

June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As the academic year draws to a close, it is always lovely to spend time looking back and reflecting on how much the children have grown – in stature and in their learning. We have been having lots of those conversations in the last couple of weeks and it's been so lovely to know that they are doing so well.

Thank you all so very much for all of your support and understanding as we navigated the red heat alert and ensuring our children, staff and families were safe. As we mentioned, we are already looking at solutions that would help us to maintain cooler conditions in the building for these events and we will keep you informed of our progress with this.

They did have lots of watery fun!



GRANDPONT FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

The introduction of our Family Partnership is something we are incredibly proud of and we hope that if you've been able to join us, that you've found it helpful.

We are looking forward to our last coffee morning of the year this week. We are looking forward to our next (and hopefully much cooler) Coffee morning on **Wednesday 1st July from 9.30-10.30am.**

Everyone is very welcome to come along for a cup of coffee/tea and a chat.

We also have members of the Health Visiting team joining us, who will be on hand to offer advice and information around potty/toilet training, oral hygiene, sleep and diet.

SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY – FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING

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, either in or out. It is really important that we know who is entering the building at any time. There may be occasions that someone who has been before should no longer be here – this is a safeguarding practice and helps us to know who is in the building and to keep everyone safe, thank you.

We know that many of you are really considerate with this and do wait patiently for a member of the team before coming in. We have had a couple of instances recently where people have not been polite or considerate.

Please can we remind everyone that when people are leaving, they are doing the right thing by not opening the door for someone waiting.

BABY GRAND PIANO

A local resident is offering a baby grand piano free to someone who has a passion for music. Sadly even a baby grand piano is a little too large for us but we said that we would share the offer with our families. If you or someone you know is interested, please let the office team know and they will put you in contact with him.

SWANS AND RAINBOWS – CHILDREN OVER TWO YEARS OLD

This term we have had lots of opportunities to practise our characteristics of effective learning. We have used a variety of resources to concentrate, persevere, have our own creative ideas and develop those ideas through our play. We have been creating mazes, designing new roan systems and creating the most delicious new recipes.



SHARING A BOOK AT BEDTIME

In a time of increased concern related to screen time and our younger children, please find some great hints and tips of how to enjoy sharing books together.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/6-top-tips-for-sharing-a-book-at-bedtime/>

FOREST SCHOOL FUN

We have been very busy investigating and discovering in Forest School. We were so excited that we found a smooth newt and a toad in our Forest School. We spent some time observing them carefully before making sure they were returned to their homes to carry on their day – it was amazing!

One of the children realised that there was treasure in the Forest, they found four pieces of treasure and excitedly shared their finds with the group. This inspired us all and we were soon working together to see what else we might find. The swing and mud kitchen have been as popular as always and have led to lots of collaborative, creative play and conversation.



HUNGRY CATERPILLARS AND BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

We have also been being interested scientists and nature lovers in our care for our caterpillars. We noticed that they were tiny when they arrived, but that they soon grew bigger and bigger. Together we observed them carefully and learnt how important it is to be gentle and careful when handling them. We were all a little worried that they might find the hot weather a bit difficult and so were very happy when the butterflies began to emerge from their cocoons. We were all a little sad but fascinated when we realised that it was time to say goodbye. We all spent time carefully watching and waiting as the butterflies set off to their future.



PARENT SURVEY 2026

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. We were overwhelmed with the lovely positive comments and thank you all. Thank you too for taking the time to let us know what you think we could do to make things even better. We are busy looking at your responses and seeing where we can make improvements and will let you know what we are able to do.

SUMMER SAVINGS FOR FAMILIES

The Great British Summer Savings Scheme is running from 25 June to 1 September 2026. The new scheme includes reduced VAT on days out, including tickets at attractions like soft play, adventure centres and theme parks, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas, and children's meals in restaurants. Children aged 5 to 15 in England will also be able to travel free on local bus services throughout August.

Further information about the scheme is available at [Summer Savings - Cost of Living Help](#).

This is in addition to further support available to families, with more information available at [Cost of Living Help](#).

https://costoflivinghelp.campaign.gov.uk/summer-savings/?gclsrc=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23869206373&gclid=Cj0KCQjw0JnRBhDJARIsALobnXZgajr8E_SJhOzLWREKjbnWMJIHpBo-K2CSeuk8zM8TTXHgtNQz8XNYaAkAxEALw_wcB

'Have Your Say' on the refreshed Local Area Partnership Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

In Oxfordshire, representatives from parents and carer groups, education, health, and social care work together as the Local Area Partnership (LAP). Using feedback, engagement events and outcomes from inspections, the LAP has co-designed a new SEND strategy. We'd like to hear your views on the draft SEND Strategy for 2026 - 2029.

The partnership's ambition for children and young people with SEND is that they are valued, included, supported early, and are able to thrive in their communities and prepare confidently for adulthood. The plan provides a clear framework for how the LAP will work together to improve experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The plan is going out for consultation with a wide range of people across Oxfordshire to make sure that everyone 'has their say' on it. Find out how you can 'Have Your Say' [here](#).

'Have your Say' on the new SEND Strategy for Oxfordshire

Consultation open

until 3rd August 2026



Use the link or
scan the code



<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/send-strategy-2026>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

End of year celebration – 10th July, 9am to 10am, Swans and Rainbows

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/>

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTION ROUTINES

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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.