	Year 1-6	Sports day and picnic Year 1-3 am Year 4-6pm

2026 Summer 2

When	Who	What...
10 th June	EYFS	Get Active Olympic Event
12 th June	whole school	School closed to children. Inset Day
17 th June	KS1	Olympic Event
18 th June	Selected team	Swimming Gala
24 th June	KS2	Olympic Event
7 th July	current children reception to Year 5	Transition day 1
7 th July	new reception children	one to one parent meetings with new teacher for children new to school. (not existing pre school children)
8 th July	current children reception to Year 5	Transition day 2
8 th July	new reception children	first transition session in school 9:00-11 am or 1 - 3pm
10 th July	Whole school	End of year reports will be emailed out to all parents
14 th July	Year 6	Year 6 party 3:30pm - 5:30pm
15 th July	Parents of children in Rocksteady	Rocksteady Concerts 10:30am and 2:30pm
16 th July	Year 6	Year 6 performance at 2pm and 6pm
16 th July	pre school	last day of term for pre school children
17 th July	Parents of children in Year 6	Year 6 assembly 10:15am
17 th July	Whole school	school closes at 12 noon. Gates will open at 11:50am.

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 (nursery 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