

7th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday! We are excited to continue our learning journey this term. Here are a few reminders:

Topic and Learning

Our topics this term is 'Bright Lights, Big City', where we will be learning about London. This topic concentrates on Geography, History DT, and Science. Children also have regular learning of RE, PE, Computing, Music and PSHE lessons.

Reading

Children in Tucana class will continue to change their library books every Wednesday and each book will be recorded in their reading diaries. If children do not finish their book, then they can keep it for longer. If you read with your child please write a comment in their reading record so the adults in the class know they have been reading at home. In the front of the reading diary there are some suggestions to support you when reading with your child at home. In Year 1 and 2, children build on their comprehension skills and it is important to continue this learning at home. Reading records will be checked on Mondays and Fridays, and if your child has read 3 times or more in the week, they will receive a gold star to encourage reading.

National Year of Reading 2026

We have several activities this term to mark this including Books at Bedtime on 28th January 5-5.45pm; Book Fair in school 28th-30th January; Author Mini Grey visiting and running workshops on 4th March; World Book Day on 5th March where children can dress as a favourite book character.

Spelling

In Tucana we are using a scheme for spellings which follows Phonics learning. These will be assigned on Fridays and checked a week later. It is expected that children practise these at home and they will go home in their spellings folder with a 'look, cover, write, check' sheet for home use. We will also be learning new spelling rules in both phonics and spelling sessions during the school day.

Phonics

Daily phonics sessions for all Year 1 and some Year 2 children in school will focus on certain sounds in Phase 3 and Phase 5 of phonics. It is taught in single year groups. Phonic books will be changed on Mondays by Mrs Evans. If children have read these through the week, they may be changed again by Miss Crocker on a Friday for reading at home over the weekend.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle labelled with their name in school. They should take it home daily and bring it back the next day. It is helpful if it is transparent so we can monitor how much water children have drunk during the day. Please be aware, we often refill them so if the water bottle is quite full at hometime, it is likely to be a refilled bottle.

Milk and Snack

You can order fruit and a cup of milk at break times. Milk is 25p a day and fruit is 14p a day. This can be booked via MCAS under products. If your child wishes to bring in their own snack, please can this be in a labelled box. It needs to be a healthy snack with no nuts in please and grapes/tomatoes etc need to be sliced in half to minimise choking risk. The same applies to packed lunches.

PE

Our PE days will now be on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Children must have PE kit in school on these days. PE kits should stay in school until the end of the term, when they will be sent home. If PE kits get muddy we will send them home to be washed. If your child has a sports club in the week, they will not get changed before pick up at 4.30pm. They will go home with their uniform in their PE bag. Please make sure this is returned in time for their next PE lesson.

Staffing

Ms Evans will continue teaching from Monday to Wednesday and Miss Crocker Thursday to Friday and alternate Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Lawton will teach PE on Wednesday afternoons.

Dates

We have Outdoor Explorers on 4th February and the 4th March this term so please bring in suitable clothing in a bag for that day. We also have a trip to the Synagogue on 11th February. More details will be sent nearer the time.

We are really looking forward to a busy term of learning in Tucana Class. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact me via email: tucanahomework@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk and we will respond during normal school hours. If there is anything that needs urgent attention, please contact the school office.

Many thanks,

Miss Crocker and Ms Evans