

January 2026

Dear Duckling families,

Happy New Year! From myself and everyone on the Duckling staff team, thank you so much for the thoughtful cards, gifts and Christmas wishes we received last term. Your kindness meant a great deal to us all.

Please see below some information about the upcoming term. On the school website you will also find details about our Long Term Curriculum Plan for Reception and Year 1. If you have any questions about curriculum, or indeed anything else at Babraham, please do get in touch I will do my best to help.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer a very warm welcome to Kaushik, and his family, who joined us in reception together with Ioannis, and his family, who joined us in Year 1.

Kind regards, Mrs Golden

Duckling class staff

The following staff will be supporting your children throughout the week:

Mrs Golden (Duckling Class Teacher)

Mrs Navia (Kingfisher Class Teacher) will be teaching maths daily to Year 1 children and weekly PE to Year 1 children.

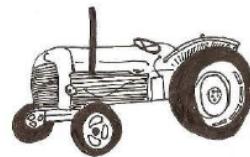
Mrs Payne (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) will be teaching on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon when I have planning time outside of the classroom.

Mrs Hall and Mrs Tory (Teaching Assistants)

Curriculum

- Reception

Phonics – we are now on Unit 7 of the Sounds Write Initial Code and have started to learn that two letters can represent one sound (for example 'll' in hill). Our aim is that children are now secure in recognising and blending the following sounds: a, i, m, s, t, n, o, p, b, c, g, h, d, f, e, v, k, l, r, u, j, w, z, x, ll and ss. (Please see a good video here explaining how we say these pure sounds in English <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8ZMfYjdNs>). The best way to support your children in learning to read and write is to read their phonics book everyday, even if this is just a page. If we feel your child would benefit from some additional support in phonics we will be getting in touch. Please look out for details of a phonics information session for parents coming soon!



Literacy - Our focus text will be The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter a full copy of which is freely available online here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/14838/pg14838-images.html> We will continue with our daily storytime enrichment reads, details of which are at the classroom door.

Maths – learning number bonds to 10, conceptual subitising and exploring shape, space and measure.

Topic (foundations of science, geography and history) - space – you may have already spotted the rocketship which has crash landed into our classroom!

RE – exploring the question which books are special to which people? Focusing on stories of kindness for others and living creatures in the Bible and Qur'an.

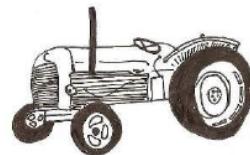
PE – gymnastics – the children thoroughly enjoyed our first session balancing and jumping off the PE equipment!

- Year 1

Phonics – we are now on Unit 10 of the Sounds Write Extended Code. The Extended Code focuses on learning that one sound can have many spellings and that one spelling can represent different sounds. So far we have learned the sound spelling correspondences for /ay/, /ee/, /oe/, /er/, /ow/, /oy/ and /oo/ (as in moon). This term we will also be learning /ie/, and /oo/ (as in book). In Year 1, all children take part in the national Phonics Screening Check. This is a list of 40 words (real words and pseudo words) which children read with the aim of assessing whether they are at the expected level for their age in reading. If we have concerns that children are not on track to pass the PSC we will be getting in touch to offer additional support. As always, the best way to support your children in reading, for learning and for pleasure, is daily reading. As children progress through Year 1 they will also begin to bring home short chapter or graphic style books alongside their phonics books.

Literacy - Our focus text will be The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter a full copy of which is freely available online here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/14838/pg14838-images.html> In Year 1 children focus on learning what is a sentence, exploring texts written in the first and third person, having a strong focus on vocabulary acquisition and beginning to understand different types of writing such as narrative, instruction and report. We will continue with our daily storytime enrichment reads, details of which are at the classroom door.

Maths (taught by Mrs. Navia) – place value within 20 (understanding that numbers are comprised of 10s and 1s), addition and subtraction within 20 as well as shape, space and measure. A great way to support your child's mathematical development is by practising instant recall of number bonds to 10 and 20. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/mathsgames/hit-the-button> is a fun game to support this.



RE - Christian Worldviews – how individuals through history have used their Christian worldview to treat others with dignity and respect. For example, learning about Thomas Clarkson (born in Wisbech in 1760) who worked to end slavery.

Geography – The United Kingdom

Science – The Seasons and Weather

School Hours

The school gate opens at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am when we have register. Collection in the afternoon is at 3.20pm.

Things for the school day

Please can children bring a water bottle to school every day. They will need a pair of wellies and waterproof trousers and jacket (or a puddle suit) to keep in school. We will provide a snack of fruit or vegetable. You are welcome to send an additional snack but please limit this to fruit or vegetable. We kindly request that toys from home are not brought into school.

Uniform

Full uniform requirements are on the school website. Please make sure uniform is clearly labelled. Any uniform which is not labelled may end up in lost property. Children should not wear hoodies in school at any point.

PE

- Reception PE – Thursday
- Year 1 PE – Wednesday

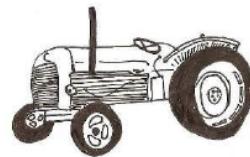
On their PE day children should come to school in their PE kit wearing the t-shirt for their house colour. Earrings need to be removed prior to school on PE days. If your child has had their ears pierced in the last 6 weeks, and is therefore unable to remove their studs, please ensure you have applied micro-pore tape at home or children can bring to apply tape themselves. Please note we are not permitted to apply tape to children's ears.

Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays in Duckling class! Everyone's birthday is celebrated in the classroom and in the whole school celebration worship on Fridays. We kindly request that sweets and treats are not brought into the classroom on birthdays.

Celebration Worship

Families are invited to our weekly Celebration Worship in the school hall on Fridays from 2.40pm. We celebrate birthdays, share our learning from the week and some children are awarded certificates.



Learning to Read in Duckling Class

To ensure your child gets the very best start in learning to read we follow the Sounds Write phonics scheme with daily phonics lessons. Children also benefit tremendously from reading with their family at home. To facilitate this your child will be provided with a reading folder containing a phonics book (for Reception these will be sent home a few weeks into term after we have learnt initial sounds in class), a class library book and a reading diary. Please can the reading folder be brought into school on Mondays and Fridays so we can change books.

Here is some information about the reading folder.

Phonics books are designed to embed the sounds we are learning in class. Although they are short it will greatly benefit your children to re-read these books. Phonics books support your child to learn the skill of decoding sounds.	Class library books are chosen by your child for you to read to them or for them to look at independently. They may be fiction, non-fiction or poetry and are a lovely opportunity to enjoy a story, explore illustrations and discover new authors. Class library books support the development of reading for pleasure.	The reading diary is a place to record books and for you to share how your child has read at home. It is a powerful tool for tracking progress. In addition to daily phonics lessons we will also be reading with your children 1:1 in class.
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There is a Sounds Write app available for phones and tablets which you may wish to download to further support phonics learning at home. There is also a short information video provided by Sounds Write with additional information here: <https://sounds-write.co.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers/>

Tapestry

Tapestry is an online learning journal where we share information about our reception learning. All reception children should now be registered on Tapestry. Please get in touch if you are having problems accessing Tapestry.