

# Reception (Oak) Summer Term 2026 Newsletter

## Welcome Back!

Welcome Back! I hope you had a lovely and restful Easter break.

I am really looking forward to a fun, busy and exciting final term ahead of us in Reception!

## Ashwell Learning Journey Topic

This half term, our topic is '**Growth**'. The children will learn about animals from around the world and the habitats in which they live. As part of this topic, we will be visiting Wimpole Hall Farm on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**, where the children will meet farm animals and explore the walled garden in summer bloom. Through our outdoor learning sessions, the children will also plant seeds and care for plants within the school environment, developing their understanding of growth and change.

In the second half of the term, our topic will be '**Up, Up, Up and Away!**'. The children will explore things that fly, design and test kites, and learn about different modes of transport, comparing those from the past with those used today. We will also complete our learning about the seasons by focusing on summer.

Alongside these topics, we will begin preparing the children for their transition into Year 1, supporting them as they become more independent and confident learners. As always, our curriculum will remain flexible, with 'in the moment' planning to ensure we build on the children's interests and provide meaningful learning opportunities as the term progresses.

## Prime Areas of Learning:

### (Communication & Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Physical Development)

We will continue to provide daily opportunities for children to share their ideas, work and news with the class, supporting the development of their speaking and listening skills. Our work on the *Zones of Regulation* will also continue, helping children to recognise and manage their emotions using a range of appropriate strategies. As the term progresses, we will place a particular focus on supporting children in coping with change, preparing them for the transition to Year 1, including a new classroom environment and teacher. The children will also begin practising for our class assembly, where parents will be invited to see and celebrate the learning that has taken place over the year in Oak Class. **This is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 9:10am.**

In Physical Development, alongside daily opportunities for active play within child-initiated learning, adult-led PE sessions will focus on developing gymnastics skills and team games during the first half term, followed by athletics in the second half term. The term will conclude with our whole school Sports Day. Please ensure that PE kits remain in school throughout the week to allow for flexibility in the timetable.

We will also continue with our weekly '*Together Time*' presentations. Each week, three children will be given the opportunity to present on a topic of their choice such as a hobby, interest or holiday, in a way that suits them. This is different from a traditional show and tell, as children are encouraged to speak for around five minutes and answer questions from their peers. We were very impressed with the quality of some of the presentations last term and look forward to continuing this. Please refer to the timetable at the end, for your child's allocated Friday.

## Specific Areas of Learning

(Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts & Design)

Children will continue to read with an adult three times a week in school - once individually and twice as part of guided reading sessions. Our focus will be on developing reading fluency, comprehension and key reading skills, with progress recorded on Boom Reader. When not reading directly with an adult, children will complete short follow-up tasks linked to the text. Reading books will continue to be changed on a Monday. Please continue to share your child's reading book with them and practise to recognise their tricky words. A reminder that your child's books need to be in school daily.

In Phonics, we will consolidate Phase 3 sounds while progressing through Phase 4 sounds and tricky words. Handwriting will remain a key focus, with regular sessions to support correct letter formation and build writing stamina. Children will continue to apply and develop their sentence writing skills throughout the term in preparation for Year 1.

We will continue to follow the Essentials Writing scheme, focusing on writing to entertain and to inform as the children create their own books. Our units will include traditional tales and texts linked to the natural world.

In Maths, learning will remain practical and engaging. We will deepen understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond, exploring the concept of 'ten and some more', as well as odd and even numbers, doubling and halving, and consolidating number bonds to 5 and 10. A reminder that all children have access to Numbots, which is highly recommended to support mental fluency and recall of number facts. This will also form part of their weekly homework in Year 1.

### Other Messages:

**Hotter Weather** – Hopefully we are now going to see the weather getting warmer! Please ensure that children have a water bottle and sunhat in school each day.

**Outdoor Learning** – Forest Friday sessions will continue to take place! As the weather gets warmer, children will still need a lighter puddle suit or some waterproofs for these sessions to keep their uniform clean and dry.

<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Daisy / George G / Darcy
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Stella / Charlie / Felix
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Alice C / Louie / Orla
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Orin / Mia / Blake / Olive
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Riley / Isabelle / Florence
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	Austin / Winnie / Tuscany
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Oliver / Rommy / Poppy
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Thanvi / George S / Bethany
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Devon / Roxie / Henry
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Luca / Alice V

Best Wishes,

Miss Meehan 😊