



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter Friday 10th May 2019

This week

In assembly we talked about our three school rules: Ready, Respect, Safe. The children were able to share what they meant and what they looked like at Oxhey Wood. The children could see how well these are followed at Oxhey Wood and we talked about how we support children .

Year 5 had a great time at their residential at the Willow Tree Centre, with both classes enjoying a Ninja Warrior workshop on Wednesday.

Charity Support this term

This week

Thank you for your support today for supporting brain tumour research. Next half term After half term we will be supporting Cancer research with all children taking part in Race for Life when all children will receive a medal for taking part.

Future Fundraising

The following has been planned already and we will update you with any more that are planned. It is great to see parents and children involved and we will continue to introduce ideas shared by parents.

Film Night –Thursday 16th May

Saturday 8th June 11-2pm Summer Fair- if you are able to help please let the office know.

FA Cup Watford

As a local team is in the FA Cup on Friday 17th May your child, if they would like to can wear their Watford FC top or wear something in the Watford team colours.

Exhibition of Heritage Boxes

As part of our ERASMUS+ project “Who Do We Think We Are?” Oxhey wood School has been working alongside three other Watford schools: Bromet, Parkgate and Holywell as well as two schools in Spain on various activities that have allowed our children to discover and share their own heritage. All the children in Watford and in Spain have made Heritage Boxes which have been celebrated in their own schools and now we are proud to be sharing them with our local community in a joint exhibition at the Watford Family History Museum.

The exhibition will take place on two separate Saturdays – 18th May and 22nd June – between 11 am and 4 pm at the Watford Family History Museum, The Church of the Latter Day Saints, 362 Hempstead Road, Watford WD17 3NB.

The Family History Centre will be open on the exhibition days and they will be able to help people who are interested in furthering their family history the children have started.

Parking

Please remember to park safely and drive slowly on both Oxhey Drive and Northwick Road. Unfortunately, a few cars are still parking on the pavements making it dangerous for parents and children on their way to and from school. There will be an increase in police and traffic wardens on both roads so please park carefully for the safety of our children and to avoid a parking ticket.

I met with two councillors during the Easter holidays and they are looking to introduce a no stopping/parking zone near school at the start and end of the day. I will keep you informed. I am also looking at ordering some signs that can be placed on the road outside both entrances to school in the meantime.

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. Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school. Thank you for your support with this.



Smoking

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



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. I would much rather you ask a small question or concern so that it can be answered or dealt with sooner rather than you worrying about something. If you can't come into school, please telephone or email the school office or your child's teacher. A member of Senior Leadership Team will be outside in the morning if you need to speak to someone. 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.

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.

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 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.



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. Unfortunately for some children attendance is still causing concern and is impacting on their learning which has led to more penalty notices being issued by County.

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;

2HW – 99.5%

5AL – 98.1%

3/4AM – 97.2%

5JL – 96.8%

3/4KK – 96.3%

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.

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.

School Lunches- school meals cost £2.50

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 next term

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.

Half term Monday 27th May-Friday 31st May 2019

Term ends Friday 19th July 2019

Dates for Summer term:

Year 6 SATs week	Monday 13 th May-Thursday 16 th May
Year 6 BBQ (During school day)	Friday 17 th May
Nursery and Reception Sports Day	Thursday 6 th June
Years 1-6 Sports Day	Friday 7 th June
Year 1 phonics assessment week	w/c 10 th June
New Reception Parents meeting	Tuesday 11 th June 9am
New Nursery parents meeting	Tuesday 18 th June 9.30am
Years 3-5 Achievement assembly	Tuesday 16 th July 9am
Year 6 performance to parents	Wednesday 17 th July 6pm
KS1 Achievement assembly	Thursday 18 th July 9am
Nursery and Reception achievement assembly	Thursday 18 th July 11am

End of term Friday 19th July 2pm

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