



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 14th December 2018

Fundraising this term:

Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 19th December- we are supporting one of our parents who has taken part in an event to support Cancer Research-Please if you are able to send in up to £1 to support this charity.



This week

This week our Nursery and Reception children enjoyed the Santa Show at Watford Colosseum. In assembly we talked about experiences in school and at home in the lead up to Christmas. The children have started rehearsals for the Christmas performances and I know they are looking forward to sharing these with you.

Christmas Fair and Father Christmas

Thank you for your support we raised £1300!

I explained to the children this week that this is a very busy time for Father Christmas and he was not able to come to our fair however I had already arranged for him to visit during the school day next week so that all children can meet him. I know there were comments on social media about our fair but what was really important was that the children had a fantastic time visiting the fair with their class. We only have a few parents who have offered to help with fundraising and so all events are organised and supported by staff in their own time. If you would like to help so that we can have more stalls or events please let Clare or Sue in the office know.



Communication

Please remember if you have a question or concern please come in and ask your child's teacher or one of the leadership team. If you can't come into school please telephone or email the school office or your child's teacher. If your email is for me I respond normally the same day that it has been passed to me. If ever you email in and get no response please come and ask as it maybe your email has gone into our junk mail.

We have had some concerns raised by parents where another parent has told them something has happened. Please do come in and ask as we can then investigate this for you. Please do not approach other parents as this can cause upset and distress to parents and children.



Next week

Christmas lunch for the children is Wednesday 19th December-the children can wear a Christmas jumper if they would like to. If you are able to please send in up to £1 to support Cancer Research.

Christmas Party day is Thursday 20th where children can wear their own choice of clothes. Please send in a small amount of party food for your child's class if you are able to: biscuits, crisps, cake for example.

Christmas Post box is open- please write the child's name and class.

Tesco Grant

I applied for some funding from Tesco to further develop the outdoor environment. From 1st November in our local Tesco, the main Tesco in Watford and other local Tesco branches you will be able to vote for school by putting a blue token in our school slot. Please support us with this as the project with the most coins will receive a £4000 grant. Our local Tesco has currently run out of coins but I have rung their head office to ask for more.

Parking

Last week I met with the local police, GP's, the owner of the garage next to school and County and district councillors to discuss the issues with parking around school. We discussed more zig zags and yellow lines near the junction of Oxhey Drive and Gosforth Lane. We intend to write as a group to ask for more parking to be considered. We also agreed to avoid any reversing onto Oxhey Drive from the garage or car parks. If you have any other suggestions, please let me know so that I can take these forward too.

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.

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

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Please remember not to drive your car into the school car park in case children have forgotten to use the path.

Smoking

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



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



Attendance

The attendance of some children continues to be extremely concerning. This is reviewed regularly with the local authority attendance officer. If, despite informing you of low attendance and offering support your child's attendance continues to be of concern you will receive a letter to each parent stating that you are at risk of a penalty notice being applied. This half term it has been great to see some fantastic improvements in some children's attendance. Thank you for your support with this.

Please support your child by ensuring your child comes to school every day not just for their learning but also for their social development. If there is any support you need or would like to discuss how to improve your child's attendance please don't hesitate to contact me.

The following classes have achieved 95% and above attendance this week;

3/4KK – 98.8%

6LH – 98.2%

5AL – 96.9%

6MJ – 96.4%

2HW – 96.3%

1MH – 95.7%

2CB – 95.4%

5JL – 95.4%

3/4AM – 95.2%

Open Door Policy

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.

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.

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.



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

Next week is week 1. Wednesday is our Christmas lunch day. 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.

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.



Dates for this term

KS1 Christmas performance	Monday 17 th December 9.15am
FS Christmas performance	Monday 17 th December 11am
KS2 Christmas performance	Monday 17 th December 1.45pm
Christmas lunch(wear a Christmas Jumper)	Wednesday 19 th December
Christmas Party Day(own clothes)	Thursday 20 th December
End of term	Friday 21 st December 2pm

Dates for next term

Children return on	Tuesday 8 th January 2019
6MJ Class assembly	Wednesday 16 th January 9.15am
6LH Class assembly	Wednesday 30 th January 9.15am
5JL Class assembly	Wednesday 6 th February 9.15am
5AL Class assembly	Wednesday 13 th February 9.15am
Parents evening	w/c 11 th February
Half term	Monday 18 th February-Friday 22 nd February 2019
3/4KK Class assembly	Wednesday 27 th February 9.15am
3 /4 AM Class assembly	Wednesday 6 th March 9.15am
3 /4 JB Class assembly	Wednesday 13 th March 9.15am
2CB Class assembly	Wednesday 20 th March 9.15am
2HW Class assembly	Wednesday 27 th March 9.15am
Easter Egg Hunt	Friday 5 th April
Term ends	2pm Friday 5 th April

Term dates for 2018-19

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.

School term ends Friday 21st December 2018 2pm
Children return Tuesday 8th January 2019
Half term Monday 18th February-Friday 22nd February 2019
Term ends Friday 5th April 2019
Children return Tuesday 23rd April 2019
Half term Monday 27th May-Friday 31st May 2019
Term ends Friday 19th July 2019

I have also set the term dates for 2019-20

If you are looking at holidays for next summer please ensure your holiday ends before the start of the new school year.

Monday 2nd September 2019 INSET
Tuesday 3rd September 2019 INSET
Wednesday 4th September-children return to school
Half term 28th October-1st November 2019
End of term Friday 21st 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