



John Blandy Primary School

Friday, September 4th, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that you have chosen John Blandy Primary School as your child's first school and we warmly welcome you to our school community! We fully understand what a big step it is to start school so please feel reassured that we will do all we can to help your child settle into school as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

Transition

Our priority will be getting to know your child and for them to feel secure and happy to be in Reception. Please do come and have a chat if you have any questions or concerns. The end of the day is the best time as we will be busy with supporting the children in the mornings, unless it is urgent of course.

The Curriculum

Please see our Curriculum Overview to see an outline of what we are planning to cover to support the children's learning this first term. Moving forwards, we will share our termly letters and curriculum overviews via email so please look out for these.

Home Reading and Phonics

Next week we will start to send out school reading books and diaries to record your child's reading. Your child will be given wordless books to begin with, so they can practise oral storytelling using picture clues. All children will start learning letters and sounds in daily Phonics sessions beginning on Monday 14th September. Each time we teach a sound your child will come home with a sheet so that they can practise the new sound at home.

*****Parent Information Session on Reading and Phonics*****

We would like to invite all parents and carers to find out more about how we are going to teach Phonics and Reading to your child at an information session on **Thursday 17th September at 2.30pm**. We will gather in the hall and the session will finish at 3pm in time for pick up. It will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions and look at the resources we use. We would love to see you there! Younger siblings are welcome to come along as needed.

P.E days

PE sessions will take place each Wednesday. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school by Monday 14th September. We will learn how to change into PE clothes gradually through this term. Please encourage independent changing at home too! A reminder that trainers are not needed yet as we will do PE indoors. Later in the year we will start to do PE outside, and we will let you know then that trainers are required.

www.johnblandyprimary.org.uk
John Blandy Primary School, Laurel Drive, Southmoor, Oxfordshire. OX13 5DJ
t: 01865 820422 e: office@jbl.faringdonlearningtrust.org
Headteacher: Mrs Elliott



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Lunches and snacks

School dinners are available from Monday 7th September. All children in Reception are entitled to a free school meal up until the end of Year 2. School meals do not need to be pre-ordered, but your child needs to tell the teachers in the morning what they would like that day. It is very helpful if you can speak to your child about the lunch options for that day so that they are ready to tell us their choice at morning registration. For this reason, we have attached a copy of the current menu to this letter. (It is the same as last term, hence the title of Spring/Summer 2026) **Please ensure the school office are informed of any allergies/ dietary requirements.** We are a nut averse school so ask that nuts and peanuts are not bought into school in any form including nutellaa and similar spreads.

A school snack of fruit and milk is provided each morning. If wished, your child can bring their own snack from home. As healthy eating is important in our school, we encourage fruit and vegetables. **It is essential that grapes are cut in half lengthways for the health and safety of your child.**

Bags

If you can, please avoid sending your child into school with a rucksack as these are bulky and it is difficult to hang them on pegs due to space limitations. Drawstring bags work really well on pegs for things like PE kits and spare clothing. Lunch boxes with handles are also much easier for children to be able to carry into the hall along with their water bottle at lunchtime, so these would be great if possible.

Spare clothes and wellies

Please ensure that your child has a **spare clothes** in school, including socks and pants. These are very useful if they have an accident or get wet or messy during play activities. Please also bring in a **named pair of wellies** that can stay in school. These are used on wet and muddy days when the children go outside. We love a puddle!

Name everything!

Please ensure all your child's school uniform and P.E kits are **clearly named**, including bottles and snack pots!

Coffee Afternoon

Please do come along to the **Coffee Afternoon on Friday 11th September at 2pm** before pick up. We hope to see you there!

We look forward to an exciting term ahead and getting to know you and your child.

With warm regards,

The Reception Team

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