



Dunmore Primary School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon Oxfordshire
OX14 1NR
Tel: 01235 520550
Fax: 01235 535126

Head.3861@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk
Office.3861@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Samuel Bartholomew

'Great to be Inspired, Inspired to be Great'

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Welcome Back | 9. Class assemblies |
| 2. Staffing changes | 10. Communication |
| 3. Before and end of the school day | 11. School lunches |
| 4. Attendance | |
| 5. Curriculum letters | |
| 6. Walk your wheels | |
| 7. School uniform | |
| 8. Dates of key events | |

1. Welcome Back

It is a pleasure to welcome you back to Dunmore for a new academic year. I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and were able to enjoy the wonderful sunshine. We are delighted to welcome the children back today.

2. Staffing changes

We welcome Mrs Mitchell back after her illness and Mrs Bennett too from her maternity leave.

3. Before and end of the school day

Children in the main school (Reception – Year 6) are permitted to arrive at school from 8.35am onwards. No responsibility can be taken for children before this time, so we ask they are not on the school site prior to 8.30am as there are no adults to supervise them. The school site does not open until 8.30am when the site manager opens the gates. All children should be on the school premises by 8.45am when they should come into school and organise themselves ready for the start of the day.

Reception and Year 1 children should wait outside their classrooms.

Year 2 and Year 3 pupils are to wait on the back playground and Years 4-6 on the Upper School Playground. Pupils should line up on the playground at 8.45am and are brought in by the class teachers.

At the end of the day, Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) children should be collected from their classroom at 3.15pm. Key Stage 2 children (Years 3-6) can be collected from the Upper School Playground at 3.15pm.

Please ensure that your family do not use the play equipment before or after school. Children up to Year 3 should be accompanied by an adult while on the school site. Children in Years 4-6 can move around the site without an adult. Only children in Years 5 & 6 should be allowed to walk/cycle etc. to and from the school site without an adult. Also, Reception staff will be setting up the outside area before school so please make sure that this equipment is not touched.

Great to be inspired. Inspired to be great.

4. Attendance

At Dunmore Primary School we expect the highest possible level of attendance. For the academic year 2026-27, we aim for whole school attendance to be above 97%. This means on average, each child missing five days of school. Our aim is to ensure that all pupils make excellent progress, achieve high levels of attainment and develop positive relationships with both staff and other pupils. This is achievable only when pupils are present for every possible session.

Our aim is to work alongside pupils and parents/carers to promote, support and when necessary involve the Local Authority to ensure that each pupil is receiving their education. National guidance for schools is to ensure that children's attendance is as high as possible. To help us have accurate information about attendance each day, if your child is ill and unable to attend school then please contact the school office by telephone by 8.45am, select option 1 and give the name of your child and the symptoms that they have.

To support your child to attend school regularly, helpful tips are:

- Ensuring regular and early bed time
- Helping with homework
- Having uniform and equipment prepared the night before
- Providing a healthy breakfast
- Reporting any academic or social concerns promptly
- Retaining open & honest communication with our school
- Being positive about school (even if your own experience was less than positive)

5. Curriculum Letters

Curriculum letters will be sent home soon. They will be available on the year group page of the school website. Please read them carefully as they do contain the details for your child's class and how you can support them with their learning.

6. Walk your wheels

For safety, please can I remind you that parents and children should 'Walk your wheels' on the school site to prevent any accidents.

7. School Uniform

At Dunmore, we do expect all children to be in school uniform. Just to remind you, the school uniform required is below for your information:

- Grey trousers, skirt or shorts in warm weather
- White shirt/blouse or white/red polo shirt
- Red pullover, cardigan or sweatshirt
- Red gingham/striped or grey divided skirts/shorts or dress in the warmer weather
- Black flat shoes or sandals. High heels and open toe sandals are not acceptable as these pose a safety risk in the playground
- Jewellery is not allowed in school for safety reasons. Ear studs may be worn but should be removed for PE
- Watches are permitted
- We request that hair bands, tie backs, scrunchies etc. are in the school colours to match the uniform

8. Dates of Key Events

We will send out dates for key events in the next week or so. They will also be added to the diary on the school website.

This year, we are introducing coffee mornings for all parents/carers with a particular area of focus which we will share in advance. All are welcome.

The date for the first coffee morning is Thursday 8th October at 8.45am, where we will be sharing information about the wider curriculum opportunities that we offer.

We also have more opportunities this academic year to come and see your child's learning. The first time for this is on Thursday 22nd October from 3.15pm – 4pm you are invited to come and take part in our International Food Festival, more details to follow. Then on Friday 23rd October we will be holding Open Classrooms from 2.50pm – 3.15pm, this will be an opportunity to see learning in the classroom.

9. Class Assemblies

Class assemblies will take place again this year. This is a valuable opportunity to share in your child's learning. Dates for these are below. They all start at 9am in the Upper School Hall on a Wednesday (unless otherwise indicated).

Date	Class
Sept 30 th	Year 6 Mauritius
Oct 7 th	Year 6 Madagascar
Oct 15 th (Thurs)	Year 5 Sri Lanka
Oct 21 st	Year 5 India
Nov 18 th	Year 4 Canada
Nov 25 th	Year 4 Mexico
Dec 1 st (Tues)	Year 3 Australia
Dec 2 nd	Year 3 New Zealand
Jan 20 th	Year 2 Brazil
Feb 10 th	Explorers

March 10 th	Year 5 Sri Lanka
March 17 th	Year 5 India
March 24 th	Y3 New Zealand
March 25 th (Thurs)	Y3 Australia
April 28 th	Year 2 Brazil
May 5 th	Year 1 Switzerland
May 6 th (Thurs)	Year 1 Spain
May 19 th	Y4 Canada and Mexico
June 23 rd	Early Years (Explorers and Nursery)

10. Communication

I will send newsletters regularly throughout the year highlighting particular aspects and activities of our school life. If you have a query or concern regarding your child's work in the classroom, or a question about the day-to-day routines in the class, please have a quick word with your child's teacher after school.

You can contact the school office to make a telephone appointment for you with the teacher if necessary. If you still have concerns after speaking to the teacher, please speak to the appropriate

Great to be inspired. Inspired to be great.

phase leader:

- Early Years (Nursery and Reception): Mrs Barker
- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2): Mrs Bartholomew
- Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4): Dr Strange
- Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5 and 6): Mrs Ross

If your question is regarding Special Educational Needs, then please contact Mrs Smith, our SENCo, on sendco@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk

If your question is more about a whole school issue, please do get in touch with the appropriate Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Barker, Dr Strange, Mrs Ross or myself. Appointments with me can be made through my PA, Mrs Law (tlaw1625@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk). You can also email any of us directly if a telephone appointment or virtual meeting isn't necessary:

- Mrs Ross: pros3517@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk
- Mrs Barker: rbar0415@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk
- Dr Strange: astr5531@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk

11. School Lunches

A reminder that all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to a free lunch each day. These **must** be ordered on Schoolgrid in advance. Children in Years 3- 6 can order a school dinner at the cost of £2.88 a day. Please follow this link for more information: [Dunmore Primary School - Lunches](#). Parents need to order a school dinner in advance or provide a healthy packed lunch from home.

Yours sincerely



Mr S J Bartholomew
Headteacher