Sires Hill Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

17TH NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome back to Autumn 2...

It is due to be fairly cold this week, with temperatures below 10 degrees. Please make sure that your child has a warm coat to wear as we try to get outside in all weathers.

This week is anti-bullying week



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In the week beginning 16th November 2026, alongside schools nationwide, we will be taking part in anti bullying week- this year the theme is Break the Silence. This theme encourages children to start converstations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together.

What is bullying?

The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an inbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face to face or online.

Bullying isn't 'just falling out'

It is common for children to have arguments and friendship fall outs and they will need guidance to resolve conflict, make amends, and move on.

Not all incidents of conflict can be understood as bullying. Relational conflict often involves individuals who are friends or occurs in situations with no power imbalance. It is generally behaviour that occurs occasionally, and the offence might be accidental. An example might be an argument or falling out with a freind, or experimental 'banter' that unintentionally offended the person on the receiving end. Knowing how to identify and respond to relational issues and conflicts is an important part of a child's development and helps prevent situations from escalating.

Bullying is not usually done alone...



If you think your child is being bullied, your role is to listen, keep calm and provide reassurance that the situation can get better when action is taken.

1. **Listen and reassure them** that coming to you was the right thing to do. Assure them that the bullying is not their fault and that they have friends and family that will support them.
2. **Try to establish the facts.** It can be helpful to take notes of what your child says, particularly names, dates, what happened and where it happened. Keep any evidence such as pictures of injuries or screenshots of online messages.
3. **Find out what your child wants to happen next.** Help to indentify the choices open to them; the potential next steps to take; and the skills they may have to help solve the problems. However, if bullying is taking place it is important that this is spoken about so that it can be dealt with.
4. **Encourage your child to get involved in activities that build their confidence and esteem**, and help them to form friendships both inside and outside of school.
5. **Request a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss what you have found out**. We can only act as a school if we have information. Once information has been gathered a plan of action will be put together.



We encourage children to be 'upstanders' and not 'bystanders'. We want our school to be a safe place to learn, play and thrive.

Staffing update

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Allinson at the end of this week as she is moving on to a new job. We would like to thank her for all the work she has done in pre-school and wish her every success in her new role.

Mrs Vickers will be spending more time at Sires Hill from this week. Mrs Vickers will usually be at Sires Hill Tuesdays to Fridays. Mrs Ashcroft will continue to lead SHPA as Executive Principal and will be on site 1-2 days a week.

Applying for a place in Reception- current pre-school parents/carers

P**arents of children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 need to apply for a primary school place for September 2027.**

- Applications can be submitted from 3rd November 2026 through the Oxfordshire online portal.
- The deadline for applications is 15th January 2027 - **do not miss the deadline!**
- We hope that the children currently in pre-school will move into our reception class or classes.
- Last year we were over subscribed - but not sufficiently to open two classes.
- Make sure you have visited other schools - if you live on Great Western Park, you may want to consider Didcot Primary Academy. You may also want to consider Valley Park Academy which will be opening in September 2027 all with the same vision and ethos.
- Please look out for a leaflet over the next few weeks

PTA update

You should have already received an email today from the current PTA members to say that they will all be stepping down, due to work commitments. I would like to thank them all for their hard work over the last few years setting up events that our school community has enjoyed, and raising some money in the process. If any one is interested in taking on any of the PTA roles please speak to Mrs Henson in the office.

Autumn 2 2026-27

Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.
This calendar will be updated with every news letter

Date	Who	What
19th November	Year 1	Forest school
26th November	All parents	Mental Health Support Team coffee morning at Didcot Primary Academy 9am
26th November	Year 2	Forest school
3rd December	Year 3	Forest School
7th December	Pre-School	Christmas Craft afternoon and sing along 2:15pm. Come and join your child to make some Christmas decorations.
9th December	Reception	Christmas play 2:30pm Please note that children under 5 will not be admitted into the audience.
10th December	Year 1	Forest School
11th December	Year 2	Christmas Nativity Play 2:30pm Please note that children under 5 will not be admitted into the audience
14th December	Year 1	Christmas Craft afternoon and sing along 2:15pm. Come and join your child to make some Christmas decorations.
16th December	Reception to Year 3	Christmas lunch - please make sure that this is booked on Fresh Start website as soon as possible.
17th December	Pre -school and nursery	no sessions today
17th December	Reception to Year 3	Christmas Concert 10:30am. Come and join us for a musical festive celebration - be prepared to join in!
17th December	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon. Gates will open at 11:50am.

Spring 1 2026-27

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Date	Who	What
4th January 2027	Whole school	Term starts 8:40am (Reception to Year 3) 9:30am (Nursery and pre-school)
22nd January	Young Voices Choir	Opportunity to join a choir of 7000 children to sing at the O2 Arena. Open to Year 3 children only (10 places)
8th February and 10th February	whole school	Learning reviews. Make sure you make an appointment via Arbor to meet your child's teacher and find out how your child is progressing academically.
15th - 19th February	Whole school	Half term - school closed to children .

Spring 2 2026-27

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Date	Who	What
22nd February	Whole school	Term starts 8:40am (Reception to Year 3) 9:30am (Nursery and pre-school)
24th March	Nursery and pre - school	End of term for Nursery and pre-school (usual time)
25th March	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon (gates will open at 11:50am)

Summer 1 2026-27

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Date	Who	What
12th April	Whole school	Term starts 8:40am (Reception to Year 3) 9:30am (Nursery and pre-school)
26th May	Whole school	Sports Day and family picnic- timings will be sent out nearer the time
28th May	Whole school	End of Summer 1
31st May - 4th June	Whole school	Half term

Summer 2 2026-27

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Date	Who	What
7th June	Whole school	Term starts 8:40am (Reception to Year 3) 9:30am (Nursery and pre-school)
11th June	Whole school	Inset Day - school closed to children
19th July	nursery and pre-school	End of term (usual session times 12:30 or 3:30pm)
20th July	Whole school	End of term at 12 noon (gates will open at 11:50am)

Didcot Primary Academy, Sires Hill Primary Academy and Valley Park Academy

TERM DATES 2027-2028

Autumn Term	
First day of term for children	Tuesday 7th September 2027
Half term	25th October -29th October 2027
Last day of term	Friday 17th December at 12 noon (Nursery and pre-school will close on Thursday 16th December at the usual session times.
Further information	Pre school and nursery will start on Thursday 9th September 2027 Staff training days Friday 3rd September 2027 Monday 6th September 2027 Friday 8th October 2027

Spring Term	
First day of term for children	Tuesday 4th January 2028
Half term	14th Feb 28 - 18th Feb 2028
Last day of term	Friday 7th April at 12 noon (Nursery and pre-school will close on Thursday 6th April at the usual session times)
Further information	

Summer Term	
First day of term for children	24th April 2028
Half term	29th May - 2nd June 2028
Last day of term	Thursday 20th July at 12 noon (Nursery and pre school will close on Wednesday 19th July at the usual session times.)
Further informtion	Staff training days: Friday 16th June (school closed to children) Friday 21st July