



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th September

Fundraising

Non school uniform day today – Thank you for your kind donations

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)

Halloween Disco – Thursday 24th October

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

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)



This week

Our local police came and spoke to all children in Years 5 and 6 about knife crime and answered any questions they had about the police or concerns they have. The police will be making regular visits to school so that the children get to know them, they also hope to attend some parents' evenings so that you can ask questions or raise a concern.

It is great to see that children understand our school rules and for the significant majority of our children their behaviour in school is excellent. For some children, additional support is needed to help them to follow our rules in the same way that some children need additional support with their learning. I have however explained to all children in assembly this week that before a child can be asked to play for the school football team or take part in events with other schools they have to be able to take responsibility for their behaviour in school.

It is great that nearly every child has a PE kit in school; this is really important. PE is part of the National Curriculum and all children should take part. Please support your child by making sure they have a PE kit in school every week.

Information coffee morning for Year 6 parents.

Next Wednesday 25th September at 9am Lisa Sillitoe a transition worker for DSPL9 will be in school for you to meet and ask any questions you have about your child's move to secondary school.

Year 6 application for Secondary School.

Children in Year 6 must apply for a secondary school place by 31st October online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. If you need any help in applying, please ask at the office.

MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 27th September-Cakes Needed

Next Friday we are holding our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning. There will be tea, coffee and cakes in the dining room for parents. Each class will have their own 'coffee morning' at break when they can bring in up to a £1 to enjoy juice and a cake. We hope you are able to support this.



Additional support for children in Years 5 and 6.

You may be aware that some of our local secondary schools have an admission policy which requires children to sit tests if parents choose to register them for this. To ensure our children have the same opportunities and confidence to sit the tests we offer a free breakfast session each week after Christmas where they will be able to learn about the types of questions they may be asked and they will be supported in learning how to answer them.

In Year 6 children have to sit SATs tests in the summer term as well as becoming 'Secondary Ready'. To give our children additional support as well as the high quality teaching they receive the Year 6 teachers along with other teachers in school run either before or after school boosters to support them further.

We choose not to charge for either of these sessions so that all children are able to access them.

Play Rangers

There is a free outdoor club for children every Friday 4-6pm until 20th December at South Oxhey Playing Fields. The Rangers will be at the Ashburnham Drive entrance.

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.

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.

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.

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

- 1 Darwin – 100%
- 2 Tudor – 99.1%
- Reception Walliams – 98.3%
- 5 Rosen – 97.4%
- 2 Windsor – 97.3%
- 6 Glennie – 97.3%
- 6 Elton – 96.4%
- 3/4 Simmonds – 96%
- 5 Shakespeare – 95.7%
- 3/4 Holmes – 95.2%

School Uniform and Ordering

There is a link on the school uniform page on the school website that takes you to the site. 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

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 28 th 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