



# Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

## Friday 8th February 2019



### **This week**

This week 5JL shared their assembly with the school and parents. Well done they did a fantastic job sharing their learning with everyone. Thank you if you were able to come. This week has been children's mental health week and we talked about how food, exercise and sleep also helps the way we are feeling. Children thought about what it means to have a growth mind-set. All classes took part in a PANTS lessons this week. We normally teach this in the summer term but the leadership team made a decision to move it to this week to ensure all children in school understand what it means at an appropriate age level for them.

Pants stands for: Private is private, always remember your body belongs to you, No means no, Talk about secrets that upset you, Speak up someone can help.

If you have any concerns about this or want to know more, or have any other questions, please do come in and speak to a member of staff or myself.

### **Snow- thank you**

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 we do and unless extreme weather the children go to school. Thank you for your support last week as there was no reason to shut school and I did not want to cause difficulties for parents who have to go to work. Thank you to all the staff, some of whom have live quite a distance away for coming into work to support the children's learning and for those parents who thanked staff for opening.

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.



### **Facebook**

Please can I remind parents that as part of our Home School Agreement it is important that you model best use of Facebook to your children and that you support school at all times. If you have a concern please come and speak to us about it-it is unfair on staff and the school as we would rather sort it out with a parent individually. Often what is shared on Facebook is inaccurate which causes unnecessary upset and stress to staff. The police have also asked me to remind parents that it can be a criminal offence to misuse Facebook. Due to recent issues I have had to take legal advice and have been advised to report any posts particularly when names of other parents, children or staff are mentioned. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Water Bottles**

Following on from a query by a parent this week I would just like to clarify 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. Thank you for your support with this.



## **Parents Evening**

I hope you are able to come and meet your child's class teacher next week. If you haven't signed up for a time please ask at the office or speak to the teacher. I have spent time looking through every child's books in school and I have been impressed with the progress they have made.



## **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, 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. 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.

## **Pupil Premium Grant**

All schools have children that are eligible for pupil premium grant; children are eligible for lots of different reasons. All schools are expected to use this money for these children. For much of what we have put in place such as feedback and marking time where children spend time looking at their work with their class teacher and further developing their understanding it benefits all children. I was disappointed to hear that some parents have been making unkind comments about families that are entitled to this. We are an inclusive school; please support us with this.

## **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.

## **Cake Sale**

We will be holding a cake sale in the dining hall at 3.10pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February to help raise funds for the Tenerife Erasmus Trip, please come along and support the children.



## **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. I met with the local residents' association this week where she shared the concerns of local residents and the parking issue particularly at pick up and drop off. Please support our children's safety by parking safely.

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.

## **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 two contact numbers for every child in school. Please can you make sure you have given two 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

## **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

## **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.



## **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.

### **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.

### **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 Lunches**

Next week is week 3. 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.



## 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.

## Dates for next term

5AL Class assembly	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 9.15am
Parents evening	w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> February
Half term Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February-Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019	
3/4KK Class assembly	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 9.15am
3 /4 AM Class assembly	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am
3 /4 JB Class assembly	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am
2CB Class assembly	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am
Year 1 Reading breakfast	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 8.45-9.30am
2HW Class assembly	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am
6LH Class assembly	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 9.15am
Easter Egg Hunt	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April
Term ends 2pm Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 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

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 INSET  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 INSET  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September-children return to school  
Half term 28<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2019  
End of term Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 INSET day  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 children return to school  
Half term 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February  
End of term 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020  
Children return Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
Half term 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020  
Inset day Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Break up Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

