



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter



Friday 02 October 2026

Dear Parents,

What a marvellous September we have had and a great start to this new school year! We have seen many activities in school to start off the year in great style in addition to this magnificent weather – it does seem very strange that I am walking into school in October without a coat however, a chill is starting to appear in the evenings meaning the heating is not far from being put on...

Well done to the children who took part in the Bikeability programme. This year, the company threw us by doing all the children in one week with up to 7 instructors attending to support – this was great in terms of not having two weeks of disrupted learning for the children but did cause some complications from our end. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation around the communications for this as we were just communicating what we had been asked to by the company. We now have lots of children who can now cycle safely around the local community, and it has been great seeing them after school being active and safe wearing their helmets.

A very special event during the start of this year was our popular Battle of Britain day which also included the re-dedication of the Spitfire gate Guardian linking to our Spitfire 90 project. The children watching the ceremony at SHQ were brilliant and we are all very proud of the 4 children who read in front of the Station Commander, other senior officers and key local guests and the family of William 'Bill' Johnson so confidently and amazingly. They did a great job during a very special day.

Thank you to those parents who came to the Meet the Teacher sessions – I know the staff were grateful of your time and felt it was very useful to meet you all. We will be putting the PowerPoints on the Class Webpages once these have been established for this year.

Following the request for a Parent Governor to join the board, a big congratulations goes to Laura Coates, parent of a child in Year 1, who was successful. We are pleased to have Laura as part of the Governing board and look forward to her contributions.

Later this month we welcome two new members of staff to our team in the role of Teaching Assistant. Mrs McInerney and Mrs Taylor will be supporting learning across school and I am sure you will give them a warm RAF Benson welcome to our team.

Below in the notices you will see that I have mentioned where we need your help with two important topics; behaviour and reading. Please do read those parts particularly and we would very much appreciate your support. Should you have any questions or need any help and support to help us, please do get in touch.

Dates and Events

Monday 05 October – Coffee Morning. Come and join us at the 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 runs out!).

Thursday 16 October – SEND Parents Meetings – bookings will open on 7 October.

Wednesday 21 October – Parents Evening. This takes place in the school hall with classrooms open for viewing books and work. Online bookings will open 1 week before. We do expect 100% of parent attendance at these meetings so that we can discuss how your child has settled in.

Friday 6 November – Spooky Disco in the Hall. 4:30 – 5:30pm with tickets at £5 per child and tickets will be available on Eduspot soon. Tickets include a hotdog, drink and glow sticks. There will also be our grown up refreshment room for you to wait and chat with other parents whilst your children dance away.

Sunday 08 November – Act of Remembrance in Benson Village. Each year we gather outside of Derry's Den at 10:20am to get ready to join the parade. We ask children wishing to represent our school to be in school uniform and this year, I am looking for the members of School Council to be the group to lay our school wreath on the memorial on the morning. Children will need to have had breakfast please and also to wear a warm coat – we will hold the coats for those children walking to the memorial. We like to take a photo of all children attending for our social media page and then, for those families that wish to, you can then go on to the service at St Helen's Church. It usually is a lovely way to support our community and remember and thank those who made the ultimate sacrifice and, of course, those of you who still serve today.

Monday 09 November – Service of Remembrance for Service Pupils – Again this year we will be attending a service at Dorchester Abbey to 'Remember and be Thankful' to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Our Year 6 and some Year 5s will be attending with some of them reading and leading the service for Service children from local schools. We look forward to sharing their experience when they return.

Wednesday 11 November – Station Remembrance - Children in School Council will represent the school again in the Station act of Remembrance and we will also be taking some children to read. During this time, a service will also be held in school allowing the whole school to reflect and remember those who gave their lives for our today.

w/c 16 November – Learn with your Child Week. We will issue information 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 25 November – 5:15pm – 6:30pm – Festive Wreath Making. Save the Date! Back by popular demand come and spend some child-free time creating a Christmas wreath in a festive atmosphere. £20 for the session including unlimited snack and refreshments. A google form will be sent out closer to the time.

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 – 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. We will have two performances on the day, one at 10am and the other at 5pm. 2 tickets per family will be available.

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

Behaviour - Now that the start of year honeymoon period is over, we are just seeing some behaviours creep into some classes that we need to address as it does not meet our expectations and your support from a home perspective would be hugely appreciated. You will know that our expectations of behaviour are clear and we have a clear code of conduct for behaviour for our children which they are regularly reminded of. Outside of seeing behaviours linked to specific needs, in some children across school we are seeing poor attitude to learning, unkindness to others and a lack of respect to other children and adults. This behaviour is not acceptable at our school and is not fair to those children to consistently model our expectations and show exemplary learning behaviours.

To enable you to support us, we will be changing how we report behaviour incidents to you. Previously, we have completed a Behaviour Report Form and then this has gone home (in most cases!) and you have signed it and returned it to school. Starting next week, we will be reporting behaviour incidents through the Arbor portal. This will show up on your dashboard and you can view what has happened. The great part about this system is that we can also let you know the positive too; when your child has been an ambassador and modelled aspects of the code of conduct and the school values. We would be happy to hear what you think about this at our parents evening later this month.

Reading - One other 'big' topic I must address in this newsletter following recent assessments and concerns from the teaching team is reading. Thank you to those parents who are reading with their children 5 times each week – your efforts are appreciated and we can see their progress in the work they do in school however, we need this to be an expectation for **all children** please. We appreciate that family life is very busy however, not reading with your child is not giving them the opportunities that could have for the future and risks slower language growth, delay in reading readiness, less focus and patience, lower empathy and social awareness as well as reduced imagination and general knowledge to transfer into other aspects in their life such as writing. We do not have the staff to hear each child read every day and we ask you to do this in our parenthood to ensure your child thrives. If you have any questions about your child's reading, please see the class teacher.

Nicola from Reading Force has been in touch and it is great that she is receiving so many scrapbooks. We will be inviting her into assembly very soon to award the certificates and new reading books.

Young Voices – Further to the letter sent out a couple of weeks ago this is a reminder for parents in Year 5 and 6 and those interested in going in Years 3 and Year 4 to register with the Young Voices website here: <https://yvmusicroom.com/auth/parent/journey/welcome> This will give access to the songs and the dance moves to support our weekly rehearsals.

Additionally, T-shirts need to be ordered via Eduspot and the consent form must be completed please by **Friday 16th October**: <https://forms.gle/ghryGaKgN31HqwECA>

Cycle Safety – There has been a near miss recently outside of school where children in upper KS2 are using the roads and wider areas to race and not use them sensibly being cautious of traffic this also includes the grassy mounds on Battle Road. We have spoken to the children in assembly about this and hope you can support this message at home too. Children are to cycle safely to and from school directly and should they be early, wait by the gate off their bike until it is opened. Thank you for your support.

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.

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 Oakley – which all the children absolutely love!

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-uniform2/> We have noticed that some skirts on some of our girls are quite short. Please can we ask that skirts are knee length.

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 in sharing 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.

When asked 'what did you do at school today?' some children will respond 'nothing' but you know they will have had a day filled with activity. Three questions that you could ask your child to generate some good discussion are:

1. What made you smile at school today?
2. What was challenging for you today?
3. What did you do that made you feel proud of your self today?

Try asking these – we hope the children give you a great response!

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 this month. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and we look forward to seeing you around school over the coming weeks.

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher