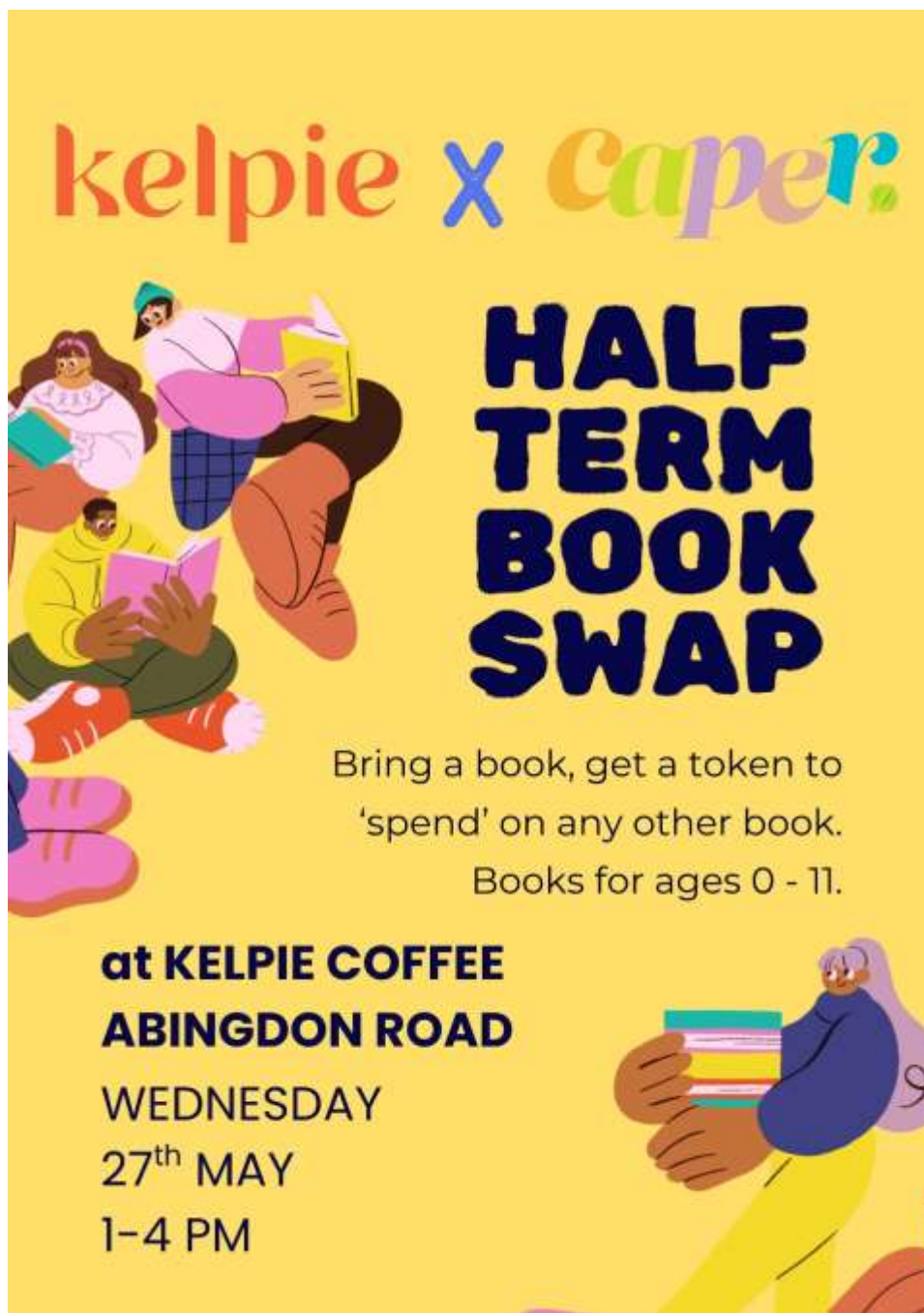


May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

It always seems incredible when we come to write our newsletter how much has happened in such a short space of time. Our children are all now really settled in their new environments and are busily exploring and investigating the new resources.

Many of you will have noticed that we have a new coffee shop on the Abingdon Road. What you may not know is that is a very local enterprise, so much so for us that the family is part of our community – Jack's family. They have a lovely event planned for half term week, please see details below –



kelpie x Caper.

**HALF
TERM
BOOK
SWAP**

Bring a book, get a token to
'spend' on any other book.
Books for ages 0 - 11.

**at KELPIE COFFEE
ABINGDON ROAD
WEDNESDAY
27th MAY
1-4 PM**

SMILE MONTH

11 May – 11 June 2026 is Smile Month which raises awareness of important oral health issues and this year it's celebrating 50 years of Smile Month.

These videos help answer questions about the importance of oral health, how to look after your oral health, and how to support a child reluctant to brush their teeth.

- How can I look after my oral health <https://youtube.com/shorts/qv-U7uYW7m0?feature=share>
- Tips for children that don't want to brush their teeth <https://youtube.com/shorts/cgLS3iNKz6Y?feature=share>
- What is Smile Month and why is oral health important? <https://youtube.com/shorts/IXNayik0iA?feature=share>

Find out more about Smile Month here: <https://www.dentalhealth.org/national-smile-month>

Questions about oral health can be emailed to Oral.Health@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk or visit the website <https://oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/cds/>

SWANS AND RAINBOWS – CHILDREN OVER TWO YEARS OLD

Our children over two years old have been learning about growth both through observing our eggs hatch and our chicks grow. The children have learnt about how to care for the eggs and how to care for the chicks. They have been so gentle when holding them and the joy on their faces as they've watched them wriggling has been wonderful to see. Etty has taken three of the chicks home with her and they are all thriving. She is going to share news about their development (...and their antics) with the children over the next few weeks.



They have also been observing seeds grow into plants both in soil and in containers where they can see the roots and shoots. We are looking forward to seeing how they learn about the continued growth into plants that will produce vegetables or flowers – watch this space.



RAINBOWS - CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OLD

Our children under two years old have really been enjoying exploring the indoor and outdoor environments, there has been much fun experimenting with balls, throwing rolling and watching the team collect them when they've gone a little too far! They have been using a variety of media to make marks in different ways and enjoying lots of songs and nursery rhymes. They've also spent time observing the eggs hatch and the chicks grow and even had the chance to hold the chicks if they wanted to too.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Each year we ask you to let us know your thoughts and feelings about our community and the care and nurture we offer your children.

We are so very grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the survey for Ofsted and for everyone who tried but had difficulty with the technology, thank you all. It really supports the school and Ofsted in understanding how you feel about the school.

As the current academic year comes to a close, we would really appreciate your time in helping us understand how you feel in a little more detail. Please do complete the questionnaire, it should only take 3-5 minutes.

Please access the questionnaire here; <https://forms.gle/JV1g8LvDfNHepgCdA>

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. We really appreciate your support with this - thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half term for Swans – 25th to 29th May

INSET day – 1st June, Nursery closed for all children for training

Farms to Ewe visiting us – 11th June 9.30am – 2.30pm, all children

Science Oxford Visit – 16th July, Swans children over 3 years old

Science Oxford Visit – 22nd July, Rainbows children over 3 years old

End of term for Swans – 17 July 2026

Closure for Rainbows – 24th to 31st August

INSET Days – 1st & 2nd September

Nursery school reopens for Swans and Rainbows – 3rd September

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

STARTING RECEPTION

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>

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](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>

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/>

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BREAKFAST SESSION FOR SWANS

There are a few remaining spaces in our breakfast sessions for children in our Swans provision. Speak to Aga if you'd like to book a space. These sessions will begin at 8.30am and will include breakfast (please arrive before 8.45am to ensure you have plenty of time to eat breakfast. Sessions will need to be booked for a term at a time. We will be sending out more details to our Swans families next week.

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
- 07425 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.