

St Andrew's C E Primary School
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16th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable Easter break - Welcome Back to the Summer Term! The children are very pleased to be back, to see their friends and have been settling back into school routines.

Theme: Our theme for this half term is "In My Garden", which is a lovely topic for the summer, especially now that our growing garden/mud kitchen area has had some changes and new resources added. We have ongoing activities for this term of growing, planting, caring for the environment, and observing minibeasts.

Staffing: Mrs Marsden will continue to teach the children when I take my PPA and Leadership time each Wednesday. Beth, our childcare student will continue to work with us on alternate weeks, and our regular volunteers, Mrs Baker (Singing), Mrs Smith and Aarti (Reading) will be with us each week, and Mrs Walker often pops in to help us with art work and other activities. We are very fortunate to have such fantastic support in addition to our school staff team.

Spring/Summer Weather: Please ensure children have suitable clothing in school for the weather, especially a waterproof coat! If your child wears wellies to school, please remember to bring other shoes to change into and wear indoors. In addition, all children will need a NAMED sunhat this term, as it becomes sunnier and hotter. A legionnaires type hat is particularly useful as it covers the neck and ears and can be ordered through our uniform supplier.

[School Trends](#)

All items of clothing **must** be **clearly named** – Thank you.

Supporting your child at home:

- Please continue to read with your child and record your comments in the yellow Reading Record book.
- Learn to read and write the Read Write Inc "Speed Sounds" we are learning at school; details are available weekly on Class Dojo.
- Write lower case letters with the correct formation i.e. using the Read Write Inc "patter" such as "round the apple and down the leaf" for a.
- The children are really enjoying writing at the moment and there are lots of ways to support this at home, e.g. writing a shopping list, birthday cards, or messages to family members. Post It notes are a great way to encourage writing, eg for notes or messages but also for labels, eg making a post-it note label to stick in each room in the house, eg hall, porch, kitchen etc.

Attendance: Please remember that permission for time off must be sought via a Leave of Absence form (from the school website) and completed at least two weeks in advance.

[St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Oxford - Attendance](#)

Snack : Snack time is a very important part of our daily routine, where the children are developing their language skills, developing table manners and trying new foods. We like to add to our free fruit with crackers and breadsticks, and other foods. There is an option on Parentpay to make a small voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the additional snack; please make a donation if you are able. Many thanks!

Getting Involved in Reception:

There are many ways that families can become involved in school life at St Andrew's:

Everyone is different. Everyone is special. Everyone is our neighbour

- Sending in donations such as resources for junk modelling, puzzles. [St Andrew's School - Reception Class Wishlist - Things To Get Me](#)
- Donating coffee grounds, (from your home or a local coffee shop!) or pots/plants for our Growing Garden.
- Coming to talk to the class about your job, or a special event that is happening in your family such as Eid.
- Accompanying us on a local walk to Headington library (starting this term)
- Supporting in our upcoming SASA events
- Helping us at an After school "Tidy Up "session (details to follow)
- Attending our Workshop and Coffee Mornings for parents (Mrs Walker's weekly coffee morning)

Reminders:

- If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, please keep them away from school until they have been free from symptoms for 48 hours. If your child is not attending school, please phone us each morning. As part of our safeguarding procedures all parents will be phoned if their child is absent without explanation, so it is very important that we have an up-to-date contact number.
- Please let us know if someone other than parents/carers or regular people are collecting your child.
- Hair – Long hair should be tied back or up for school. There are a few good reasons for this! For safety reasons when using climbing equipment and eating lunch or snack, to avoid it getting in paint or playdough and your child may be less likely to get headlice! Thank you for your co-operation.

Transition: This term, we will begin to think about the transition into Year 1. There are some changes that will be happening :

- Beginning to do some PE sessions in the hall
 - Attending some assemblies with the whole school.
 - Choosing a school dinner from option 1 or 2 each day.
 - Continuing to have a lunchtime play on the big playground with the rest of the school.
- All of these things will be gradual and handled sensitivity. More details will follow on timings and dates, and when the children will need to bring PE kit!

And Finally...

We look forward to the rest of the term and many sunnier days. As the weather gets warmer, please remember that children should have their named hat in school and have sun cream applied before school. Thank you.

As always, please let us know if you have any concerns and we will do our best to help.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Annie Arnold.