



NEWSLETTER

29TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Whilst we have only been in school for 3 and a half weeks, there has been so much going on. The PTA ran a very successful welcome disco for reception and pre-school families which raised over £600 - but more than that I have heard that a wonderful time was had by all. Thank you to the volunteers that helped make this event a success - the first of many planned by the new committee.

We have also had the vast majority of Year 6 on residential at Kilvrough. Whilst the weather was mixed, the courage and determination shown by our children was very strong - well done! A huge thank you to the staff who have given up time with their own families to enable this trip to go ahead.

Year 4 have visited Henley River and Rowing Museum - unfortunately for the very last time, as the museum is closing due to funding cuts. This trip has always really supported the children's knowledge of rivers and it is a great pity that this is coming to an end.

The next two weeks	
29 th September	
30 th September	Toys and Games Workshop Year 1
1 st October	No choir today
2 nd October	
3 rd October	
6 th October	Police talks to Year 5 and 6
7 th October	Greek Workshop Year 5 Didcot Fire station to visit pre school and reception
8 th October	
9 th October	
10 th October	Inset Day - school closed to children

Year Six Parents and Carers Secondary School Admissions

The closing date for secondary school applications is fast approaching - **31st October 2025**. It is a parental responsibility to apply for the school place and to keep yourselves updated with dates and events at the various secondary schools. We often do not know all the different events that are on offer, so please go directly to the secondary school for the information. You will need to apply on line and you will find out the school allocation on **2nd March 2026**.

Delayed Harvest Collections

At this time of year we often ask for donations for our local foodbank, but we are going to delay this until December so that they get another influx of stock at this time. Further information will come in future newsletters.

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.



01235 606012



www.didcotprimaryacademy.org



office@didcotprimaryacademy.org

Learning Reviews

You will shortly be receiving information on how to book an appointment for the learning reviews, which in most cases will be held on Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd October.

- You are allocated ten minutes for the appointment. It is vital that you arrive on time as the meeting has to finish before the next booking.
- Your child's work will be available for you to look through.
- All appointments are accessed through the main front doors. Reception and Pre-school parents will have appointments in the alcoves along our main corridor.
- Your child/children need to remain with you at all times during the appointment.



Racism is not tolerated in our school and is treated very seriously. On Friday 17th October, we are simply asking that your child wears something red. Our Diversity council will be leading an assembly during the week so that our children develop greater understanding. We need our children to know that an inclusive future can be achieved now. If your child is doing PE on Friday 17th or will be attending a sports club please make sure that they are still suitably dressed for this lesson/club.



Independent Use of Cutlery

Please encourage your child at home to be as independent as possible when using cutlery. We are finding that there are increasing numbers of children in Year 3 and above, who still find it difficult to cut into a potato or a piece of chicken, for example. Whilst staff will help when needed, it is important that children build up this life skill.



No Dogs on the school playground please

I would like to politely remind you all, that dogs are not to be brought onto the school site (with exception of guidedogs). This is to keep all our school population safe. If you walk your dog to school, please tie them up away from the school gates. Thank you all for your co-operation in this.



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 1

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

Date	Who	What
29 th September	Year 2 Willow Class	Forest School
30 th September	Year 1	Toys and games of the past workshop
1 st October	choir	No choir today
6 th October	Year 6	Police discussions
6 th October	Year 2 Rowan Class	Forest School
7 th October	Pre school	Fire station due to visit
7 th October	Year 5	Greek workshop in the hall
10 th October	Whole school	Inset Day - School Closed to children
14 th October	Reception	Local walk
14 th October	Years 3-6	Author Visit - Jack Jackman
15 th October	Year 2	Visit to Didcot Railway Centre
17 th October	whole school	Wear red for Show Racism the Red Card day
20 th October	Whole school (not Sycamore and Oak Class)	Learning reviews
22 nd October	Whole school (not Sycamore and Oak class)	Learning reviews
23 rd October	Pre School	Little City

2025-26 Autumn 2

Date	Who	What...
4 th November	Year 6	Milestones Museum trip
10 th November	whole school	Odd socks day - Anti bullying week
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.
21 st November	Whole school	Non school uniform (not fancy dress) in return for chocolate and other sweet treats.
25 th November	selected team from year 3 and 4	Sportshall Athletics
3 rd December	Year 5	Humantopia Event at Aureus
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
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.
29 th January	Year 2	Hampton Court Palace
29 th January	Year 3	Rocking Rocks workshop
9 th February	whole school	learning reviews
11 th February	whole school	learning reviews
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
3rd March	Whole school	Roving bookshop in school
2 nd - 6 th March	whole school	Book week events
19 th March	Year 2	Elizabeth I workshop
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
22 nd May	Year 1-6	Sports day and picnic Year 1-3 am Year 4-6pm

2026 Summer 2

When	Who	What...
1 st June	Whole school	school starts at 8:40am
12 th June	whole school	Inset day. School closed to children
18 th June	selected team	swimming gala
18 th June	Year 2	Hengistbury Head (TBC)
10 th July	whole school	Annual reports will be emailed out to you
14 th July	Year 6	Year 6 party till 5:30pm
16 th July	Year 6	Year 6 performance at 2:15pm and 6pm
16 th July	pre school	Last day in pre school
17 th July	Year 6	Year 6 Prize presentation and assembly at 10:15am
17 th July	whole school	No pre school sessions School closes at 12noon. Gates will open at 11:50am