



# Oldbury Observer Spring Term Edition 1

## Mr Irving's Comment

Happy New Year to you all on behalf of the staff of Oldbury Park - we wish you all the best for the year ahead.

The new term has begun positively with high levels of attendance, uniforms being worn with pride, good attitudes to school life and lots of opportunities for learning, as this edition of the Observer once again demonstrates.

Just as attendance is important, so too is punctuality. Please use the time to arrive at school each morning carefully – the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:45am. Arriving too early (before the gates open) can be tricky for those children getting to school independently and can be a cold, damp experience for everyone at this time of year. If you are arriving as the gate is closing, you have likely left things a little too late and this reduces your child's chance at starting the day in an informed, calm and collected way.

This week we sent you an information pack about home reading; this same information will also be emailed to you today. Please take the time to be up to date with our approach to home reading and how you can best support our aims and your children's development. Please reach out to us if you need advice or support with home reading. Later in the year you will be invited to a 'read-along' session in school with your children – more details to follow.

Have a lovely weekend.

## The Week Ahead

### School Dates

Monday 5th January - School closed to pupils - Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 6th

Tuesday 27th Jan- Year 3/4/5/6- Language afternoon from University

Monday 2nd February - Year 3 visit to Worcester Mosque

Tuesday 11th February- Year 2 Go Green visit to University

Thursday 12th February - Year 3 assembly to parents (2.45pm in Main Hall)

### Term Dates

#### Academic Year 2025 to 2026

Term dates Academic Year 2025 to 2026

Holiday	School closes on	School re-opens on
Autumn Term	Not Applicable	Monday 1 September 2025
Autumn mid-term	Friday 24 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025
Christmas	Friday 19 December 2025	Monday 5 January 2026
Spring mid-term	Friday 13 February 2026	Monday 23 February 2026
Easter	Friday 27 March 2026	Monday 13 April 2026
Summer mid-term	Friday 22 May 2026	Monday 1 June 2026
End of summer term	Monday 20 July 2026	Not Applicable

#### Academic Year 2026 to 2027

Term Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the academic year 2026 to 2027.

Holiday	School closes on	School re-opens on
Autumn Term	Not applicable	Tuesday 1 September 2026
Autumn mid-term	Friday 23 October 2026	Monday 2 November 2026
Christmas	Friday 18 December 2026	Monday 4 January 2027
Spring mid-term	Friday 12 February 2027	Monday 22 February 2027
Easter	Thursday 25 March 2027	Monday 12 April 2027
Summer mid-term	Friday 28 May 2027	Monday 7 June 2027
End of summer term	Wednesday 21 July 2027	Not applicable

## Attendance Update - **IMPORTANT** for ALL FAMILIES

This week, we have seen a return to higher levels of attendance after the considerable amount of illness in the lead up to Christmas. The children have returned with positive attitudes and have got straight back into school life which is great to see.

### Request for toys



We would like to offer the children the opportunity to play with an increased selection of toys at lunchtime, on the Ks2 playground. If you have any of the following toys, in good condition, and would like to donate them to school, please pop them into the office.

We are looking for:

- Building blocks, Duplo, Lego, Stickle bricks.
- Toy cars
- Barbies (+ clothes)
- Dolls (doll clothes, bottles etc.)
- Dinosaurs
- Animals (farm, sea creatures safari etc)

*We are not able to take cuddly toys.*

**Thank you so much for your support with this!**

## PINS - Parent -Carer Forum



As part of the pins project, we are working with the Parent-Carer Forum to build a network of peer to peer support within our school community. Lisa and Anne are the representatives who are working alongside Oldbury Park to establish a team of Parent Ambassadors for the school. These wonderful, ladies will be coming into school to offer some workshops for you to do with your child (look out for the Slime Workshop coming soon) and we are hoping that they will also have a presence at some school events such as parent's evenings.

To give you an opportunity to get to know Lisa and Anne and their background, they have written a short introduction and shared some key information about how the Parent-Carer Forum is supporting the PINS project in Worcestershire.

**We're Lisa and Anne, and we're really pleased to be working with Oldbury Park School. Both of us are volunteers with Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum (WPCF), a group of parent carers of children with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).**

**WPCF's aim is simple: to make sure parent carers' voices are heard when decisions are made about services for our SEND children and young people in Worcestershire. We also support each other, share what we've learned about navigating life with a disabled child or young person, and provide wellbeing activities for parent carers.**

**Through WPCF, we're introducing the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project to your school community. This project is all about building bridges between parents, schools, and local services. By working together, we can:**

- **Support positive partnerships between parent carers and the school**
- **Develop skills and knowledge about neurodivergence within the school**

- Find ways to support children and young people as early as possible

Both of us are parent carers of neurodivergent children, so we understand first-hand the ups and downs of navigating SEND support. We know how important it is to feel heard, understood, and connected; that's exactly why we're here.

Keep an eye out for the events we'll be running and please come along if you're interested. You'll be made very welcome by people who truly understand.

<https://worcspcf.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WorcestershirePCF>



1 - Left: Lisa Right: Anne

Healthwatch



In addition to our work with the Parent-Carer Forum, we would like to offer any parents who are caring for a child with a disability under the age of 16 years the opportunity to contribute to the Healthwatch Parent,/Carer survey. If you would like to contribute, please click on the link below.

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.surveymonkey.com%2fr%2fNSFHKDR&c=E,1,Y-oGiRVdIW\\_XNVGbtbqIrTRZd94W-pdTqeFcFdR4jvpgeFmNAiXKZifDE2P2px68sq6OtQBZFxknucgIQ2WnB6l8D-do3NtKoUmbnasyIRtZf5Q,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.surveymonkey.com%2fr%2fNSFHKDR&c=E,1,Y-oGiRVdIW_XNVGbtbqIrTRZd94W-pdTqeFcFdR4jvpgeFmNAiXKZifDE2P2px68sq6OtQBZFxknucgIQ2WnB6l8D-do3NtKoUmbnasyIRtZf5Q,&typo=1)

**EVENT - Parent Talk: Raising Kids in the Smartphone Era**



A vertical poster with a dark background. At the top left is the "SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD" logo. The main title "PARENT TALK: Raising Kids in the Smartphone Era" is in large, light green, sans-serif font. Below the title is a short paragraph of text. At the bottom, there is a light green box containing event details: "WHEN" with a calendar icon, "WHERE" with a location pin icon, and a red ticket icon with the text "Reserve a FREE place by scanning one of the codes". Two QR codes are shown, one for "Jan 12 / 5:30" and one for "Jan 20 / 9:30". The background of the poster shows a blurred image of a crowd of people at an event.

2 - If you are keen to attend with event, please sign up using the QR codes or following the link. You can also just turn up on the day. This even is free.

Jan 12 (Evening)<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1977561184738?aff=oddtcreator>

Jan 20th (Morning)<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1977589932724?aff=oddtcreator>

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## Reception

We were all very excited to share what we'd got up to in the Christmas holidays, and very sad that all the celebrations were over. That is, until we noticed we'd been left a present! We opened our presents to find a book, and our very own bus. The story is called Naughty Bus. It is all about the mischief this bus gets up to, such as driving through beans and making a mess with the toothpaste!

We are very hopeful the bus we've received is well behaved, however we aren't convinced yet, especially as we arrived on Thursday morning to a very messy classroom, which we definitely didn't leave that way!

We have enjoyed setting up our own adventures for the bus to journey on, such as driving in the ice and building 'London'. Fingers crossed there's no more mischief!

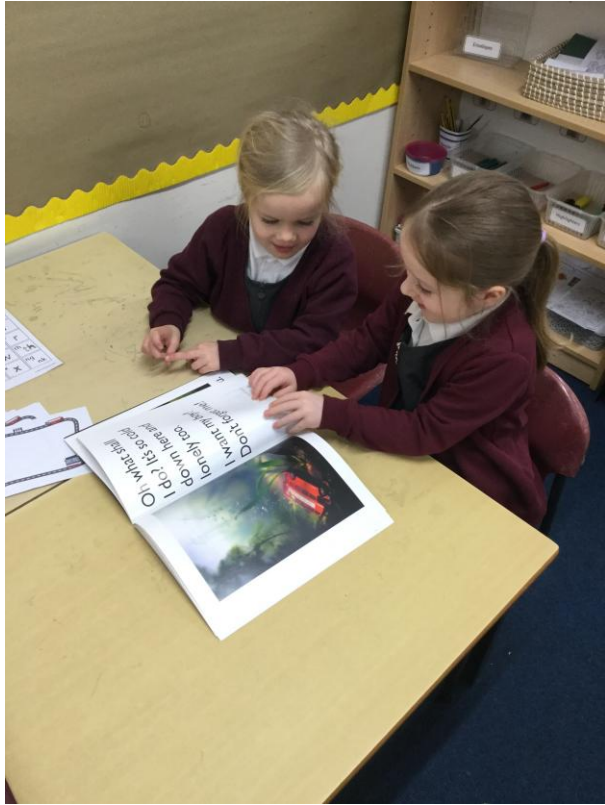
Just a reminder for PE kits to be in school ready for Monday. Thank you

Plea for spare clothes

Unfortunately, we are now completely out of spare pants, socks & trousers. If you have any spare that you no longer need at home they would be gratefully received.

If you haven't already done so, it would also be really helpful if you could provide a spare pair of clothes that stay at school in case your child has an accident or gets wet playing outdoors.











## Year 1

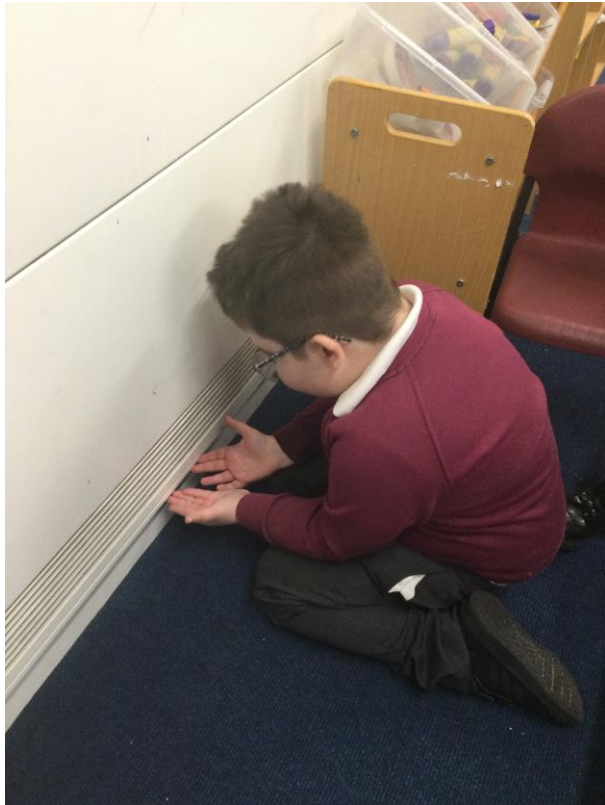
Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all.

The children have settled back quickly into the routine of school with a ready to learn attitude. We introduced our new topic of Hot and Cold through a new text called Lost and Found and by doing a science experiment about ice. The children were very enthusiastic to share their knowledge of what ice is, predict how long it would take to melt and set up an experiment to watch ice melt in different locations. They also enjoyed melting their own ice cube using a variety of methods.











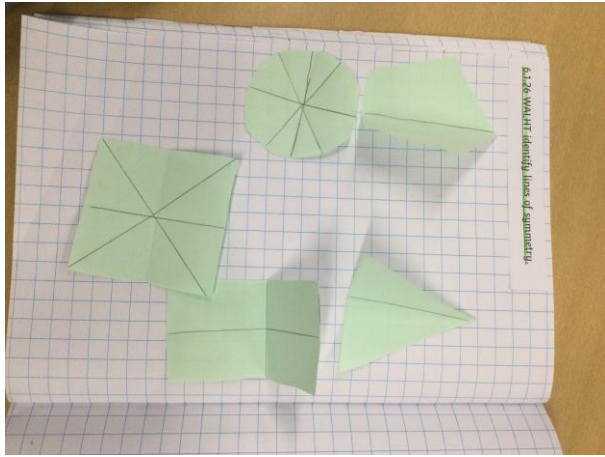
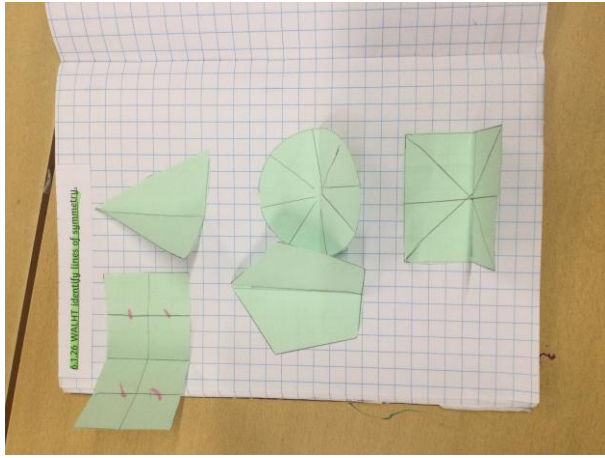
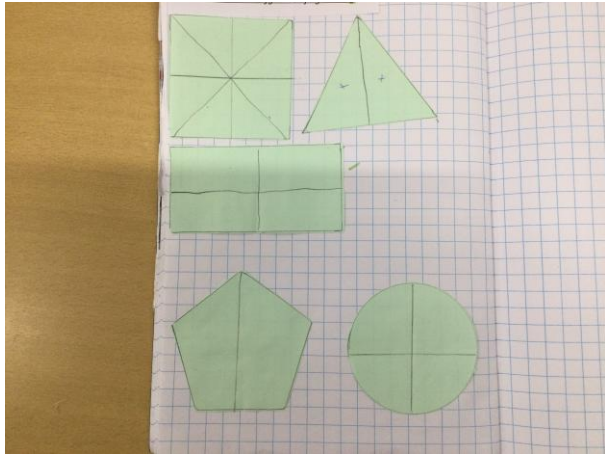


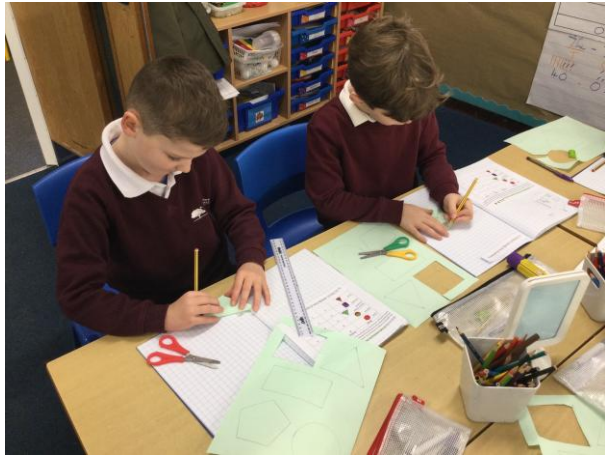
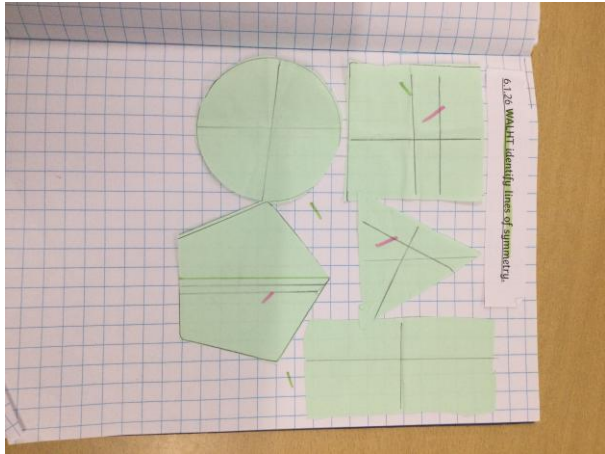


## Year 2

A warm welcome back to you all and we wish you a happy new year!

The children have had a fantastic week settling back into the routine. In Maths we have focussed







## Year 3

Firstly, thank you so much for the lovely Christmas gifts and kind messages—they were truly appreciated. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back and see them settle quickly into their learning routines.

This week, we focused on building confidence and revisiting key skills across the curriculum. In Maths, we began each day with a calculation challenge to get our brains working. The children revisited column addition, with time spent reteaching and consolidating methods, before moving on to column subtraction. Later in the week, they applied these skills to two-step problems, encouraging careful reading and problem-solving.

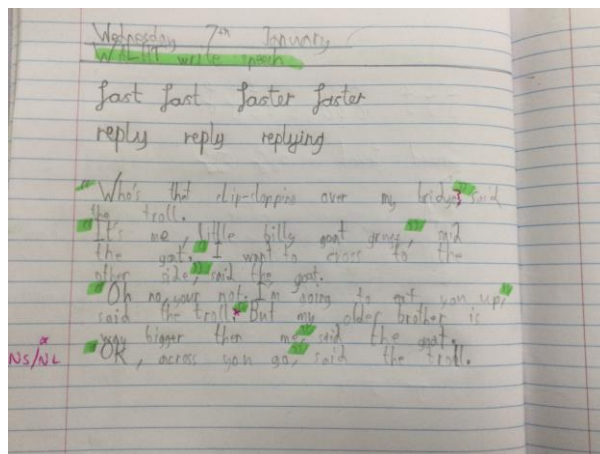
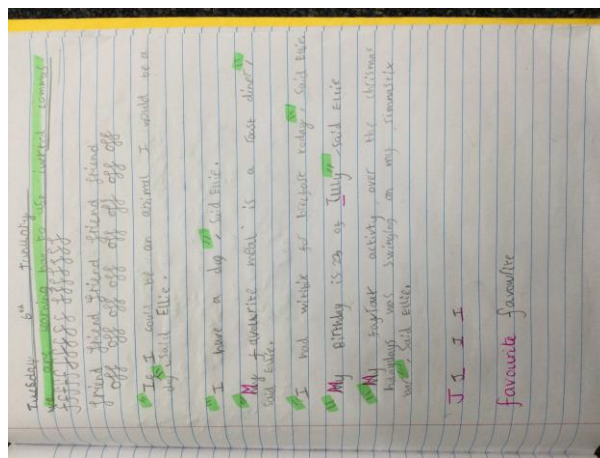
In English, our work centred around speech punctuation. The children learned how to use inverted commas and reporting clauses correctly. They began by interviewing a partner and writing down what their partner said, before applying these skills to our class text, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. After watching the story, pupils wrote their own speech, edited their work, and then rewrote it by changing the reporting clause to add variety and interest.

Tuesday's Forest School session provided a fantastic opportunity for outdoor learning, teamwork, and exploration for Arrowsmith- albeit an icy one! The children loved finding and smashing the ice!

In Science, we learned about forces, focusing on contact forces such as pushes and pulls. A contact force can make a ball start moving, stop moving, change direction, or change speed. We discussed how wind might/might not be a hindrance during sports.

Your child will have come home with a letter about home reading. They are already showing a great interest in getting those 25 reads with an adult so that they can get a certificate!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're looking forward to another exciting week ahead!

























## Year 4

Happy New Year!

This week Year 4 have been learning about new painting techniques in Art. Below you can see photos of the children experimenting with making tertiary colours. These can be made by mixing a primary colour with a secondary colour. We used them to overpaint on a collage. The overpainting technique is where marks are made on top of existing paint.

You can also see how we were inspired by Georgia O’Keeffe and her famous paintings of flowers. We used a view finder to pick a small part of a flower and used small, fine brush strokes to paint the detail. We then enlarged these, you can see some of the children’s beautiful work below.

### **Reading**

All children have been given a letter earlier in the week to share a new initiative for reading. When a child reads with an adult and it is recorded in their diaries, it will go towards their reading at home count. When the children get to 25, 50, 75 or 100 reads, they will be given a certificate in our believe in best assemblies!

## TTRS

Times tables are incredibly important for Year 4, thank you for your continued support. It is essential that the children are accessing TTRS at home. It is suggested that 3 minutes a day can be extremely beneficial but a few times a week will also support the children's learning.









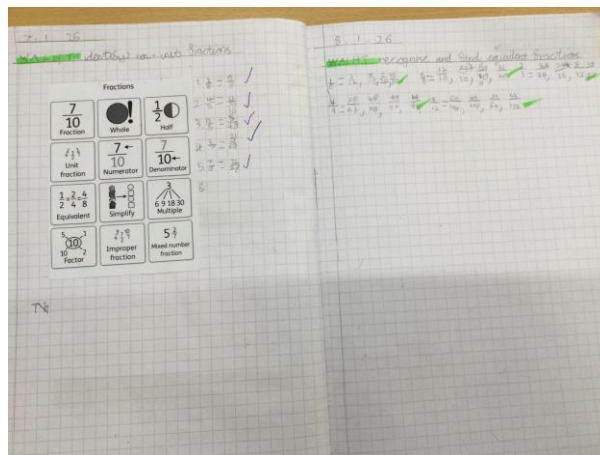
## Year 5

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you had a lovely break and enjoyed the festivities.

Year 5 have settled back into their routines quickly and have enjoyed what the week has had in store for them. In Maths, we have started our new unit of learning: fractions. We have recapped what the children already know about fractions, looked at what a unit and non-unit fraction is and also identified and found equivalent fractions. Next week we will be looking at comparing and ordering fractions as well as representing fractions greater than one. You can see below some of their work from this week.

In English, we have started our new writing topic around the text Oh Maya Gods. This links nicely with our History topic which we have also started this week about the Mayan Empire. The children have been particularly excited to learn about the Mayan game of Pok-A-Tok!

As a reminder, PE days remain the same this term on a Wednesday and Friday.





cities, whilst our budding scientists have begun a fascinating new topic on classification and looking at the work of Carl Linneus! What a brilliant start to the term!

## MAB

We have had a lovely first week back and have begun exploring life skills topics. This week, the children made toast and chose a topping, developing independence and their ability to follow simple instructions. We also braved the dusting snow to enjoy Forest School, where the children had fun playing and further developed social skills, imaginative play, and resilience in an outdoor environment.





















Contact Us



If you wish to get in touch with the school, please use the following details:

**Oldbury Park Primary School**

Oldbury Road Worcester WR2 6AA

01905 424878

office@oldburypark.worcs.sch.uk <http://www.oldburypark.worcs.sch.uk/>

**Phase email addresses:**

For ALL parents, we have set up a new way of contacting Phase Leaders. These email addresses are SOLELY for classroom, pastoral and academic enquiries and NOT for general enquiries which should still come through the office@ email address.

Children in Reception [eyfparents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk](mailto:eyfparents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk) (Miss Molloy)

Children in Years 1 & 2 [KS1parents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk](mailto:KS1parents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk) (Mrs Marks)

Children in Years 3 & 4 [LKS2parents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk](mailto:LKS2parents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk) (Miss Moule)

Children in Years 5 & 6 [UKS2parents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk](mailto:UKS2parents@oldburypark.crst.org.uk) (Mr Williams)

SENDco Enquiries [office@oldburypark.crst.org.uk](mailto:office@oldburypark.crst.org.uk) (FAO: Miss Miller)