

July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

July has been a very busy month supporting children who are venturing on their next chapter with visits to and from their new schools. The transition between nursery can feel a little daunting for all but please be reassured that there is a lot of planning and preparation both at Nursery and in the new schools to make the transitions as smooth as possible. Please also speak to your child's new class teacher if there is anything you're unsure of. We are all here to support.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our end of year celebration morning. We hope you enjoyed spending time together, the activities available and the wonderful rendition of 'Going on a Bear Hunt' and our 'Together Again' song. The children did a fantastic job – and the adults did too!

It is also busy with our visits to Science Oxford. All of our children over three years old have had the opportunity to visit, with Swans children visiting last Thursday and Rainbows children visiting on Tuesday. It is an incredible place designed to engage curiosity with some fantastic resources that explore cause and effect in a fun hands on way.



Our Swans children who are three and four years old had the most amazing time visiting Science Oxford in the last week of term. They were very excited to travel on a coach...and for it to be a double decker so they could see the world go by. Once there they had the opportunity to explore, investigate and delight in lots of hands on fun and exciting science activities. All of the children were engaged for the whole day. Science Oxford is open to families at weekends with additional activities over the holidays, well worth a visit if you're looking for something to do during the holidays.

<https://scienceoxford.com/centre/>



On Tuesday lots of our Rainbows children also had the chance to visit. They too were impressed with the coach!

The children enjoyed experimenting with the different stations (as did the adults!) - from sending objects flying around the room, to placing balls and scarfs in vacuum chutes, looking at the body's sensory response to temperature and sound, figuring out wire mechanisms, and exploring motion through a variety of weird and wonderful equipment. As put by one of the children, which encapsulates the whole experience and day beautifully, 'is it science, or is it magic.'





In September there is also a visit to the Story Museum planned, more details to follow. They also have some incredible fun spaces to explore and are open over the holidays – another very worthwhile visit if you're in Oxford for the day.

<https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/plan-your-visit>

Our children who are under two years old have also been having a lot of fun exploring using their senses, both indoors and out. We are all very excited that the work on the gas pipe work is complete and work is going ahead to prepare the outdoor area so that we can use it again – nearly there!



It has been busy in another area of the building too. We have been incredibly lucky to have Amy from Antler Wildling working to create the most beautiful mural for our community.

Inspired by the beauty of nature, our graceful swan glides across a peaceful pond, surrounded by woodland, wildflowers and wildlife. The mural has been thoughtfully designed with our children in mind – even reflecting in the mirrored “pond” opposite when viewed from the height of a three-year-old. Inspired by the beauty of nature, our graceful swan glides across a peaceful pond, surrounded by woodland, wildflowers and wildlife.

At Grandpont Nursery, we believe that beautiful environments inspire curiosity, imagination and a love of learning. This stunning artwork transforms our space into somewhere children can wonder, explore and create stories of their own every day.

A huge thank you to [@antlerwildlingart](https://www.instagram.com/antlerwildlingart) for bringing our vision to life – we can't wait to see our children enjoy it!



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.

MONKEY MUSIC



Allys, one of our parents runs Monkey Music sessions for the local community. Please see the website for more information about the sessions

<https://www.wapi.monkeymusic.co.uk/Workshops+%26+Events/40/>

Allys is also offering an Open Day. Please see below for more details:

It is free, and there is a great park behind the venue, a lovely cafe and there may be parking - although, from my experience, bus or foot is the best mode of transport here. There is free parking in Osney Industrial park in various areas for 2 hours, which is a short walk away.

FREE OPEN DAY at our NEW Venue at WOCA, Botley Road!

Dear Monkey Music family!

We are delighted to announce that we are launching new classes at WOCA on the BOTLEY ROAD as of September 2026. To celebrate this, we are running 2 FREE open day classes on Thursday 3rd September 2026, where you can come and experience the fantastic facilities at WOCA. Please spread the word as EVERYONE is welcome, even if they do not attend Monkey Music classes yet!

Please click [here](#) for the **mixed age session** and [here](#) for the **babies session** to book your place today.

We can't wait to see you soon!

OXFORD WESTGATE LIBRARY

The library in the Westgate are running events over the summer specifically for children under five, the first of which is on Friday 24th July. See here for more details - <https://libraryon.org/libraries/oxfordshire/oxford-westgate-library>

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/>

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/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw0JnRBhDJARIsALobnXZgajr8ESJhOzLWREKjbnWMJIHpBo-K2CSeuk8zM8TTXHgtNQz8XNYaAkAxEALw_wcB

END OF YEAR REFLECTION

As this is the last newsletter that I will be writing for the school, I wanted to thank you all for your kindness, enthusiasm and sense of community and to share some incredible successes we have achieved together. We have developed our indoor and outdoor environments and our team work together with children at the centre of all we do. Both Swans and Rainbows children have grown in number, stature and in their development and have been supported in this by our wonderful community together.

There has been some important work behind the scenes which ensures that our building is safe, cared for and ready to support Grandpont for the future. Our curriculum has been redeveloped and is supporting all of our children to flourish and thrive, please see website for more details.

Grandpont is in a good place with a future that is sustainable and exciting and is in safe hands with our fantastic team.

Wishing you all good health and happiness for the future.

Have a lovely summer.

Sarah

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Closure for Rainbows – 24th to 31st August

INSET Days – 1st & 2nd September

Nursery school and Childcare 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.

JOIN US TO

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY



OPPORTUNITY TO MEET

Community Police

Oxford City Council's
Anti Social Behaviour &
Housing Officers

Labour City & County
Councillors

RAISE CONCERNS | ASK QUESTIONS | FIND OUT MORE

DATE &
TIME | MONDAY 04
AUGUST

DROP IN
16.00-18.00

BRENDA HORWOOD ROOM
SOUTH OXFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE





REGISTER ONLINE
OR COME DOWN
TO SOAP!



SOAP Summer Play Days

FREE | DROP IN | NO BOOKING

**29 JULY -
29 AUGUST 2025**



**well
together**



WWW.SOAPOXFORD.ORG

**TUESDAYS
& FRIDAYS** 10am-4pm

EVERYONE CAN COME AND PLAY!
If you're under 7, bring your grown-up — if you're 7 or older, come with them or on your own!

**WEDNESDAYS
& THURSDAYS** 10am-4pm

KIDS-ONLY HANGOUT FOR
AGES 7 AND UP
No grown-ups or little ones
allowed!

THURSDAYS 5pm-7pm

FOR AGES 11 AND UP — CHILL, LIGHT
FIRES, AND DO YOUR OWN THING.
No little kids. No adults.

CLOSED ON MONDAYS



Behind
Grandpont
Nursery,
Whitehouse
Road, OX1

Rope Swings
Zip Wire
Football
Arts & Crafts
Obstacle Course
Camp Fires
Healthy snacks



'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>

SCAN ME

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>

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.