

April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you've all had a really lovely Easter break. It's so good to be back and for us all to be exploring our new environments. We have so much to share with you in this month's newsletter...

Our children who are under two years old have made a very successful move to their new environment. They are all having a wonderful time exploring their new indoor environment and have been enjoying the outdoor space too. It's lovely to see how calm and inquisitive they are. They have had a wonderful time exploring the woods too, in fact they are showing us when they'd like to go and explore more!

We are so excited to see what they think when we are able to use the garden that will be their permanent space.



As you will have seen, the gas works are progressing well. Most of Whitehouse Road is back to normal and they are preparing the groundwork that will bring new pipework under our car park. They continue to be really helpful when we have a question so do please let us know if there is anything you're not sure of.

Over the next week or two they will need to be digging the trench across the entrance to our car park. We will let you know when this starts and make sure we all know how to navigate the works safely.

The increased space has had a wonderful impact on the children who are over two too! The children move very freely and confidently through the whole space. We have observed lots of fabulous concentrating and focussed activity.

We have noticed lots of imaginative play and having fun in friendship groups – we even overheard a conversation between two children where one child said “I love you, I’m so proud of you” incredible to hear such nurturing and kind language and behaviours.

The Indoor environment is full of cosy corners, a sensory room and beautiful new furniture. There are reading nooks, a dolls house big enough to support collaborative small world play. We have some lovely and very unusual new musical instruments alongside the fantastic construction area and studio that we’ve been enjoying for a long while.



It definitely feels like the children are enjoying the freedom of warmer days and no coats!
Investigating the world and people around us in a variety of ways alongside developing skills that will be with us for life.

We’ve also gained some outdoor space that has some undulating land to negotiate. This includes a tyre swing and it’s doubled the size of the mud kitchen – it’s not just a kitchen, it’s a café!



It’s been so lovely to see the children adapting to and exploring their larger indoor environment.
Having ideas of how to develop and refine the use of different resources. All areas of the curriculum in all areas of the environment!

LIVING EGGS

More exciting (pun intended!) news. On Monday we have some very special visitors arriving. We are very careful to choose eggs from a reputable provider, please see more details here - <https://www.livingeggs.co.uk/chick-welfare/>

When they're here, please do come in to meet the eggs...and then the chicks too.

PREGNANCY AND POST NATAL YOGA – NEW LOCAL CLASSES

Please see below details of a brand new local yoga class. There are also flyers in our entrance areas.

<https://yogaenergy.org/about/pregnancy-postnatal-yoga-abingdon/>

STARTING RECEPTION

On Thursday our children who are heading off to school will have received details of which school they will be attending in September. Please let us know which school your child has been offered. You will have heard lots about school readiness. For more information about what that really is and what it really means, please see the information on our board in our entrance area.

Or here on a new website dedicated to school readiness...

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There are key skills* that schools expect children to be learning before their first day. Practising these will make your child's journey to Reception as positive as possible.

Website

<https://startingreception.co.uk/#the-basic-skills-to-practice>

Here are two more new websites dedicated to guiding us all to support our children's development –

ORAL HEALTH

Baby teeth aren't just practice teeth. They help children bite and chew, support speech development, guide adult teeth into place and boost confidence when smiling. When teeth aren't cared for, it leads to tooth decay which can cause pain, infection and long-term oral health problems.

Website

<https://startingreception.co.uk/toothbrushing/>

Guide

Guide - <https://startingreception.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/The-Childrens-Toothbrushing-Guide.pdf>

POTTY TRAINING

Potty training is an important milestone in your child's development. We understand that all children develop at their own pace, but research shows it's best for your child's bowel and bladder health to stop using nappies, including reusable nappies, pull-ups and training pants, between 18 and 30 months.

It's really important that children are out of all nappies well in advance of starting Reception year in school. The only exception should be children with a diagnosed medical need, such as a bladder or bowel condition.

Being out of nappies not only helps children to feel confident, healthy and part of the group, it also means teachers can spend more time teaching and supporting children's development in other ways.

Website

<https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/>

Guide

<https://startingreception.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/The-Potty-Training-Guide.pdf> !

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half term for Swans – 25th to 28th May 2026

Living Eggs – arriving Monday 20 April 2026

Science Oxford, Story Museum and Farms to Ewe events, more information to follow.

Please also see our curriculum plans for more details of what we are planning for this term. Please see our website for lots more information about our curriculum.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTION ROUTINES

FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING and FOYER - We are aware that it may feel a little uncomfortable but please can we kindly request that you do not let anyone else through as you go through the front door. This helps us to know who is in the building and to keep everyone safe, thank you.

NSPCC – TECHASAURUS

The NSPCC have a wonderful programme to support children with keeping their bodies safe. They have also recently developed a programme related to staying safe online. Please find details here - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/>

BEST START IN LIFE STRATEGY

Some more developments from the Best Start in Life Strategy –

Parent Newsletter - <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/the-parent-newsletter/>

The website is useful for checking up-to-date funding information and for sharing ideas for families. Please see below for the link.

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>



50 YEARS OF PLAY **soap**
southoxford
adventure playground

WILL YOU HELP BUILD THE NEXT 50?

We are looking for a new generation of local residents to join our committee!

SOAP'S FUTURE
South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP) is an inclusive community space hosting youth clubs, holiday play schemes and family days.
Our current Chair is standing down in July and we are looking for a new generation of local residents to join our committee.

SOAP AGM - ALL WELCOME!
WEDNESDAY 9 JULY @ 7pm

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?
Contact Naomi Waite, the current chair to discuss the roles and find out more:
naomi.waite@soapoxford.org
07426 838 321
www.soapoxford.org

VOLUNTEERS

A New Chair:
Someone to lead the vision and help shape the future with an experienced committee by their side.

Committee Members:
Local people to help manage our after-school and holiday provision.

Flexible volunteering:
marketing, staffing events, grounds maintenance and more!

Trustees:
Responsible but not involved day to day.