



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 24 March 2026

Dear Parents,

Well, what a difference the weather and the longer days are making – hopefully the grey days filled with torrential rain are behind us...

We have had quite a busy month since my last newsletter with many lovely activities going on across school in relation to topic work and developing key knowledge and skills. Hopefully you find the Topic Webs and Knowledge Organisers that we send home useful in supporting learning at home by helping children learn the key facts and vocabulary. Thank you for those of you who are supporting our homework expectations through daily reading, TTRS/Mathletics and Spelling frame. This small amount of time at home cumulatively does make a real difference in supporting the work we do in school.

You may have heard the amazing news that Mrs Free has had her baby – just after Parents' evening so she held off well! I'm sure that you will join us in sending huge congratulations to her and Mr Free and send a big 'Welcome to the world' to Baby Free!

It was lovely to see so many of you again at parents' evening recently – it was a successful evening and I know the teachers were, as always, very happy to meet with you and speak to you about how your children are progressing. Thank you for completing our questionnaire – it always gives us some helpful feedback on where we can improve and the whole team were delighted that 97% of you would recommend our school – thank you.

We had a really lovely Mothers' Day cake and creativity session a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to Mrs Haythorne and Mrs Thornton for leading the session where everyone made amazing canvases and thank you to those who attended – it was a very relaxing afternoon.

Finally, last week was a very busy week for us in school as we welcomed two Councillors - Cllr Sean Gaul and Cllr Gavin McLauchlan and then on Friday we welcomed Freddie van Mierlo MP. These visits were to support our mission to have fairer funding as a school 'behind the wire'. I have mentioned previously that, as numbers drop due to postings, this has a significant impact on our budget – beyond that of just the reduced birth rate that other schools not in our unique situation face. We are trying to protect the high-quality education that we provide for your children now and also the future structure of the school by not having to reduce classes further if we can help it. The good news about the NMH will certainly support our cause – even though the time-line might be a few years away yet – but it gives us some certainty to work towards since the Pumas left. The visitors were very impressed with our school and have agreed to go away and support our cause with various people and then get back to us – watch this space!

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/>

Thursday 26 March – Easter Bonnett parade and Egg Decorating competition. Sadly, no parents at this ‘egg-citing’ event, which will have Station Commander Alice and the SWO part of the judging team!

Friday 27 March – last day of term – Last day of term finishing at 3:15. We expect all children in school on this day please ahead of the Easter break.

Monday 30/Tuesday 31 March – Spruce Up Your School Days! This is the time of year where we call on your lovely help and assistance to make sure your school is looking wonderful for our children. Please see notices section below for more information – we currently only have two families signed up – we really need you help please, so if you are able to spare some time, please sign up here: [Spruce Up Your School](#)

Monday 13 April – Start of first Summer half term

Wednesday 22 April – First swimming lesson of the half term for Year 5

Friday 24 April – Fabulous Fundraising Forum – if you are interested in helping us with our fundraising ideas for this term, please join us for a cuppa and cake at 2pm in the old year 5 classroom.

Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5/Wednesday 6 May – Years 3 and 4 Residential; This is a fabulous curriculum activity for children in Years 3 and 4 and, like in previous years, our expectation is that all children attend. Please ensure you have added your permissions to the consent form already emailed to you and made payment on Eduspot by 14 April as we need to give dietary details to the centre for meals. If you have any questions regarding this trip, please contact the school office in the first instance

Thursday 7 May – School Photographer – please ensure clean uniform and tidy hair ready for the outdoor group photos

Monday 11 May – KS2 SATs week. School will open at normal time for these children and their toast will be given to them on arrival! Wish them all the best for this week!

Friday 22 May – Last day of term finishing at 3:15pm. We expect all children in school on this day please ahead of the May break.

Notices

Spruce Up Your School Days – We want our school and grounds to be in tip top condition for our children, ready for the Summer term and to achieve this, we have arranged a couple of “Spruce Up Your School” days. On Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March (the first week of our Easter Holidays –from 9am to 3pm). Please come along to help with anything from painting classrooms to gardening in the Early Years Outdoor area.... children are welcome to help too! We have a very limited amount of paintbrushes, garden forks and spades etc, so if you’re happy to bring along your own equipment, we’d be very grateful! You don’t have to commit to the whole day (or both days), but many hands make light work and any time you can spare would be much appreciated – thank you!

Communications - Thank you to all the parents who filled in our feedback forms at Parents’ Evening last week. We always strive to take on your feedback and subsequently improve our processes. Whilst communication was a strength and people felt we communicated well, it also revealed that communication could be better, especially with events coming up in the near future.

To address this, in addition to the dates on our monthly newsletter, we have decided to email out a "Friday Forecast" email, starting after Easter, at the end of each week highlighting upcoming events and deadlines for the following week. Hopefully, all being on one email (and something you can look out for each week) will help alleviate any last minute rush. We will always do our best to give you plenty of notice, but appreciate your understanding that on the rare occasion this is not always possible, especially when exciting opportunities arise at short notice. Please also note that our newsletter (sent out by email and saved on our website) also includes all upcoming dates and key events for the upcoming half term as well as on the calendar on our new website, that you can subscribe to by clicking the 'subscribe' button above the calendar. Should you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Emails - We have now fully migrated our emails to the Arbor platform and appreciate that some of you had some teething problems. A software update has hopefully resolved these, but if you are still having issues receiving your emails, please check your junk mail in the first instance, then call the office for assistance if required. Thank you for your patience whilst this was migrated.

New website pages - Please note that we have a new section on our website under the title "Wider Community Events". Here you will find all the information and flyers we receive from local businesses/groups advertising their activities. Whilst we are not able to specifically endorse any of these companies or events, we have posted them here for your information: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Wider+Community+Events&pid=237>.

Medical Appointments - You may already be familiar with our process for medical appointments. Please note that, where possible, appointments should be made outside of school hours or at the beginning/end of the day where this is not possible. Please inform the office of the appointment by completing a medical appointment form and emailing it, along with a copy/scan of the appointment letter or text, to the school. We appreciate that there will be some emergency appointments, in which case, please call the office and complete the form when you collect your child. The medical appointment form can be found in the school lobby, or online here: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=211&gcatid=5>

Sickness - On days when your child is off sick, please call the school office on each day they are absent. This helps us ensure the safety of your child and the accuracy of our registers. If you know your child will be off sick for longer than a day (as in the case of D&V or long-term sickness where it is 48 hours from the last episode), please remember to cancel their school meals. The staff in the office will endeavour to do this for absent pupils, but this cannot be guaranteed as I am sure you appreciate this is a busy space in the morning.

Thank you all for your support and positivity this term. If I don't see you before, have a really lovely Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all around school when we return on Monday 13th April!

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher