



O'Keefe Class Newsletter

September 2022

Welcome to O'keefe Class

It was lovely to meet you and your children during our recent transition sessions. Me and Mrs Bayliss have been busy getting everything ready for the start of the school term.

This term our topic is changes. This will include learning about ourselves and what makes us special, Harvest time, Transport, Autumn, Remembrance, Materials and Celebrations.

At drop off we will meet and greet you and your child at the cloak room door. Children will walk into their class and be supported by the teaching assistant to put their belongings away and settle ready for the register.

On the first day if your child needs you to, you may come into the cloakroom with them, but from Wednesday we would like the children to come in independently.

At pick up times, please come through the main gate and wait in the playground. This will give you an opportunity to speak with us at the end of the day if needed. Please make yourself known to us as we get to know you and introduce any other adults who will be collecting your child. Children will remain inside the cloakroom, and we will see them out to you in turn.

The gate opens 8:45am and closes at 8:55am. After this time, you will need to report to the school office.

If your child attends breakfast club, a member of staff will bring them to the classroom. If your child attends after school club, they be collected from class by a member of staff.

Things to remember...

PE and Clothing

Please make sure that each item of your child's clothing (school uniform, shoes, and PE kit) has their name on it. Clothing often gets mixed up especially after PE lessons, so it is essential that all clothing is named.

PE will take place on Monday afternoons. PE kit should contain; plain white t-shirt, red shorts (or in colder weather joggings bottoms - black or red), socks and trainers. Trainers will need to be Velcro rather than laces as children are not yet able to put these on independently. Children will not need PE kits straight away; we will let you know when the children will need these.

Children will get messy and dirty as they have fun playing at school. We also advise you to provide a set of spare clothes for your child should they need to change.

Weather

We spend a lot of time learning outside please ensure that your child has suitable clothing for the weather. When it is sunny, please apply suncream to your child before bringing them to school along with a sun hat to wear outdoors. Children **do not** need to bring suncream to school if it has been applied in the morning.

Nature School

Every week on Tuesday afternoons we will be going to nature school (located on the school grounds). We hope to go outdoors whatever the weather. Therefore, children will need to bring to school with them a named bag of old, warm clothing (e.g., long trousers and a jumper) and a pair of welly boots. Full waterproofs (e.g., waterproof trousers or a waterproof all in one) would be useful. We can help them to change into these clothes before we go to the forest.

Illness

Please phone the school office if your child is ill and unable to attend. We understand young children can become ill, but we encourage all children to aim for 100% attendance.

Snack & Lunch

A piece of fruit is provided by Oxford County Council, so children **do not** need to bring a snack from home, but can if they would like to. Milk is also provided for children until they turn five. Children can have a free school dinner under the Universal Free School Meals scheme or bring a packed lunch from home. Please be mindful that we are a nut free school, so ensure packed lunch products do not contain nuts. Please ensure grapes are cut in half (lengthways). Children will eat their lunch in the dining hall and be supported by the lunch time supervisors. Children will need to be provided with a water bottle, preferably with a spout lid to avoid spillages. Water bottles should not contain squash. Please find a link to our school menu [Meals & Lunch Menus – Blewbury Endowed CE Primary School](#)

Reading Books

We will soon be sending home a school reading book. Please provide your child with a book bag that their books can be kept safe and dry inside. Children will need to bring their book bag to school everyday so that we can also read their book with them. Books will be changed once a week on Monday's, so it is vital that book bags are brought to school on this day.

How can you help your child at home?

Reading

Please read with your child for at least 5 minutes every day and record this in their school reading diary.

Phonics

A phonics activity will be sent home each week on a Friday linking to the sounds/ key words we are focusing on in school.

Wow Moments

In your child's book bag, you will find a 'wow slip' where you can add a note about something fantastic your child has done at home. This could be that they have worked really hard reading their schoolbook to you or that they won their first swimming badge. We will share these in class on Fridays. We will keep this and add them to your child's Learning Journal.

Please help me by not allowing your child to bring toys from home into school. These toys often get lost or broken which can be very upsetting for the child.

Important dates

O'keefe and Goldsworthy Coffee Morning

Monday 12th September

8:45 am – 9:45 am

Sports Day

Wednesday 5th October

9:00am – 10:30 am

Parents Evening

Tuesday 18th October

Thursday 20th October

O'keefe and Goldsworthy trip to the car museum is being investigated.

O'keefe and Goldsworthy Nativity

Afternoon Wednesday 14th December

Afternoon Thursday 15th December

Please find a link to our school's term dates [Blewbury CofE Primary School](#)

A last note

We are working hard to ensure your child has a happy and smooth transition to primary school. We appreciate there is a lot of information for you to process. Please arrange to speak with us if you have any questions. We will be more than happy to answer them. You can arrange to speak with me in person, by phone or email. All email correspondence should go through the school office where it will be passed on to me.

Miss Buckler and Mrs Baylis