

Autumn 2026 Class Newsletter



Pioneers Class

Class teacher: Charlene Saliba
Teaching Assistants: Harban Canak, Humaira Zahra,
Hasna Awal and Ruby Nessa



We are a GOLD Rights Respecting School

Our Class:



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Our Class Name is Pioneers

We are Pioneers because we explore, learn, communicate and grow in independence every day. Our children experience a broad and meaningful curriculum, developing skills through; learning in the classroom, cooking, shopping, travel training and developing an awareness of the wider community. We celebrate every step towards becoming confident and independent learners.

Pioneer's class is part of the Pheonix Specialist Classroom project and is supported by a Pheonix School Outreach teacher and a Pheonix speech and language therapist every week.

Welcome Message from the Class Teacher

Dear Families,

Welcome back!

I hope you had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed spending some quality time together. I'm really looking forward to being your child's class teacher this year and to all the learning and experiences we have ahead of us.

Throughout the year, there will be lots to look forward to, with plenty of fun, practical and hands-on learning experiences. We will support the children to develop their confidence, communication and independence through meaningful activities and real-life experiences. We look forward to working together with you, keeping communication open and celebrating each child's progress, achievements and growing independence throughout the year.

A Little About Me

I have worked at Bangabandhu for 10 years, spending seven years teaching in mainstream classes before moving into our specialist provision three years ago.

I really enjoy teaching the Equals Curriculum and supporting children to develop their independence and confidence. I particularly enjoy practical learning experiences such as travel training, swimming, shopping and cooking, where children can develop important skills for everyday life.

One of the things I enjoy most about working in our specialist provision is seeing each child make progress in their own individual way and celebrating all of their achievements, big and small.

Other adults working with Pioneers class this year are Humaira Zahra, Harban Canak, Ruby Nessa, Jania Begum and Hasna Awal. We are looking forward to continuing to work with familiar families, getting to know our new parents and carers, and building positive relationships with you and your child.

I'm excited for a happy and successful year together!

Charlene Saliba

Important Reminders

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality are vital in giving your child the best possible chance to achieve and succeed. Our school day begins at 8.55am, with classroom doors opening at 8.50am. Please ensure your child arrives by 8.50am so they have time to come into class, settle and be ready for registration and learning at 8.55am.

Children arriving at 8.56am or later will be marked as late. Learning begins straight away, so even arriving a few minutes late can mean missing key teaching and can be very unsettling for children. When this happens regularly, those missed minutes quickly add up and can make it harder for children to keep up with their learning and settle into a good routine.

Every day and every minute of learning matters – thank you for helping your child arrive every day, on time and ready to learn.

Working Together – Communication with Families

We want families to feel welcome, know what is happening in school and feel comfortable talking to us. Please **come into the playground in the morning and say hello**. These regular, informal opportunities help us get to know you and build positive relationships. You can pass on a quick message, but teachers need to focus on welcoming children and getting learning started promptly. If you need a longer or more private conversation, please let us know and we will arrange a suitable time to speak with you.

At the end of the day, please collect your child promptly and wait patiently while children are dismissed safely. If you would like to speak to the class teacher, please wait until all children have been dismissed so that their attention can remain on keeping children safe.

Please check Arbor regularly and keep notifications switched on. Arbor is one of our main ways of communicating with families and is used to share important school information, trips, clubs, events and other updates. We don't want you to miss anything!

Please ensure the School Office always has your up-to-date contact and medical information. Any medication must be taken directly to the office and should not be handed to the class teacher at the classroom door.

Specialist Classes also use the **Tapestry** App to keep you informed of your child's learning and progress throughout the year. Parents and Carers can also contribute to Tapestry, by uploading photos, videos and messages. This helps us to work in partnership with families to build a more holistic picture of your child's learning journey. If you need help activating or accessing your Tapestry account, please speak to your child's class teacher or SENDCO.

Cooking and Snacks

At Bangabandhu, we follow the Equals Curriculum to support children in developing independence and learning important life skills through basic food preparation. Each week, children are given the opportunity to prepare a simple snack with guidance from staff.

We also provide a snack twice daily, once in the morning before lunch and again in the afternoon, to help children stay settled, focused, and regulated throughout the day.

To help cover some of the cost of ingredients and daily snacks, we kindly ask for a contribution of **£5 per half term**. Your support enables us to continue offering these experiences which the children thoroughly enjoy and benefit from whilst allowing our classroom budget to be used for other important resources. A payment link will be shared with you via Arbor. Alternatively, you can give your contribution directly to your child's class teacher in cash.

What to Bring to School Each Day

Please help your child come to school ready and organised for learning each day.

All children should bring their book bag to school every day, with their reading book and reading record inside. Due to limited storage space, children should not bring rucksacks to school. Please do not attach charms or keyrings to book bags, as these can become lost, cause upset and create unnecessary distractions. Please check your child's book bag regularly and support them to develop good habits by keeping it tidy and organised.

Children should also bring a named, reusable water bottle filled with fresh water each day. Staying well hydrated supports concentration and helps children remain alert and ready to learn.

Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to children with potentially serious allergies. Any birthday cakes brought into school must have a full ingredients list. Sweets and chocolates should not be brought into school.

Thank you for helping your child develop the independence and routines they need to arrive ready to learn each day.

Classroom routines and organisation

Swimming Information

Swimming is an important part of our Curriculum and provides valuable opportunities for children to develop their physical skills, independence and confidence. The water also provides sensory input to support body awareness, movement and regulation. Children will also develop self-care skills through dressing and undressing, as well as travel training skills on the journey to and from the swimming pool.

Swimming is due to start on **Monday 28th September** and will take place on alternate weeks. I will keep you updated with swimming dates throughout the term.

There will be a qualified swimming teacher from York Hall in the pool with the children, alongside Bangabandhu staff, to support them during their swimming sessions.

Please ensure children are equipped with the correct kit for swimming:

- Rucksack
- Swimming costume or swimming trunks
- Swimming hat
- Goggles are optional
- A verruca sock must be worn if your child has a verruca.

Book Bags

The children must bring their book bag to school **every day** so that books can be changed when needed and that children can access their books in the school day. More information below.

Home learning

Home learning is designed to reinforce and practise what children are learning in school and to help them develop positive, independent learning habits.

Reading

Reading is our most important home-learning expectation. Children should read every day for at least **15 minutes** and regularly enjoy their Must Reads. Please listen to your child read, read to them and talk together about the books they are enjoying. Reading Records will be checked regularly so that we can work together to support consistent reading at home. Please sign your child's reading record to support with this.

Ensure that your child looks after their 3 sets of books; reads them every evening and brings them to school daily:

- RWI and book bag book or two Oxford Reading Tree books (depending on your child's English group).
- Must Read Book.
- Class library book.

Maths

Occasionally, children will be given some maths home learning. This may include interactive board games, short booklet activities and practical maths tasks. We encourage children to complete these little and often, rather than all at once.

In line with our Healthy Minds approach, home learning will not be set learning on screens. We want home learning to be purposeful and manageable while still leaving children plenty of time for family life, play, creativity, physical activity and rest.

Thank you for supporting your child with their home learning – your interest, encouragement and praise make a real difference.

Building Independence

At home, you can support your child in developing independence through simple, everyday activities. These small steps help build confidence, routine and important life skills. Remember, independence will look different for every child, so activities can be adapted to suit your child's individual needs.

Getting Ready and Organised

- Choose between two items of clothing
- Practise putting on or taking off their coat
- Put shoes, coat or school bag in the correct place

Helping at Home

- Put toys or books away after using them
- Help set the table for a meal
- Help with a simple household job, such as watering plants or matching socks

Personal Care

- Practise washing and drying their hands
- Brush their teeth with as much independence as possible
- Practise parts of their toileting routine, such as pulling clothing up and down, flushing or washing hands
- Getting dressed and undressed independently- this will really help during swimming lessons!

Mealtimes

- Carry their plate or cup to and from the table
- Help prepare a simple snack, such as peeling a banana or spreading a topping
- Pour a drink from a small jug or bottle with support

Out and About

- Carry their own small bag or belongings
- Help find and put an item into the basket when shopping
- Practise stopping, waiting and pressing the button at a pedestrian crossing

These activities can be adapted to suit your child's needs. Your child may complete the whole activity or just one small part of it. Repetition, visual prompts and encouragement can help children become more confident and independent over time.

Please remember to upload any home learning activities to Tapestry. We love seeing what the children are achieving at home!

Ways to Help Your Child at Home

- There are lots of simple ways you can support and take an interest in your child's learning at home:
- Join in with and share their interests together
- Talk about the school day. Encourage your child to share something about their day using words, signs, symbols, gestures or pictures.
- Learn through everyday experiences. Cooking, shopping, drawing and playing can develop communication, maths and problem-solving skills.
- Encourage communication and curiosity. Follow your child's interests, offer choices and encourage them to explore and communicate.
- Use familiar learning resources. Enjoy familiar songs, stories and games together.

You do not need to recreate school at home – talking, reading, exploring and showing an interest in what your child is learning can make a real difference. Most importantly ensure your child has a good routine including consistent bedtime routines.

Must Reads – Books Every Child Should Experience

At Bangabandhu, we want every child to develop a love of reading and experience a rich and varied range of high-quality books.

Our Must Reads are carefully selected to meet the needs of our children and may be enjoyed many times throughout the year. Repetition and familiar stories help develop communication, understanding, anticipation and enjoyment of books.

We make stories accessible through sensory experiences, objects, actions, sounds, symbols and repetition. It is not always important to focus on every word of the story. Sharing the experience, engaging with the book, exploring the pictures and sensory elements, and enjoying time together are just as valuable. This allows every child to experience stories in a way that is meaningful and engaging for them.

Pioneers' Must Reads

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

The Colour Monster

Dear Zoo

Dinosaur Roar

Farmer Duck

The Gingerbread Man

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The Gruffalo

Jasper and the Beanstalk

Little Red Riding Hood

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?

Owl Babies

Stick and Stone

The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Mog the Cat

The Three Little Pigs

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Walking Through the Jungle

Term dates:

Autumn Term

Friday, 4th September 2026 to Friday, 23rd October 2026

Half Term: Monday, 26th October 2026 to Friday, 30th October 2026

Tuesday, 3rd November 2026 to Friday, 18th December 2026

Spring Term

Monday, 4th January 2027 to Friday, 12th February 2027

Half Term: Monday, 15th February 2027 to Friday, 19th February 2027

Monday, 22nd February 2027 to Thursday, 25th March 2027

Summer Term

Monday, 12th April 2027 to Friday, 28th May 2027

Half Term: Monday, 31st May 2027 to Friday, 4th June 2027

Monday, 7th June 2027 to Wednesday 21st July 2027

Workshops and Events

Dates for workshops and events will be shared through Arbor, our weekly newsletter and the school website calendar. Please check these regularly so you don't miss important dates and opportunities to get involved.

We really value our families being active members of our school community. When you attend workshops, you gain a better understanding of what and how your child is learning and how you can support them at home. Coming along to school events gives you the opportunity to share in your child's experiences, celebrate their achievements and strengthen the important relationship between home and school.

We also really appreciate parents and carers attending on school trips. Sharing these experiences with your child can spark conversations at home and give you a valuable insight into their school life. Your support makes a real difference and helps us to provide more opportunities and experiences for our children.

Please come along and get involved whenever you can – we would love to see you!

- Pioneers Class Welcome Meeting – 30th September 2026 9.30am