



NEWSLETTER

15TH SEPTEMBER 2025

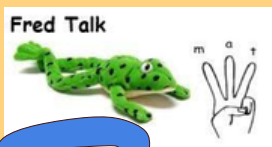
The children have got off to a great start in school. The classrooms are calm and purposeful and everyone is trying their best. Reception and pre-school classes have already established routines and expectations and the children have really settled. Thank you all for your support with this.



Strong Foundations - Learning to read

Phonics Workshop for parents and carers of Reception children (Pre-school parents welcome) Thursday 18th September 9am

Being able to read is a powerful tool and we want the children at DPA to secure this vital skill, underpinned by thorough knowledge. Learning to read at DPA is taught through our systematic phonic approach: Read Write Inc. The children are taught pure sounds that, when blended, can form meaningful words. Through this scheme they are also taught to form their letters correctly. Come along to this parent workshop, led by our Early Years Lead and Phonics Leader, Mrs Clements to find out more about the scheme and how you can support your child.



The next two weeks	
15 th September	Year 6 Residential to Kilvrough
16 th September	
17 th September	
18 th September	Phonics meeting for parents/carers in Reception
19 th September	
22 nd September	
23 rd September	Year 4 trip to River and Rowing museum Didcot Fire Station to visit Pre-School
24 th September	Flu vaccinations
25 th September	
26 th September	

The school meals that are prepared in school have to be prepared to high standards of nutrition and balance. Whilst we understand that some children prefer to have a packed lunch, please make sure that you are providing a balanced meal. Eating too much sugar at lunchtime is not conducive to concentration and learning in the afternoon!

We also aim to be nut free in school. Your child will not be able to eat any items made from or containing nuts as we have children throughout the school with severe allergies.

Packets of sweets, bars of chocolate and fizzy drinks are not permitted.



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New Parent Governor Required for Didcot Primary Academy

The school is looking for a parent or carer of a pupils at DPA to become a parent governor from early October 2025. The parent governor will hold an important role, working with the school's staff governor to provide support and challenge to the leadership team on a range of matters such as school development, academic performance, safeguarding, curriculum, pupil wellbeing and inclusion and more. Parent Governors sit on the Quality of Education and Safeguarding Committee, providing an opportunity to feed into discussions with Trustees on the Omnia Learning Trust Board, which oversees all four of the Trust's primary schools. Induction support and regular training opportunities are provided. The meetings are held within the school day four times a year, and parent governors are also expected to visit the school for discussions once a term.

Parent Governors do not need to have a background in education, but do need to have the time and energy to commit meaningfully to the role. If you would like to put yourself forward, or would like to know more about what the role involves, you are welcome to get in touch with the school office. An application form has been emailed out.

If more than one parent applies, there will be a ballot with parents voting. Deadline for applications is Monday 29th September 2025.

Pupil Leadership at Didcot Primary Academy

This week many pupils across the school put themselves forward for various positions of authority in our pupil leadership groups. This takes a lot of courage and resilience to do, talking in front of their peers and knowing that only one person can be appointed. We were proud of every child that delivered a speech and can understand their disappointment if they were not chosen. We are delighted that so many children want to be involved in these groups and will continue to look for other opportunities for other pupils to be involved. Congratulations to all those that were appointed in our various groups: Digital Leaders, Sports Leaders, Eco Council and Diversity Council.

In addition, teachers in Year 6 selected the first round of prefects that also support the running of the school. I am also very busy reading through a large number of applications for House Captains and these appointments will be made soon.

Celebration Assembly at DPA

Every Friday we hold a celebration assembly where, currently Year 1-6 come together to celebrate the week. Reception usually join us around half term. At the assembly, one child from every class receives the 'star of the week' award. Obviously, this means that the rest of the class do not have the award, but are encouraged to celebrate their friends achievements. Over the year, every child will receive a star of the week award - for a specific reason. At the end of each half term, subject specific awards are handed out. Look out for the stickers and certificates to celebrate with your child.

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
1 st September	whole school	Inset day: school closed to children
2 nd September	whole school	Inset day: school closed to children
3 rd September	Reception children	half day: 8:40am till 11:10am or 1 - 3:25pm
4 th September	Reception children	half day: 8:40am till 11:10am or 1 - 3:25pm
5 th September	Pre school parents	1:1 meetings
8 th September	Pre school children	Pre school starts
10 th September	Parent/carers in Year 5 and 6	Aureus School Information 3:30pm Oak Classroom
10 th September	choir	Choir starts - please not change of day to WEDNESDAY 3:25pm - 4:30pm Year 3 upwards
11 th September	Parent/carers in year 5/6	St Birinus and Didcot Girls school information 5pm
15 th September	children in Year 6	Kilvrough Residential trip 15 th September till 19 th September
23 rd September	Year 4	Visit to River and Rowing museum
23 rd September	Pre School	Didcot Fire Station due to visit
30 th September	Year 1	Toys and games of the past workshop
7 th October	Year 5	Greek workshop in the hall
15 th October	Year 2	Visit to Didcot Railway Centre
17 th October	whole school	Wear red for Show Racism the Red Card day

2025-26 Autumn 1 continued

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

20 th October	whole school	Learning reviews 3:45pm - 7pm
22 nd October	whole school	Learning reviews 3:45pm - 7pm
27 th October - 31 st October	Whole school	School closed Get Active will be running holiday camp

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.
9 th December	Year 1 Beech Class	Christmas craft afternoon 2:15pm
10 th December	Year 1 Maple Class	Christmas craft afternoon 2:15pm
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.
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
3rd March	Whole school	Roving bookshop in school
2 nd - 6 th March	whole school	Book week events
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
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