



# RAF Benson Community Primary School



## Newsletter

**Friday 30 January 2026**

Dear Parents,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well having had a great Christmas break – it seems so far away now but we have certainly had a very busy but fabulous January.

This term we have welcomed Mrs Marsh in Chinook Class, Mrs Watt in Lynx Class and returning staff member, Miss Hearmon to school in the role of SENDCo - all whom have fitted in seamlessly to our school team over the last 4 weeks. Thank you for welcoming them to our community so warmly.

I have said that we have had a busy term so far and that started with the absolutely epic Young Voices trip to the BP Pulse live arena in Birmingham. 55 children and 8 of the adult team had just the best day singing with 6,000 other children in a massed choir. Thank you to the parents for the support over the Autumn term with helping the children to learn the songs and the dance moves to go with them as well as those being super fans at the venue itself. It makes a real difference and we really appreciated it. We do ask that all of the children in Year 5 and 6 attend this as it is such an amazing experience and one of the memories that the children will hold in their hearts for a long time. We are hoping to welcome friend of our school and Urban Strides founder, Andy Instone to school during the summer term to do a dance workshop for KS2 and another urban Strider for Reception and KS1 and we look forward to that. We will be registering in March for YV2027 so watch this space!

And, as if being superstars for the night wasn't enough, 24 Year 5 and 6 children went off to Kilvough Manor in Wales for the annual residential trip to learn many skills including using the vacuum and making their bed! Despite the weather being 'typically Welsh' (rainy and grey) it didn't dampen the children's spirits as they scaled the rocks and abseiled back down or canoed along the Neath Canal with wonderful style. Even the staff team who went had a great time too! We were delighted that the centre said how well behaved our children were and we are really proud of what they achieved over the week – more memories to last a lifetime. A huge thank you to Mrs Pring, Mrs Laidlaw and Mrs Oakley for leaving their families to ensure our children had a fabulous week and were very well looked after. A big thank you also goes to the team who supported the children back in school – it was quite the different week with many challenges and problems to solve however the children and staff had great fun all the same.

You may have noted in the press from the Secretary of State for Education that 2026 is the National Year of Reading and we want to embrace this as much as possible here at RAF Benson during this year. We are asking you, in the first instance, to hear your child read for at least 5 minutes 5 times a week and to record this in their reading record book (some KS2 children can record the reading to an adult themselves).

Why is reading important? Reading unlocks many opportunities - think how many times you use your reading skills during the day. To read instructions, recipes, bills, important emails or messages from work or even funny memes for those who find themselves scrolling. Being able to read supports all aspects of the curriculum and whilst we do not set formal weekly writing homework, alongside times tables and spelling (inside reading records), we do expect all parents to hear their children read at least 5 times a week. This is especially important for those children in the early years of our school as it helps build strong foundations for them to build upon. We do appreciate that families can be time poor due to both parents working and activities that children may do out of school however we ask if you can make that time, this will massively benefit your

child in the future. If you have any questions on how to support your child with reading please ask your class teacher as they are very happy to help. Thank you for your support and we look forward to updating you on how our children are improving their reading during the year.

We are also having a big push on behaviour and manners in school this term especially showing respect and saying 'please' and 'thank you' to people for helping us or when asking for things. It would be great if this can be supported at home too – we are impressing that manners do not cost anything but mean a lot.

Finally, I just wanted to update you on Mrs Morgan. Just before Christmas she had an operation to remove the cancer and we are very pleased to say that this was successful. She remains off school for the time being due to recovery and waiting for some radiotherapy treatment to commence. We are all hoping that she will start to return to school at some point in the near future as we have all missed her very much. Thank you to those who have asked about her – I know she is feeling touched that people are thinking about her.

Here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you.

## Dates and Events

Please keep an eye on the school calendar for these dates and events – you are able to subscribe to this so that you don't miss anything coming up. <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/diary/subscribe/>

**Friday 27 February – School Disco.** Taking place in the school hall 4:30pm – 5:30pm. Ticket cost will be released over the next week.

**Friday 13 February** – Last day of the half term.

**Monday 23 February** – Start of second half term

**Thursday 5 March – World Book Day** – Children invited to dress up as their favourite book character (no football kits please) ready for a day of fun and activities.

**Wednesday 11 March** – Parents Evening – booking will take place on the Arbor Parent Portal closer the time.

**Friday 13 March** – Mother's Day afternoon tea. Details closer the time.

**Thursday 26 March** – Easter bonnet parade – Children are invited to make an egg-cellent Easter bonnet ready to take part in the parade in school. We also invite children to decorate an egg

**Friday 27 March** – Last day of term finishing at 3:15pm

## Notices

**School Disco** – Thank you to the three parents who have signed up to help with the school disco on 27 February, we really could do with three more if possible please for this event to go ahead. If you are able to help with this event, please complete the form at the link. Thank you for your support – dancing is optional! <https://forms.gle/REUiy5PxLwXjF1RH6>

**Parents Evening** – Bookings for this event will come out in the usual way after half term for you to see your child's class teacher. As always, we expect to see 100% of parents for this important

meeting about your child's attainment and progress and thank you for making the effort to ensure you are able to come into school. It is always appreciated.

**Coffee Mornings** – After our pause in coffee mornings, it was so lovely to see lots of people stop by the Wessex room on Monday this week to have a cuppa and a chat – and perhaps a biscuit too! We are looking to hold another one on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – everyone welcome!

**Times Table Rockstars (TTRS)** – It has been great to see the children so enthused about learning their times tables and it is great to hear how we are getting on against local schools – but we could be doing better! We need to see if we can continue with our hard work to reach the school who is in that top spot....we do love a little bit of friendly competition! Thank you for your support with this.

**Deadlines** – Just a another reminder that when we ask for things to be sent into school for a particular date/time, we would be really grateful if parents could help us with meeting that date. We now only have one person in the office and we simply do not have the time it takes to chase for payments/forms and such like. Thank you for helping Mrs Bevis in the school office.

I think that is all for this month. We have made it through dreary January and are seeing the mornings and evenings getting slightly lighter which is good news – we just need to hope that the snow that is forecast in a couple of weeks' time comes to nothing!

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all around school over the next couple of weeks.

Best wishes

*Steph Fawdry*

Steph Fawdry  
Headteacher