

Newsletter

October 2026



Headteacher's Message

It has been a very busy and successful first month of the school year. I would like to give a warm welcome to all the new children and families who have joined our school. We are looking forward to getting to know you better as you become part of The Oval family.

Moving to a new class or starting at a new school brings exciting opportunities. It has been lovely to see children making new friends and strengthening old friendships. The children have settled into their new classes very well and have quickly adapted to new routines.

We have also been delighted to welcome new members of staff to our school team.

I am very pleased with how hard the children have been working. They are taking pride in their learning and showing positive attitudes every day. Their excellent start to the year has impressed us all.

We have been especially lucky with the weather this month, which has allowed the children to enjoy lots of outdoor activities. Bikeability has already begun, and this year our younger children have been the first to take part. They are developing their cycling skills, confidence and road safety awareness.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. By working together, we can help every child achieve their best and make this a memorable and successful year.



Into University

Year 6 are taking part in the Into Uni programme. This is teaching them about what university is and the different opportunities available to them in the future.

The children are finding out what university life is like, exploring different courses and visiting a university campus. Each class is studying a different subject area, including Art and Design, Journalism and Engineering.

After a busy week of learning, all the children will take part in a graduation ceremony at University College of Birmingham. Those that have all ready graduated and visited the university have been so impressed with all the facilities that are there to support them with their learning. They were very proud to graduate and celebrate everything they had achieved.

Year 6 will share more in the following newsletter.



Local Area Walk

Year 5 have been working with Birmingham City Council to share their ideas about improving our local area. Many children said that feeling safe when travelling to and from school was very important to them. They suggested more zebra crossings, additional cameras, and improvements to local green spaces. The council representatives were very impressed by the children's thoughtful ideas and how clearly they explained their views. All the information that the children shared will be used in future planning meetings at the Council. Our children really are helping to shape the future for themselves and others.

Year 5 Sports Competition

We were extremely proud of the Year 5 children who represented our school at the recent sports competition. Mr Garcia and Miss Collis were especially impressed by the way the children joined in, tried their best and showed respect to everyone involved, both other children and the umpires. They represented The Oval brilliantly. It is always a pleasure to hear the children speak with such enthusiasm when they return.



PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY

Thank you to the many parents and carers who park responsibly and help keep our children safe at the start and end of the school day. However, some parents are still parking on double yellow lines and near junctions. This blocks visibility and can make it difficult for families with pushchairs and young children to cross safely. Please help us keep all children safe by parking considerately.



NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Please remember to check the ingredients of any food you send into school. Recently, some children have brought in nuts and products that may contain nuts. We have several children with severe, life-threatening allergies, so we ask that no products containing nuts or traces of nuts are brought into school.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance this term has been the strongest it has been for a number of years. We are currently at 95%, just below the national expectation of 96%. Thank you for your support. Wherever possible, please make sure your child attends school regularly. If your child is absent, please report their absence using Studybugs on the first day. If you have yet to download the app and need support, please see Miss Bates who will assist you.

 **Studybugs**



Dates for your diary

Autumn Term 2026

OCTOBER

Date -	Event -
Monday 5 th – Friday 9 th October	Year 6.1 Into University Project
Wednesday 7 th October	Reading (2.30pm)
Monday 12 th October	Whole school assembly – Carbon Monoxide Awareness
Monday 12 th – Wednesday 14 th October	Year 2 and 5 Science workshops
Friday 23 rd October	School closes for half term
Saturday 31 st October	Deadline - Secondary School applications

NOVEMBER

Date -	Event -
Monday 2 nd November	School re-opens
Wednesday 4 th November	Meet COMPASS parent session (2.00pm)
Wednesday 11 th November	Parent consultations (3.45pm-5.00pm)
Thursday 12 th November	Parent consultations (4.00pm-6.00pm)
Thursday 12 th November	Year 6 First Aid sessions
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Non-Uniform Day
Friday 13 th November	Year 5 First Aid sessions
Monday 16 th November	Year 4.1 Trip to Lunt Fort
Wednesday 18 th November	Year 4.3 Trip to Lunt Fort
Thursday 19 th November	Year 4.2 Trip to Lunt Fort
Friday 20 th November	Whole school Photographs (Rec - Year 6)
Wednesday 25 th November	Nursery Photographs
Thursday 26 th November	Year 5 Parent Assembly (2.45pm)
Friday 27 th November	Year 3 Stone Age workshop
Friday 27 th November	SEND parent meeting - Mrs. Slater (9.00am)

DECEMBER

Date -	Event -
Tuesday 15 th December	Year 1 and 2 Production
Wednesday 16 th December	Nursery Production
Wednesday 16 th December	Reception Production
Thursday 17 th December	Year 3 and 4 Production
Thursday 17 th December	Year 5 and 6 Production
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Party Morning
Friday 18 th December	School finishes for Christmas Holiday (1.00pm)

