



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st February 2019



This week

This week I have enjoyed talking to the children about last week's STEM week and the practical learning they were keen to share with me.

In assembly this week we talked about why teachers mark books and the reason for the green comments they respond to. The children understood how this is either to consolidate their learning or to challenge their thinking.

Our Junior Leadership Team explained a new system at lunchtime for years 3-6. Some children prefer to stay in at lunchtime so they have introduced a signing in sheet so that children who want to stay in are able to and can use our quiet area.

A group of year 5 children took part in a maths challenge and scored 110 which was a brilliant score. Well done to the team!

Snow

We try as far as possible to keep the school open when it snows. Many parents work and are still expected to go to work and many countries have far more snow than us and unless really extreme weather the children go to school. We will keep the school website updated. We do send text messages if school were to close but often there is a delay as so many schools are sending messages at the same time. We will also notify Hertfordshire who will include any updates on their website.

If it has snowed or if the playground is very icy then staff will be outside to direct the children through the main doors at the front and back of school.

Dojo points

In every class in school, we have a dojo system where every child has a character and they can be awarded points throughout the day for things like good listening, perseverance, teamwork, ready to learn as well as points for homework. Some parents already have access to see their child's scores and what the points have been awarded for but so that everyone parent has this opportunity all teachers will over the next few days be sending home a log in for you. Although it you send and receive messages through this as not all parents will be using it we have decided that text/email messages will be sent from our main system as we do now. Some classes restart the points each week some at half term.

Head lice

Head lice unfortunately enjoy visiting children's hair. Please check your child's hair regularly to check for any eggs or live lice. If you would like any advice on how to treat head lice please ask at the school office or speak to Jules.

Help in school

We are always grateful of any help in school; this can be for reading, helping on trips, cooking, art or with fundraising. If you would like to help please ask at the office so that we can complete a DBS check for you. When we go on school trips we take school staff as far as possible but often still need some help. In following health and safety guidance where possible we avoid parents going on trips with their child's class.

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.

I am always grateful to receive feedback from parents as we can't share reasons or think about further improvements without this.

Parking and Safety

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. Hopefully if parents remember to park in these spaces we will not need to lock the gates at other times.

The local residents' association are coming in to meet me as they are concerned that parents continue to park opposite the school gates or on the yellow zig zags. Please support our children's safety by not parking here.

I am currently working on the suggestion made by a parent to support safer parking.

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. The local police have said they will try as often as possible to spend time outside school to encourage parents to park safely. If you park too near the junction with Gosforth Lane this could lead to a parking ticket.

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



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

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.

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.



Attendance- OVER 95%!!!

Thank you to the majority of parents who have supported their children in coming to school regularly. For the first time in over 5 years' attendance is now at just over 95%. Nearly every child returned to school on Tuesday which is fantastic! This is really supporting the children's progress in school.

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.

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;

3/4JB – 97.6%

1PD – 97.3%

2HW – 97.1%

6LH – 96.4%

3/4AM – 95.8%

1MH – 95.7%

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.

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.



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 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.

Dates for next term

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
Year 1 Reading breakfast	Thursday 21 st March 8.45-9.30am
2HW Class assembly	Wednesday 27 th March 9.15am
6LH Class assembly	Wednesday 3 rd April 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. In some areas, councils are now increasing the fines for holidays in term time with one Borough increasing the fine to £1000! Thank you for your support.

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 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