

4th September 2026

Dear Parents,

September is finally here, and we are so excited to see the children and start our learning journey together. They have had a fabulous first week in school.

Here are a few things you need to know:

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a clearly labelled water bottle in school. These will go home to be washed each day rather than kept in school. They are regularly refilled throughout the day with fresh cold water, especially during hot days. Children can access their water bottles at any time throughout the school day.

Lunchtime

Each morning, during registration, we remind the children what they are having for lunch depending on the food choices selected on Bromcom. There is a meat or vegetarian option each day and children are welcome to bring in a packed lunch if preferred. However, children in reception are eligible for free school meals. Please talk to your child each morning about their food option for the day so they are aware of what they are expecting for lunch.

Book Bags

Book bags need to be brought into school each day as this week your child will be able to choose a book from class to share with you at home. In the next few weeks, after we have started phonics teaching, we will be allocating your child with a phonics book that you will be encouraged to read with them daily. We will share more information about this in a reading and phonics meeting shortly.

Children regularly bring things home they have made or pieces of artwork they want to keep. It would be really helpful if book bags could be checked at the end of the day and these things taken out to ensure they don't get too full as there is limited space in the classroom. Key-rings or ribbons to identify a child's book bag are a great idea, and helpful for the children. Please limit these to one key-ring and ribbon per book bag.

Milk and Snack

Children in Reception have a daily snack of milk and fruit/veg which we eat and drink sat down together. Milk is free for children until their 5th birthday, then it is charged daily if you wish them to continue. Snacks are free as children in Reception are eligible for free school meals. They do not need to bring in any food or snacks for the school day.

If your child is attending Wrap Around @ St Peter's (WASP), they can bring in a labelled snack in their book bag to be eaten after school. Please make sure any food does not contain nuts and are healthy snacks.

PE

As part of the Early Years curriculum, children in Reception have regular opportunities for physical development through continuous provision in both gross motor skills such as balancing, running, jumping, throwing, catching and fine motor skills such as pencil control, threading, cutting and drawing.

We will also have a PE lesson on a Thursday morning so the children will need to have their PE kits in school. Please ensure PE kits include shorts/tracksuit bottoms and t-shirts. In the summer term, lessons will be mostly outside.

Outdoor learning

On Friday afternoons, we will be taking our learning outdoors and sometimes off site locally (with permission). Outdoor learning gives the children the opportunity to explore, investigate, develop their physical skills, build confidence and learn through play in a different environment. We will be outside whatever the weather, so please ensure your child brings a named waterproof coat, wellies or suitable outdoor shoes, and weather-appropriate clothing. Please also keep a spare set of clothes in school, as we encourage children to get muddy, have fun and enjoy exploring!

Teaching days

Mrs Williams teaches Cygnus class on Mondays to Wednesdays and Mrs Thomas is teaching Cygnus on Thursdays and Fridays until January when Mrs Horsefall will be joining the school. Mrs Rabbich is the Teaching Assistant in Cygnus class.

Home Learning

In Cygnus, we have a 'word of the week' linked to our learning in class. This will be shared with parents each week. Please could you discuss these words with the children at home and send a photo of an example or interpretation of the word to our class email address

cygnushomework@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk.

Our 'word of the week' pictures are shared with the children, so they have an opportunity to discuss them at school.

Reading

We will explain with you all about our approach to phonics and reading with your child at our 'Reading and phonics' meeting on Tuesday 22nd September at 5pm for parents. Please ask us if you have any questions in the meantime.

Clothing

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled. Jumpers and cardigans are taken off and put on several times a day and are easily misplaced when not easily identified. Learning in reception is also sometimes messy, and the children sometimes have toileting accidents. A change of clothes in a separate, named carrier bag would be useful. We are very happy to support your children with toileting and will remind children to go as often as we can. They are still very young and independently doing this can still be tricky. Encouraging independence as much as possible at home really helps them – thank you!

Evidence Me (2 Simple)

In Reception, we collate evidence of children's 'wow' moments and other learning experiences. Some of this evidence is shown on our class displays and other evidence takes the form of informal 'observations' and interactions through both child and adult initiated activities. These observations are recorded electronically. Periodically, we will share some of these observations with parents via the Evidence Me App.

Learning happens everywhere, if you would like to share any 'wow' moments from home, you can share this with us on this app. You should have all been invited to Evidence Me. If you have not received an invitation, please let the office know.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We can be contacted during working hours at cygnushomework@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk. However, any urgent queries should be directed to the school office.

Many thanks,

Grace Williams, Kim Thomas, Nicola Horsefall and Natalie Rabbich