Autumn 1 Term 2026

Headteacher's Termly Newsletter

Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we reach the end of a wonderfully busy and productive first half term, I want to take this opportunity to share my heartfelt thanks with you all. It has been a joyful start to the new academic year at Outwood Primary School. Our classrooms have been full of energy, curiosity, and hard work, and it has been a privilege to watch our pupils settle into their new routines with such enthusiasm.
This half term is always foundational, setting the tone for the rest of the year as we embed our school values and build a warm, supportive learning environment. In this newsletter, you will find some of the many highlights and achievements our children and staff have shared over the past few weeks.
Thank you for your continued partnership, encouragement, and support in making Outwood Primary School such a thriving community.
Warmest regards,
Mrs Maude

We hope you and your family have a wonderful, restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another great term!

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We care, we learn, we grow

A few highlights and some key information…

Site Upgrades Over the Summer

Extensive rewire works were completed over the summer break. These major infrastructure improvements included installing a new CCTV system for enhanced school security and upgrading to faster Wi-Fi to support digital learning.

Harvest Celebration at St Catherine's Church

Key Stage 2 held a beautiful Harvest Celebration service at St Catherine's Church this week. The children sang wonderfully and read with impressive confidence, bringing home an important message about being grateful for what we have and finding ways to help others in need. As a school we are very aware of the cost of living crisis that is affecting so many of us. Therefore, we are trying to reduce the amount we ask of you. Therefore, we are not asking for a food donation again this year and instead providing you with the details of Stockport's Foodbank for you to donate to if you wish below: https://stockport.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

ACORN Values: Aspirational Learners

At the start of this year, we have been focusing on the A in our ACORN values - Aspirational Learners. The children have explored key concepts including growth mindset, goal setting, and taking pride in our learning. These principles were brought to life through learning about local heroes encouraging children to reflect on determination, and personal growth.

Attendance

Be an Attendance H.E.R.O. Here Everyday Ready On time

Total attendance for the school year so far is 95.25%.
Our target is 96%

The class attendance figures this year are:

EYFS:	**93.98%**
Year 1:	**97.11%**
Year 2:	**95.79%**
Year 3:	**94.73%**
Year 4:	**95.88%**
Year 5:	**94.09%**
Year 6:	**95.94%**

Welcome!

We are very happy to share that we have some new members of the Outwood team. Hopefully you have met our new Emotional Wellbeing Support, Tam. You may have met her on the school gates in the morning as she welcomes the children into school. Also we have welcomed Mrs Mullally who is teaching Year 3 and Mr Neill and Miss Sep who are supporting learners across the school.

Thank you Stockport County!

Again, Stockport County FC have donated a high quality P.E kit for every child in the school from the reception class to Year 6. They have also delivered lessons to Year 5 in online safety and provided a free after school girls football club for Year 5 and Year 6.

Looking Ahead: New Extra-Curricular Clubs

After the half-term break, we are excited to launch a brand-new selection of extra-curricular clubs alongside our existing Sports Cool activities. Next term, pupils will be able to join: Dance Club, Coding Club, Art Club, Debate Club, Illustrator Club. Further information and booking instructions for all clubs will be sent home at the start of the new term.

What has been happening this term...

In EYFS



It has been a wonderful start to the academic year in the Early Years Foundation Stage. FS1 and FS2 have settled quickly into everyday routines and have developed new friendships. As we reflect on identity and diversity, FS1 has explored the story of Giraffes Can't Dance. FS2 has explored the story of 'The Something' and pondered on what creature could be hiding in the hole under the cherry tree. We also learned about frogs and created fantastic fact files that we cannot wait to share with you. It has been a wonderful half-term spending time together and thriving through our play.

In Year 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the school year! They have explored mathematical concepts using concrete resources and written their own instructions for a story character. In History, the children compared Outwood Primary School past and present, and in Geography, they began learning about plan views and directional language. The children also really enjoyed learning about different animal groups in Science. Most importantly, the children have settled amazingly well into the Year 1 routines and enjoyed opportunities to listen to stories, including a visit from an author.

Year 2

The children have settled into Year 2 really well. This term, our Year 2 class has been busy exploring a wide variety of exciting topics across the curriculum. In Science, the children have been investigating different materials and testing their properties, while in History, they stepped back in time to discover the dramatic events of the Great Fire of London. Geography lessons took us on a journey across the map as we learned about the four countries that make up the UK. Meanwhile, in Maths, the pupils have been building a strong foundation by developing their place value skills, and in English, they have been working hard on their handwriting and spellings, putting these into practice to craft wonderful short stories and formal letters.



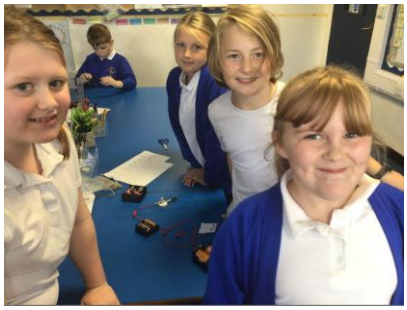
Year 3

What a fantastic, action-packed term it has been for Year 3! In English, our reading and writing centred around the story of The Iron Man, starting with detailed character descriptions and analysing model texts to spot key structural and language features. After gathering creative ideas, including an energetic class debate and designing custom maps to plan a trap for the giant the children put their skills into action to plan and write their very own threat narratives. In History, we journeyed deep into the past to uncover the daily lives and survival skills of Stone Age communities, which tied in brilliantly with our Science unit testing and classifying different types of rocks and fossils. Meanwhile, Geography sparked plenty of curiosity as the class honed their map-reading skills to explore the varied landscapes of the British Isles.
Most importantly, the children have settled brilliantly into Key Stage 2 life, adapting seamlessly to the new routines and thoroughly enjoying new privileges like tuck shop and their first Harvest Festival at St Catherine's Church.



Year 4

What a fantastic half-term Year 4 have had! The children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of learning and have truly outdone themselves. A real highlight has been our science topic on electricity, where the children turned into brilliant young engineers. They thoroughly enjoyed getting hands-on with cells, bulbs, and wires to build their own complete circuits. Along the way, they discovered how conductors and insulators work and even put their problem-solving skills to the test by designing and constructing their very own working switches. We are so proud of their curiosity and enthusiasm, and we hope they enjoy a very well-deserved break!



Year 5

The children have settled into Year 5 brilliantly this half-term! They have thoroughly enjoyed their PE sessions with Stockport County alongside diving into their new topics. In Science, they've been discovering how different forces work, while in History and Art, they've been unearthing the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons and recreating artwork inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry. They've also worked hard on writing narrative stories, developing their place value knowledge in Maths, and building key IT skills in Computing. We are so proud of how well they have adapted and can't wait to see all the wonderful things they achieve next half-term!



Year 6

What an incredible half term we have had. Year 6 have settled beautifully into their new routines, demonstrating immense resilience and high aspirations being the role model year group for the whole school.
Here is a snapshot of our fantastic learning journey this half term:
English: We have been delving deep into the powerful narrative of *Rose Blanche*. The children showed great empathy and maturity, using this inspiration to publish stunning personal diary entries and write and deliver moving bravery award speeches.
Maths: Our focus has been on mastering place value and securing our fluency in the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division)—building a solid foundation for the year ahead.
Science: We continued our exploration of the circulatory system, investigating how our heart functions and how our own lifestyle choices affect our health.
History & Geography: The children have loved discovering the local roots of our community by exploring the fascinating Story of Stockport.
Computing: We have turned into digital creators, busy learning the fundamentals of designing and building websites.
Music & Community: The children have enjoyed getting into the rhythm as they learn the basics of playing the steel pans. We also celebrated a truly fantastic Harvest Festival at St. Catherine's Church, where the children represented the school beautifully.
Thank you to all our families for your continued support this half term. We hope you all have a restful, well-deserved break, and we look forward to another action-packed half term ahead!





At Outwood Primary School, we want all of our children to get the very best out of their education. When pupils miss school, they miss out on essential learning, key classroom discussions, and valuable time with their friends. Regular attendance builds positive habits and supports both academic progress and social well-being.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

To ensure all pupils are safe and accounted for each morning:

REPORTING ABSENCE:
If your child is unwell, please contact the school office by 8:55 AM on each day of absence.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS:
Please schedule routine dental and doctor appointments outside school hours. For necessary appointments during the day, please notify the office in advance.

PUNCTUALITY:
Please ensure your child arrives on time so they can start the day calmly and ready to learn alongside their peers.

HOW WE CELEBRATE & ENCOURAGE GOOD ATTENDANCE!

We love recognising great attendance with fun initiatives for all pupils:

FUN FRIDAY:
Children enjoy a fun surprise activity every Friday to celebrate a great week of learning!

ATTENDANCE TED:
The class with the highest attendance each week earns the privilege of looking after 'Attendance Ted' in their classroom.

HALF-TERM RAFFLE:
Every day a child is in school, they earn a ClassDojo Attendance Token.
At the end of each half term, tokens are entered into a grand raffle draw!
The more days your child attends, the more tokens they earn and the higher their chance of winning!

NEED A HELPING HAND? WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

We know that getting to school on time can sometimes be challenging for families. You do not have to manage this alone! Our emotional wellbeing support team are here to offer friendly, practical, and confidential guidance tailored to your family's needs whether you need help with morning routines, school anxiety, or personal circumstances.

Contact the School Office: 0161 437 1715 Email: admin@outwood.stockport.sch.uk

Notices – please read:

School times	The school doors open at 8.40 with the school day beginning at 8.50am. The school day ends at 3.20pm – these times are the same for all classes.
Uniform	Details of our uniform policy are on the website at https://www.outwood.stockport.sch.uk/page/uniform/54545. Correct uniform must be worn at all times - no trainers or brightly coloured socks/tights. Hoodies are not acceptable.
No jewellery	No jewellery: especially no earrings for P.E! If the ears are newly pierced and they cannot be removed parents/carers will need to put a plaster over the earrings for health and safety reasons otherwise children will be asked to remove them.
Absence from school	If your child is not in school, please phone us on the first day of absence to explain the reason on: 0161 4371715 and try to avoid appointments during the school day, if this cannot be avoided we will require a copy of the appointment card or letter. If we do not know why your child is in school this will be classed as an unauthorised absence which may lead to prosecution.
Naming of property and personal items	Please name all clothing and personal items brought into school. We always have so much lost property that is unnamed which makes it very difficult to return to its owner. Together we need to encourage our children to take responsibility for their belongings.
Free School Meals	If you are in receipt of benefits, please apply on-line via SMBC's website for Free School Meals, even if your child is receiving a Universal Free School Meal (free meals provided for children in FS2, Year 1 & Year 2). School will then receive additional funding to help your child/children. Please ask at the school office for help and advice in this process.
Paid School Meals	The cost for school meals is £2.83 per day (£14.15 per week). Children in FS2 (Reception), Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Therefore paid meal's are only from Year 3. The autumn term menu is on the school website.
Breakfast Club (Paid and Free provision)	Please don't forget that Outwood is one of the few schoolsin Stockport to offer a free breakfast under the Government's new free breakfast club initiative. It opens at 8.15am and is proving to be popular with our families. You don't need to book, just come along! We are still be offering our paid breakfast club for those who need an earlier provision. This continues to be open from 7.30am at a cost of £4.50.
New Allergy Policy – AAI Asthma inhalers and prescription medicines	Please let us know immediately if your child is prescribed an inhaler as we need their Asthma Plan in school. Please remember that school can only administer prescription medicines. These must be handed directly to the school office with a completed medical form.
Online reception place application deadline	A reminder to parents and carers that the deadline to apply for a reception class place in September 2027 is 15th January. This needs to be completed even if your child attends our school nursery. Visits ahead of this date can be arranged with the school office. Here is the link for applications: https://www.stockport.gov.uk/start/apply-for-a-school-place.
Site Safety	To ensure safety on the school grounds, we kindly ask that children and adults dismount from bikes and scooters at the school gate and not ride them in the playground. Also dogs are not permitted on the playground even if being held.
Healthy Snacks & Water Bottles	EYFS and KS1 continue to be provided with free fruit via the National Fruit Scheme. Therefore a snack does not need to be brought in from home for these children. The children in KS2 should only bring in a healthy snack such as fruit or vegetables or they can buy a snack from our healthy tuckshop. Please only send in a clear reusuable water bottle filled with water and not juice due to the affects of this on teeth.

School Communications & Office Systems Reminder

Confused about the different ways we communicate to parents and carrers? See the list below for clarification:			
School Spider	School Spider is our home – school correspondence system. Our school website contains lots of useful information too. In addition to the website, you can also download the 'School Spider' app (select Outwood Primary School) to give you quick access to the newsletters and parent login which we use for Parents Evenings and surveys. As a cashless school, we use School Spider's online payment system which can be used for school trips, wrap around care, school events, nursery fees etc.		If you would like to contact us via email, we have a number of email addresses. For same day responses always use the admin email address. Mrs Maude: headteacher@outwood.stockport.sch.uk Mrs Penwill (Mon-Tues School Business Manager) Mrs Schofield (Weds-Fri School Business Manager) businessmanager@outwood.stockport.sch.uk Mrs Moon Admininstration Officer: admin@outwood.stockport.sch.uk
SchoolGrid	Our school meals are provided by TLC. School Grid is their online ordering and payment website which enables you to pre- order your child's meals in advance and arrange payment directly to TLC where necessary. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 benefit from Universal Free School meals, so please take advantage of this by encouraging your child to try our school meals service.		Our Reception and Nursery children use the Portfolio section of Dojo as an Online Journal to add observations and photographs of your child for you to view from home. Parents and carers are also encouraged to add details of special moments or activities linked to the curriculum.
	Please make sure that you have the ClassDojo app with your notifications turned on so that you don't miss any important messages. Each week teachers share information and photographs about what your children have been learning.		

Our Socials	
 	Did you know you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram? These are both active social media sites so please do like and share our posts to boost the search and promote the school. This is where we showcase our children's amazing learning. The same information will be shared across these so pick your platform and sign up! Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OutwoodPrimary Instagram https://www.instagram.com/outwoodprimary/

Outwood Primary School

Academic year dates 2026/2027

September 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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January 2027

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31						

February 2027

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28						

March 2027

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April 2027

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May 2027

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June 2027

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July 2027

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August 2027

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

School holiday

Bank holiday

Term time

In-service day for all staff - School closed to pupils

* Provisional dates awaiting governors ratification