

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe we are now over half way through the school year. The children have settled into routines really well and are a joy to teach.

Here are a few reminders you may find helpful:

### **Water Bottles**

Thank you for sending your children to school with their water bottles freshly filled each day. We encourage them to drink often, but most of them drink at regular intervals throughout the day unprompted now which is great! We refill bottles during day if they are empty.

### **Book Bags**

The children are reading well and are listened to by us at school. Please remember to pop their phonics book in their book bag each day.

### **Milk and Snack/Lunch**

Children in Reception have a daily snack of milk and fruit/veg which we eat and drink sat down together. (Milk is charged at 25p a day once a child turns 5 if you wish them to continue). Every Thursday they are still offered crackers with unsalted butter and they are all independently spreading them. We arrange the tables to ensure an adult faces them as they eat and drink. Snack time is a wonderful time for talking together (when they've chewed and swallowed)!

If they stay for Wrap Around @ St Peter's (WASP) they can bring a snack in a labelled pot/bag in their book bag. Please be aware **we do not allow nuts** in school and snacks need to be healthy. Any grapes/cherry tomatoes or similar sized items for WASP snack or packed lunches need to be halved/quartered to reduce choking risk please.

### **PE**

As a reminder, 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.

The children enjoy their PE lesson on a Friday morning. Please check that their PE bags include shorts/tracksuit bottoms and t-shirts and that everything is named. They won't need trainers until the summer term, when lessons will be outside.

### **Home Learning**

Thank you for sending in photos/work for our 'word of the week' linked to our learning in class. Our 'word of the week' pictures are still shared with the children so they have an opportunity to discuss them at school. Hope you are enjoying seeing photos/videos of your child on Evidence Me. Please let us know if you're unable to access this.

### **Clothing**

Please can we remind you to check your child's wellies to see if they still fit them. We will post on Homeroom when we plan to take the children on walks and for Outdoor Explorer sessions. Thank you for providing extra layers/warmer socks and waterproofs in a plastic bag for these experiences, the hope is that the weather starts to warm up and less layers are necessary. It is important that arms and legs are still covered, even when it's warmer, to avoid nettle stings or thorns etc.

Jumpers and cardigans are taken off and put on several times a day and are easily misplaced when not easily identified. **Please** check clothes are labelled. Learning in reception is also sometimes messy, especially now we have a wonderful sandpit to use. A change of clothes in a separate, named carrier bag would be useful (thank you so much to those who already provide these). 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!

### **Homeroom**

Please do not share any pictures or information from this private platform more widely. Only staff and parents of this class can access it.

### **Toys from home**

To prevent loss or damage and unnecessary distraction, we kindly ask parents to ensure that children leave personal toys at home unless we request, they bring them in.

### **Dates**

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Mar – Outdoor Explorers

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 2pm– Easter Bonnet parade around Alvescot - Children can bring in a bought or homemade Easter bonnet to wear on a village walk. Parents can choose to line the route to wave us on and bonnets are judged back at school for a small prize while we enjoy a chocolate treat!

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (8.45) – Easter church service, all welcome – no pushchairs please

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (1.15) – Early finish

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

Many thanks,

Grace Williams and Anna Smith