



Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Courage

Hope

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January 2026 Newsletter 88

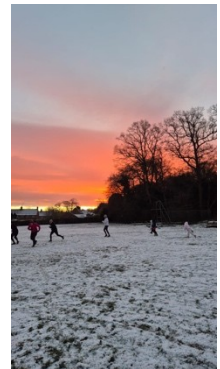
Welcome Back to the Spring Term

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break. As we start 2026, there's lots to look forward to.

Our **Running Club** is back in action, a great way to get active, have fun, and challenge yourself this term. They also get to see the best sunrises!



Our Year 5 and 6 children have just returned from their residential at Woodlands, where they took part in a wide range of challenging and exciting activities, including caving, high ropes, abseiling, rock climbing on a climbing wall, canoeing and sledging. These are true character-building experiences, with every child encouraged to step outside their comfort zone, try something new and persevere even when it felt difficult. Through this, they have all developed resilience, courage and confidence in themselves.



This term, learning across the school is taking us on some exciting journeys – both near and far! **Willow Class** are exploring the “*dreaming spires*” of Oxford, discovering its famous buildings, rich history and vibrant university life. From iconic landmarks to stories of scholars past and present, they are building a real sense of place and heritage.

Oak Class have launched into the wonders of **space**, travelling far beyond Earth to learn about planets, stars and galaxies. Their learning is sparking curiosity, big questions and plenty of awe as they explore what lies beyond our world.

Acorn Class are heading to the icy landscapes of **Antarctica**, learning about extreme environments, animals that live there and what life is like at the coldest place on Earth. Their topic is helping them understand the natural world and the importance of caring for our planet.

Wishing you all a happy and productive spring term!

Some polite reminders for the new year

- 1) **We are a nut free zone.** Please don't send any snacks or packed lunches containing nuts.
- 2) **Uniform:** Please ensure your child comes to school dressed in the appropriate **named school uniform everyday** and bring your PE kit in a bag because they will be changing at school. Bring a coat to school in this cold weather – the children still go out to play.
- 3) **Drinks:** Remember a water bottle everyday, this should be filled with water, not squash. We encourage the children to regularly drink from their bottles. Regularly sipping sugary drinks causes damage to children's teeth.
- 4) **Breaktime snacks:** Fruit or vegetables please.
- 5) **Parking:** The preschool have asked us to remind everyone not to use their car park.
- 6) **School day:** Our doors open at 8.40 and the registers are taken at 8.50. We finish at 3.20, if you are going to be late, please let us know so that your child can be warned. If your child is going home with another adult, please can you inform the office because we can't let them leave without

specific permission from a parent.

Ofsted Update

Due to the introduction of the new national inspection framework, Ofsted are currently reviewing and refining their processes to ensure consistency and accuracy across the country. The HMI advised that this may result in some delays while these systems are being fully embedded. As a result, we anticipate that the publication of our report may take a little longer than usual. We understand how keen everyone is to read it and will, of course, share it as soon as it becomes available.



Term 3

Monday 5th January 2026 Term starts
Monday 5th January 2026 Silver Birch Class residential
Friday 9th January 2026 Silver Birch Class return
Wednesday 14th January 2026 Willow Class Oxford trip
Friday 16th January 2026 Doughnuts!
[Thursday 22nd January 7.15pm PTA Meeting at Highwayman - all welcome](#)
Friday 13th February 2026 Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)
Friday 13th February 2026 at 3.20 Term ends
February holiday Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2026 Term starts
Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 2pm Holy Communion Easter Service (all welcome)
Friday 27th March 2026 Open Celebration Worship and class cups (all welcome)
Friday 27th March 2026 at 1 pm Term ends
Easter holiday Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026

Term 5

Monday 13th April 2026 Term starts
Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday Monday (no school)
Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 1.30 Pentecost followed by Maypole and Country Dancing (all welcome)
Friday 22nd May 2026 Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)
Friday 22nd May 2026 at 3.20 Term ends
Late Spring holiday Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026

Term 6

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day
Tuesday 2nd June 2026 Term starts
Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 2.30 Celebration Worship in church (all welcome)
Friday 17th July at 9am Open Celebration Worship and Class Cups (all welcome)
Friday 17th July 2026 at 1pm Term ends
Monday 20th July 2026 INSET Day