



# Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

## Friday 15th December 2017

### **This week- thank you**

The children have been very excited about our Arctic weather conditions this week! Thank you for your patience with changes to drop off and collection; this was to ensure the safety of all children. The staff were fantastic and showed great commitment to ensure the weather did not affect learning or our Christmas preparation by coming into school; some have quite a distance to travel.

The children enjoyed Christmas dinner, thank you to Pat and her team for working so hard in the kitchen.

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas performances, the children were amazing! Thank you for your support.

### **Christmas Party Day**

The children will have a Christmas Party on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. They are able to wear their own clothes. Please could you send in a snack for this e.g. packet of biscuits, crisps etc

### **Parental support**

There may be occasions where your child will share something that has happened in school with you. There are often 2 sides to a story so please come and ask in school. It is really important that you do not approach other children or parents. Teachers will always try and resolve any issues in school with children, please support them with this. Thank you for your support.

### **Christmas Cards**

Our school post box is outside the dining room-please put the child's class as well as name on the envelope.

### **Guided Reading**

I thought it might be useful to explain our system for guided reading. Children read with an adult in school twice a week and read books that are normally a band higher than the books they bring home. This is to help them learn strategies to work out words they don't know and to support progress. Teachers keep assessment notes for all of these sessions. We then send home different reading books and ask you to sign the reading record to let us know your child has read at home. Children that read at least 5 times a week are given a raffle ticket that is drawn in assembly on a Friday and they have a chance to win a book of their choice.

### **Attendance**

Our LA attendance officer has visited school recently and has asked me to remind you that any child with attendance below 90% is classed as a persistent absentee. In line with government and school policy we will look to issue penalty notices for children who have had 15 unauthorised sessions; a school day is 2 sessions, morning and afternoon. When children miss school they miss part of a sequence of learning that impacts on their future learning and confidence. Thank you for your support.

### **Punctuality**

It is really important that children arrive on time as the start of the day is when the learning is introduced. We do not want any child to miss out on learning that might affect their progress in school so to support them with this staff will catch up on the missed learning at break with them so they have the same opportunities as the rest of the class.

### **School Uniform**

It is great to see most children are remembering to make sure their hair is tied back but please could you make sure that any hair bows are either blue or black in line with our school uniform. Thank you for your support.

### **School Uniform Ordering**

We are in the process of moving to online purchasing for our school uniform, this means that you will not be able to purchase from the school office (more details will follow). We do have some stock left for you to buy from us at a discounted price now but once it's sold we will not have any more stock brought in.

### **Nut Allergy**

We have children in the school with serious nut allergies; we ask that you do not send your child into school with any kind of nuts in their packed lunch boxes.

### **Safeguarding**

To ensure the safety of the children, we ask that parents do not attempt to access the school office through any entrances near the classrooms. Should you need to visit the school office you need to use the main entrance.

### **School Lunches**

Next week is week 2. 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.

### **Breaktime Snacks**

We endeavour to promote healthy eating at breaktimes, 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 or send them in with 50p to purchase from our Tuck Shop.

### **Reception Applications for September 2018**

All applications must be made by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for a Reception place in September. You need to apply online:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/.../schools.../school-admissions/primary>.

If you need support with this please ask at the school office.

### **Nursery Applications**

If you have a child that will have their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday before the end of August 2018 they are eligible to attend Nursery from September 2018. All of the local schools are now dealing with Nursery Admissions themselves and you can no longer apply via the Local Education Authority. Please apply directly with your chosen school.

Applications open from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Applications close on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Offers made to parents on 24 April 2018

Deadline to accept places 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

## **Attendance**

It is really important that all children attend school every day. If you need any support in improving your child's attendance please come in and speak to Jules or a member of the senior leadership team.

Please do not book a holiday in term time.

Every half term children with 95% and above and 100% attendance will receive certificates.

## **Term dates September 2017- July 2018**

I have set all term dates for this year including INSET days so that if you need to book a holiday you can make sure you do not book them during school time:

Term ends Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 2pm

Children return Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Half term Monday 12<sup>th</sup> -Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Term ends Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 2pm

Term starts Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Bank Holiday Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Half term Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May –Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Term ends for children Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 2pm

## **Dates for your diary for this term**

Christmas party day Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Term ends Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2pm**

**Children return to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

## **Term dates for 2018-19**

**Below are the term dates from next September onwards. They have been set early so that you have no need to book holidays in term time. Thank you for your support.**

Start of new school year: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for children

Half term Monday 29<sup>th</sup> -Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

School term ends Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 2pm

Children return Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Half term Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February -Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Term ends Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Children return Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

Half term Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May -Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Term ends Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019