



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th September

Fundraising

Non school uniform day- Friday 20th September-bring a gift or £1

MacMillan coffee Morning-Friday 27th September (children can bring up to £1 into school for own coffee morning and parents can enjoy a coffee morning 9-10am)

Non school uniform day-Friday 25th October- bring sweets or £1

Halloween Disco – Thursday 24th October

Bonfire Night Celebration – Tuesday 5th November

Non school uniform day- Friday 15th November-bring a bottle or £1

Christmas Fair- Friday 6th December (children can bring in up to £4 to spend)



Change of name

As you know we are part of an academy trust. As the trust continues to develop the Trustees, governors and schools have worked together and we are now part of the Agora Learning Partnership. (previously known as Herts for Learning Multi Academy Trust). Nothing in school has/will change.

Great news!

The British Council have awarded Oxhey Wood the International School Award. This is in recognition of the work we do within school to celebrate and recognise diversity, our Heritage work and our links with schools in other countries. Mrs Lawson led on this and I would like to thank her for the additional work and her commitment to all aspects of this project.

This week

The children have settled in really well this week. They have enjoyed some fun activities this week to build relationships with each other and the adults in their classroom. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming our new children and families to school this week with pre-school and Nursery joining us next week.

This week although 3 days is important to settle the children into school and into the new routines of their classroom. Thank you for supporting your child by ensuring they came back to school this week.

Reading

Over the summer holidays leadership team have carried out an audit of all class guided reading books and home reading books. Schools have received updated advice from the education department and Ofsted and when children are at the early stages of reading the books they should be given should match the phonic phase of learning they are on.

This is still very much work in process as we have hundreds of books to check however many of our current books will no longer be used for children to read either at home or in a guided reading session in school. We have made a decision that in any book there might be up to 2 words that may not be in your child's phonic phase. Those words will be written inside the front cover and are words that will be read to the children. Children will bring reading books home next week; some may still be under our old system but by October half term all books will have been checked. Some of our fundraising this year will be to buy new books for the children.

Teachers will explain this at meet the teacher next week and we will arrange an information session for parents later this term.

Homework Club

This popular club will be running again this term for years 1-6, 3.10pm – 4.10pm between 10th Sept and 15th Oct

Attendance

It is great to see the majority of children in school have great attendance. The attendance of some children continues to be of concern, low attendance is reviewed regularly with the local authority attendance officer as low attendance will impact on your child's learning and friendship groups. If, despite informing you of low attendance and offering support your child's attendance continues to be of concern, you may be at risk of a letter being sent to you stating that you are at risk of a penalty notice being applied. Please remember you must ring school ideally by 9am to let us know that your child won't be in. If we do not hear from you, we will keep trying to contact you to ensure that everything is ok.

Please remember you should not book holidays in term time: this will affect your child's learning. It has been sad to see a number of children missing days this week due to a holiday as this could impact on how they settle back into school.

Next week

Next week teachers are holding meetings to share your child's learning over this year and to share some of the changes including reading.

Meet the teacher Years 1 and 2	Monday 9th September 9am
Meet the teacher Years 3 and 4	Tuesday 10th September 9am
Meet the teacher Years 5 and 6	Thursday 12th September 9am

Parking and safety

Please remember to park safely and drive slowly on both Oxhey Drive and Northwick Road.

Unfortunately, a few cars are still parking on the pavements making it dangerous for parents and children on their way to and from school. There will be an increase in police and traffic wardens on both roads so please park carefully for the safety of our children and to avoid a parking ticket.

If you drive into school to drop your child at breakfast club or to collect from after school club, please park in the spaces on the left hand side as you drive through the gate. Please do not park in the wider section by the main doors.

Please do not park opposite the school gates as our Lollipop Lady cannot see all oncoming traffic which puts our children's safety at risk.

Water Bottles

Please remember that children should only have water in their bottles they drink from in class; this is not a school rule but follows the nutrition expectations by the Department for Education with the aim of preventing tooth decay. Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school. Thank you for your support with this.



Communication

Please remember we have an open door policy; teachers are happy to meet with parents before and after school, please email the teacher or ask them at the end of the day. I am always happy to meet with parents or talk on the phone as it is important that you feel listened to and sometimes events shared are slightly different to what has happened in school. We do have some parents that work in school but please avoid putting them in a difficult position by asking them about information within school. It is important that staff and parents trust each other and I take confidentiality very seriously. If you have a concern please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of leadership team; Mrs Caplan, Miss Jennings, Mrs Kent, Miss Douglas-Law or myself.

I am always grateful to receive feedback from parents as we can't share reasons or think about further improvements without this. It maybe that at times a parent may disagree with an aspect of school or how school has dealt with something; any decision we make is always to support the children and I am always happy to share the reasons with parents.

If you do need to talk to your child's class teacher or any adult in school please can I remind all parents that shouting or rudeness will not be tolerated.

We are very lucky to have a great staff team who are committed to supporting your child's learning and emotional development. I want the best for every child in school and this includes good attendance. Thank you for your ongoing support for the staff team and your child's good attendance in school.

Twitter

You can follow us on Twitter @WoodOxhey



Smoking

Can parents please refrain from smoking around the school gates and be mindful where they dispose their cigarettes.



Safeguarding and health and safety including online safety

We have some children in school with severe allergies. Please do not bring dogs onto school grounds.

We take safeguarding very seriously in school as we want every child to feel safe in school. If you need to come into school for any reason please come in via the school office so that you have signed in. We have updated our child protection policy and new safeguarding guidelines expect schools to have at least 2 contact numbers for every child in school. Please can you make sure you have given 2 phone numbers to the school and update these if you change your number.

If you are concerned about the safety of any children we have 4 designated safeguarding leads in school: Jules Riding, Mrs Morley, Mrs Caplan and Miss Douglas-Law-please share any concerns with them or please ring 0300 1234043

After School and Breakfast Club

To ensure our financial system aligns with all other MAT schools all sessions for breakfast and after school club must be made in advance before a child can attend. Please ask at the school office for information. We currently use parent mail for payments as this offered best value for money. Please so let me know if you have any problems with using this and I will look into it.



Break time Snacks

We endeavour to promote healthy eating at break times, we have noticed that some children are bringing in packets of crisps and chocolate bars. We ask that you do not send your child into school with unhealthy snacks and swap them for fruit, raisins, rice cakes, fruit bars.

School Uniform and Ordering

We are now set up online for school uniform ordering. There is a link on the school uniform page on the school website that takes you to the site, we also sent instructions out to you on an email. If you would like a hard copy please contact the school office. We do still have some stock in school but have limited sizes.

Please make sure your child wears the correct school uniform to school including black shoes not trainers and school blue or plain black hair bows. This helps children have a sense of belonging in school.

School uniform is trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafores, please do not send your child to school wearing leggings.

School Lunches- school meals cost £2.40

Next week is week 1. If your child brings in a packed lunch please make sure they do not bring in peanut butter sandwiches or Nutella as we have children with severe allergies. Children in Years Reception to Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals and can have a free school lunch every day.

Punctuality

Please could you support your child by making sure they arrive on time. It is unsettling for them if they arrive after the lesson has started. This will also be monitored by the Local Authority Attendance Officer.



Stay and Learn and Reading Breakfasts

Over the school year classes in Years 1-6 will be holding stay and learn and reading breakfasts where you are invited to join in practical activities for stay and learn and for reading breakfasts to enjoy a book with your child over a light breakfast.

Dates for this term

Meet the teacher Years 1 and 2	Monday 9th September 9am
Meet the teacher Years 3 and 4	Tuesday 10th September 9am
Meet the teacher Years 5 and 6	Thursday 12th September
Harvest Celebration	Thursday 24th October 9.15am
Parents Evening w/c 21st October (Tues and Wed after school)	
Diwali	27th October
Half-Term	W.b. Monday 29th Oct
Friendship week/anti bullying	w/c 12th November
Christmas Fair for children	Friday 6th December
KS2 Dress Rehearsal	Friday 13th December 2pm
KS1 Dress rehearsal	Friday 13th December 9.30am
FS dress rehearsal	Friday 13th December 11am
KS2 Christmas concert (crèche available)	Monday 16th December 1.45pm
FS Christmas concert (crèche available)	Monday 16th December 11am
KS1 Christmas concert (crèche available)	Monday 16th December 9.15
Christmas Lunch day	Wednesday 18th December
Christmas party day	Thursday 19th December
Term ends	Friday 20th December 2pm
Children return on Tuesday 7th January	

Below are the term dates for this school year. They have been set early so that you have no need to book holidays in term time. Thank you for your support.

Half term 28th October-1st November 2019
End of term Friday 20th December
6th January 2020 INSET day
7th January 2020 children return to school
Half term 17th-21st February
End of term 3rd April 2020
Children return Monday 20th April
Half term 25th-29th MAY 2020
Inset day Monday 1st June
Break up Friday 17th July