



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th June 2019



Our Summer Fair is tomorrow 8th June-I look forward to seeing you there 11am-2pm

This week

This week we had a pilot visit from Ofsted. This was not an official inspection. There is a new Ofsted framework for schools in September and I volunteered Oxhey Wood to be a pilot school so that Ofsted could trial this out. We had three inspectors for both days. We do not get a grade or a report but they gave the school, governors and Mutli Academy Trust (MAT) feedback. The staff and children were fantastic throughout.

What was really positive was that they agreed with the strengths we have recognised and agreed with the priorities we continue to work on and that I have shared with you. The inspectors observed lessons, spoke to leaders, spoke to staff, looked at children's books and spoke to the children.

Some of the strengths were:

- Leadership, parental engagement, improving attendance of children, teachers had good subject knowledge. Subjects they focused on were led effectively.
- Teachers are plugging historic gaps in maths and there is good progress.
- There is a clear sequence to writing and children are able to write well by the end of year 6.
- Children with SEND are now identified at an earlier stage and appropriate support is in place.
- Our nurture time provision for children that need support with social and emotional development is strong.
- We use the PPG-pupil premium grant well. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural support is strong.
- Safeguarding is effective and the culture in school is strong
- There are good opportunities for parental engagement across school
- Clear routines for guided reading and they were pleased to see that teachers read a class book to the children
- Behaviour is clearly improving-staff and children spoke about how much behaviour has improved and they saw this in terms of decreasing incidents across school
- There is an improving trend for school standards in Reading, writing and maths
- They met with many children across school. They were impressed with how articulate and confident the children were. The children said they enjoy school, they enjoy learning, they remembered learning from previous terms, they were positive about improving behaviour and they know what bullying is and what it is not and said they knew that leaders would deal with it. They talked about fewer incidents at lunchtime, that they feel safe in school and that staff care about them.
- The new curriculum we have introduced is supporting children's learning
- In the Early Years children know the routines, are happy, enjoy activities and independence is promoted. There is an obvious progress in writing, maths teaching is strong, and children are challenged.
- PE has a clear purpose and school recognise the importance of it.
- Breakfast club and after school club have a range of activities including board games, which support social development.

Areas to continue to develop which are our current school priorities:

- Continue to focus on attendance as this still needs to improve further
- To further develop reading especially for children who find reading difficult and further develop phonics across school
- Further develop interventions for children across school
- Further develop middle leaders through our curriculum teams
- Further develop handwriting so that it is consistent across school
- Introduce the new assessment system that we are currently working on with the MAT

Sports Day

Nursery and Reception had a great sports day on Thursday, it was great to see so many parents cheering the children on. This was followed by an enjoyable BBQ.

Years 1-6 Sports Day has been postponed to 28th June due to the weather forecast-thank you for your understanding with this.

Charity Support this term

The children completed their Race for Life this week-thank you for your support-please return sponsorship money as soon as possible.

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.

Please do not block residents drives when your drop or pick up your children.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.



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.

Attendance- OVER 95%!!!

Thank you to the majority of parents who have supported their children in coming to school regularly. Attendance letters have been sent out this week to let you know your child's attendance if it is 93% and below so that if needed we can meet to see how we can work together to improve your child's attendance.

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;

3/4AM – 98.7%

REN – 97.4%

6MJ – 95.2%

1PD – 97.6%

1MH – 97.3%

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 are £2.40

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.

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.

Term ends Friday 19th July 2019

Dates for Summer term:

Nursery and Reception Sports Day	Thursday 6 th June
Years 1-6 Sports Day	Friday 28 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