



# RAF Benson Community Primary School



## Newsletter

**Thursday 03 September 2026**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a fabulously new school year and a very warm welcome to our new children and families! Welcome to RAF Benson!

It was so lovely to see everyone this morning and yes, we did notice the huge smiles from the parents as you were handing over your children and walking swiftly out of the gates! I hope that you all had really lovely and hot summer holiday filled with many adventures and many memories to treasure. As I write, I have hearing the babble and the laughing from children in corridors and classes – our heartbeat is well and truly back for a new and exciting year!

For those who have moved and left us for pastures new over the summer – we hope that your move was smooth and uneventful. Once your child has started school and has officially transferred, you will no longer receive messages and notifications from us. Sadly we are unable to change this until your child's records have transferred – so please do bare with us.

The staff have had a great first couple of days back to school where we have been planning and organising and getting things ready ahead of the new school year – one which we are all very much looking forward to. So, without any further ado – here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you. This is quite a long newsletter for the start of year and I do encourage you please to read though to the end as it contains a lot of useful and important information – I hope you are sitting comfortably!

### Dates and Events

**Wednesday 9 September - Welcome Back Meeting** - During the first full week back we are having our Welcome Back meeting so that you can meet your child's teacher and hear what is in store for the year ahead and how you can help both at home and, for those who are able, in school too. This will happen on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 3:30pm and we will have a creche available to look after the children whilst you sit, relax and listen to the class teacher. We will run a repeat session after this for those with more than one child in school.

You may note that there is no session in the hall this term ahead of these meetings - I felt that seeing the teachers and hearing from them at this stage in the term is your priority and this newsletter can serve as some of the reminders that you would usually hear at that meeting. We look forward to you joining us next week.

**Thursday 10 September – Reading Force Day.** Bring back your completed scrap books in return for a book to take home. This will be a day filled with looking at how we enjoy reading our books – there may also be another book to take home too!

**Friday 11 September – Fabulous Fundraising Forum** – meeting at 2pm in school to discuss the fundraising events this year. Everyone is welcome and we might even have some nice biscuits to help the creative juices flow.

**Monday 14 September – Bikeability.** This activity starts for all children in Years 5 and 6. Please see more information that has been emailed to you from Mrs Bevis in the school office.

**Tuesday 15 September – Battle of Britain Day.** We are asking children to come dressed in clothes of that period and there will be an exhibition in the school hall with work that reflects that time. Parents will be very welcome to come and view the exhibition of battle of Britain work which will be at 2:45pm on that day in the school hall. This is set to be a very exciting day.

**Thursday 17 September – Reception Reading support.** This is a Zoom session to support our new parents of children in reception to go through what we do as a school to support reading and how you can help your child at home. More information will be issued next week.

**Monday 28 September – Individual Photographs.** Photograph time for children to have individual and school-based siblings. We need smart uniforms and best smiles for this day!

**Monday 05 October – Coffee Morning.** Come and join us start the week with a cuppa and a slice of cake. Everyone welcome (including small children) in our Wessex Room from 9am until 10am (or until the cake run out!).

**Wednesday 21 October – Parents Evening.** This takes place in the school hall with classrooms open for viewing books and work. Online bookings will open before the October break.

**Wednesday 11 November – Remembrance Services** for children in school and at the Hangar on Station.

**w/c 16 November – Learn with your Child Week.** We will issue when your child's classroom is open for you to come and learn with your child. This is a popular session where parents come and see how we teach maths/English or other subjects in your child's classroom – participation is encouraged!

**Wednesday 09 December – Christmas Fair.** 4pm until 5:30pm the hall and surrounding classrooms will be sprinkled with Christmas magic and the aroma of mulled wine. Come and join us getting in the mood for Christmas.

**Tuesday 15 December – Nativity in the Station Church (TBC)** – One of our highlights of the year, the nativity. This will take place at the Station church and more information about this will be available closer to the time.

**Wednesday 16 December – Puppet show and Christmas Dinner.** More information will come out about these events closer the time.

**Friday 18 December – Songs around the Tree.** Join us on our last day to send everyone into the Christmas holidays full of cheer after singing festive songs around the tree. Participation is a must – start practising your 'five gold rings' now!

## Notices

**School uniform** - We remain on our summer uniform should the weather allow. Please check this at the link here: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/school-uniform-2>

**Parent Helpers** – we were delighted to have parent helpers in school last year who came in to help with reading, learning activities and school trips across many year groups. We are looking to increase help and support this year as it makes such a difference. We will need to provide you with some training ahead of starting and we may need to use you in other classes to where your child is so that we are using your skills to support the greater need. If you are interested in supporting learning in school, please drop an email to the school office.

**School Lunches** – A reminder that should you wish your child to have a school lunch, these must

be ordered by 11pm the day before. Children in KS2 pay for school lunches whereas Reception, Years 1 and 2 have meals provided by the government and these are free. If you have not provided a packed lunch for your child and they are not on the list for a hot school meal, we will contact you to bring in a packed lunch by 12pm – we do appreciate that from time to time parents do forget to order lunches, however, the school kitchen is not able to make additional meals this year due to increases in costs etc. Thank you for your help with this.

If your child has an allergy, you must let the School Lunch Company know and they will provide you with a form to complete. We do have many children in school with a variety of allergies and we ask that children do not come into school with any nut products, including chocolate spread on sandwiches. Thank you for helping keep our children safe.

If your child has a packed lunch, our procedure is that they keep the rubbish and left over food in their lunch box so that you can see what they have/have not eaten. This is working well as, in the past, parents were unaware that some children were throwing unwanted food away and we hope this continues to be helpful to you in knowing what your child has eaten.

**Medications** – If your child is prescribed medication to take such as an inhaler or epi pen, please could you collect a new medical form from the office to complete so that we have the most up to date information for this new school year.

**Snack at breaktime** – A reminder that children in Years 3 – 6 may bring in a small nut free snack to have at breaktime such as fruit, vegetables, yogurt, small breakfast bar or cheese. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will have the free fruit and vegetables that the government provide.

**Deployments** – So that we can support your child during any deployment, please could you let us know if you have a deployment coming up so that we can send home a form to complete. Children with a parent deployed are supported in school and attend the Social Circle group run by Mrs Pring – which all the children absolutely love!

**Contact with school** – As a reminder, should you need to speak with a member of our fabulous staff team, all teachers are available first thing in the morning when the children arrive in school and at the end of most days (unless they are running a club or have a staff meeting). Outside of these times they can be contacted by email via the school office or telephone.

We are really keen to ensure that we have strong, open and clear communication with you as parents and that we have positive relationships to benefit the children in school. All staff have a code of conduct on how we are presenting ourselves both to each other and to our community and as a Local Authority school, we have the same for parents too to ensure a positive relationship.

Please see our parent code of conduct at the link below which is issued on enrolling at our school and is on our website: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/documents.asp?id=9>

**Raising Concerns** – We strive to be the best for your child at all times however, as we are human, sometimes things don't go to plan or as we expect. If you have any concerns, the first port of call is to see the class teacher and we ask that parents come in with an enquiry and discussion based approach rather than a blame based approach. If, after seeing the class teacher things don't appear to have changed, please see the class teacher again to identify what has taken place since the last meeting. If you are not happy at this point then parents are welcome to make an appointment to see me.

Those who have been here a while will know that I would much rather you come in and have a chat with me or my team if you have any issues surrounding school. Airing your views on social media or within a parent WhatsApp groups does get back to us and can often get out of hand. If I don't know about concerns, how can we as a school seek to resolve them. Please do make an appointment to speak with us – we are here to help in any way for the benefit of your child.

Further information can be found in our raising concerns/ complaints policy here: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/documents.asp?id=11>

**Attendance** – The Attendance Policy is in the process of being approved by the governors as this is an annual task. We will circulate it once this has been completed.

Thank you to parents last year for engaging positively with our Attendance Policy and for appreciating and understanding that we have a duty to inform you when your child has low attendance or is deemed a persistent absentee. Our school attendance is very high and we take pride in the work we do with you to ensure that attending school is important for children in all year groups.

The expectation is that children should be in school for 100% of the time however, we understand that bugs and other circumstances prevent this from happening and has an impact on good attendance. We will be notifying you when attendance is below 95% and also if your child becomes a persistent absentee (where attendance drops below 90%). In the first term, your child may become a persistent absentee if they have 3.5 days off or more however, over time with good attendance, this figure will significantly improve.

Here is the link to the Annual Penalty Notice letter we have to issue to all parents as requested by the local Authority. Please do read it carefully as it contains changes from the previous one in line with recent guidance. <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/documents.asp?id=1110>

Thank you for all you do to help your child be in school every day. Learning in the primary years is key as they are building the foundations for their future years and positive outcomes. Should you have any questions, please do ask.

**Parent Governor vacancy** – Just a reminder that for those wishing to become a parent governor – we have one vacancy – the link to the information pack and the nomination form is here: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/documents.asp?id=1063>

If we have more than one nomination, it will need to go to a ballot. The form will close at 9am on Monday 7 September.

**Uniform** – Just like our community, we pride ourselves on our school uniform and looking smart and tidy. We would be really grateful if your child came to school in the correct uniform and please see the school uniform page for more details: [https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/school-uniform\\_2/](https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/school-uniform_2/)

**Mobile Phones** – A reminder that mobile phones are not to be used on the school premises please. This request stems from not only a safeguarding perspective but also seeing children enthusiastic to share their day with parents who are walking off on their phone. It has been so lovely since bringing this in to see parents and children positively chat about their day and we want this to continue with your support.

**School Car Park** – The school car park is not for use by parents at the start and end of the day as it is for staff and visitor use only. This is also to mitigate any incidents as children walk across this space to get to school by limiting moving vehicles at peak times. We appreciate that many parents walk to school due to the close proximity, however, should you need to arrive in a car we ask that you use the Station car park between the school carpark and nurse building. If you are picking up or dropping off your child up for an appointment during school hours, then we are happy for you to use the car park for this purpose. We will be monitoring this so that children and adults walking to school remain safe in this space.

**Deadlines** – We are really grateful when parents meet the deadlines that the office staff issue and we would like to ask that all of our parents are able to do this please. The school office is a very busy place and the staff do not have time to chase parents for forms, payments or other

information. We do appreciate that from time to time deadlines do slip, however, we would be really grateful if everyone could do their best to support the staff in the office by adhering to the deadlines they set.

**What is your child learning?** – As a reminder, class teachers will update the class web page with photographs during the term to reflect what your child has been learning in class. At the start of each term, you will receive a Topic Web which will share with you the areas that the children will be looking at over the next term and you will also get a Knowledge Organiser which details the key facts that the children should be able to know and remember by the end of the term. Please feel free to rehearse these facts with your children to support their learning in school. These documents will also be put on the class web page too.

**Cycle Safety** – We like to ensure that the children are moving about to community safely and provide Bikeability sessions for children in Year 5 and 6 which are coming up over the next few weeks. However, please could you all speak with your children about cycling around the community in a safe way. There have been 'near misses' outside of school hours and unrelated to school where some children were almost hit by a car as they shot out of an exit really fast without looking. We will continue to speak to the children in school about keeping themselves safe however, it would be great if road awareness and safety was reinforced at home. Thank you for your support.

**School Facebook Page** – Please do keep an eye on the school Facebook page as we post whole school events and activities that the children have been up to during the term – why not give the page a 'Like' too! <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063451190152>

I think that is it for the start of this term. Sorry this is a newsletter of epic proportion – we just wanted to ensure you have all the information for the start of the year – we will be feeding the odd reminder into newsletters over the year too!

As always, should you have any questions, please do get in touch and I hope that you have a lovely half term break with some great autumnal activities with family and friends.

Best wishes

*Steph Fawdry*

Steph Fawdry  
Headteacher