



27 Feb 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable break with your children last week and “Welcome Back” to the second half of the Spring Term! It feels as if we have had Spring and Winter this week already! The children have enjoyed the weather from both seasons! Please check on Class Dojo to see what else we have been learning about this week and things you can do at home.

Theme:

Our theme for this term is “Farms and New Life!” where we will be celebrating World Book Day, World Frog Day and Spring Festivals such as Lent, Eid, Easter. Our focus stories will be “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” “Hungry Hen” and stories by Kez Gray. Please see the topic web attached. We also have an exciting trip planned to the Oxford City Farm – more details to follow. We are grateful for the donations sent in for our workshop and writing areas last term, such as tubes, lids, wrapping paper, ribbons, boxes, and envelopes and old cards and production has been “full on” in these areas recently! Please remember you can encourage the children to recycle by “deconstructing” their models and sending them back to us!

Supporting your child at home:

Here are some ways that you can support your child at home:

- Sharing stories and books together. It is an exciting time now, as children are developing their phonics skills and can often read some simple words in the text of story books, so it’s a great way to read together.
- Handwriting: This term our handwriting sessions will focus on “Handwriting Families” where we learn sets of letters that have a similar formation e.g., c,o,a,d,g,q. Look out for more information on Class Dojo.

Getting Involved in Reception:

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

- Sending in donations such as resources for junk modelling, puzzles.
- 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 or your job.
- Accompanying us on a local walk to Headington library (starting after Easter)
- Supporting in our upcoming SASA events (next up is the bumper Easter Raffle! And we will need help getting raffle prizes!)
- 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) (Phonics workshop on Wed 4th March 2.30pm)

Staffing:

In addition to our regular Reception team, Miss Beth Howard (Childcare Student) has been working with us and will continue to do so on alternative weeks until June. Our TA, Lily has joined us again this week after travelling in Africa last term – the children are VERY excited to welcome her back and learn lots more about Africa! Mrs Marsden will continue to teach the class every Wednesday, as before.

Weather & Clothing:

Please continue to ensure children are wearing suitable indoor clothes during the changeable weather this term – we would suggest that they wear layers i.e., vest, long sleeved top, school sweatshirt/cardigan etc. They will still need a warm/waterproof coat, hat and gloves! Wellies can be left at school too, but please can you make sure EVERYTHING is clearly labelled with your child's name – matching lost property with the correct owner is so much easier when this is the case. Thank you.

PSHE:

Through our PSHE teaching, each week we have a focussed Circle Time, we learn vocabulary to help us recognise and discuss our feelings. This term we will begin to talk about Zones of Regulation, where children identify which Zone they are in according to their feelings and how they can get back to the Green Zone (feeling ok) i.e. by learning ways to calm down. Some children may have done this in their nursery or may have used the story The Colour Monster to help with talking about their feelings.

There are some other things we do at school that children could practice at home which will help in their day-to-day school lives!

- Putting on their coat, hat, gloves etc by themselves and trying to do it up!
- Putting coats, shoes, and bags away tidily at home.
- Tidying up their own toys when they have finished playing with them.
- Saying the words “please”, “thank you” & “excuse me please” to other people – children and adults!
- Trying to use a knife and fork when eating meals at the table.
- Listening to other people when they are talking & following instructions (we call this Listen and Do at school!)
- Learning to be patient, by waiting for a turn for something, or to speak in a conversation.

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.
- Please remember to request any time off by completing a Leave of Absence form available on the school website.

Thank you for your co-operation in all these matters.

Dates :

Fri 27 th Feb	Preloved costume sale ahead of World Book Day – After school
Thurs 5 th Mar	World Book Day – details to follow
W/B 16 th Mar	World Frog Day Celebration – Wear something green or dress like a frog!
Fri 20 th Mar	Visit to Oxford City Farm – details to follow.
Wed 25 th Mar & Thurs 26 th April	Parents Evening – Meetings to talk about your child.
Thurs 26 th Mar	Spring Celebration pm – provisional date tbc
Fri 27 th Mar	End of Term Easter Holiday – 1.15pm finish

And Finally...

This is term is always an enjoyable with so many festivals and events to celebrate, and the arrival of warmer and brighter weather! As always, do please talk to us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Annie Arnold.