



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 5th July 2019



This week

This week the children took part in music assembly led by Beth Mead from Hertfordshire music service. Children sang and some played instruments they are learning. The boys Year 5 and Year 4 football teams played this week; Year 5 lost by 1 goal to St Joseph but all played really well and Year 4 beat St Joseph's 6-1; a fantastic result!

Next week

On Monday children will meet their new teacher for September and spend some time in their new class. The school is open straight after school until 5pm where you can come and look at your child's work and they can show you their new classroom.

Fundraising-Friday 12th July 3.10-4.15pm

Next week Zac in Year 3 /4 KK is organising a fundraising event for Great Ormond Street Hospital straight after school for parents and children. There will be activities for children to do with a small charge of 20p for each. An adult must accompany children to this event. I am sure you will agree this is a great cause.

School Uniform

From September children will be able to wear navy or white polo shirts. We will be asking our uniform suppliers to add this to the uniform you can buy from them too.

Important!

During our school uniform suppliers busy summer period orders can take up to 15 working days to dispatch, please ensure that you order before 2nd August.

Views

Thank you for completing your views on post-its during sports day. I always appreciate parents taking time to speak to me at the gate, arranging a meeting, emailing or phoning with ideas or questions. As you can see below, there are differing views about the same thing but to be transparent I have included all views. I would like to thank all staff at Oxhey Wood for their continued hard work and commitment to our children. Teachers are often in school from 7am and don't leave until 5.30/6pm, many also work weekends and during the school holidays. They absolutely want the best for your children and as many of the children shared with the Ofsted inspectors the children recognised that the staff care for them 'more than they are paid to do'. It is important that we work together so please do continue to ask questions and share suggestions.

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.



Parking Update

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.

What is good about Oxhey Wood:

- Nicely organised sports day
- Liked being on the more enclosed field
- Children love school
- Great school
- The school fair
- School trips
- Nice teachers
- Nice event-everyone was happy
- Great team
- Good communication
- Great office team
- Availability of after school and breakfast club
- Kept informed of progress
- Approachable staff
- Lots of clubs
- Fundraising events

Even Better if:

What?	Action/comment
Oxhey Wood Hoodies	We do have jumpers, we have asked our uniform provider to offer school fleeces. We buy hoodies as a leaving gift for children in Year 6
Navy Polo Shirts	This has already been agreed-from September, children can wear navy polo shirts, our uniform providers will also be providing these with the school logo.
Teachers to communicate more and with Head teacher	We now give teachers' email addresses and parents are able to email me. We have a weekly staff meeting where all teachers meet. If you ever have a concern or question please ask to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team
Sports day altogether	As we have so many children it is safer to have the sports days separately
Prefer bigger sports field	As at the moment our back field has an open gate so that the community can access the children's centre it is safer for our children to hold sports day on the KS2 field
More praise for children who do well	In line with our behaviour policy all staff as part of our behaviour strategy, look for, and praise children doing what has been asked of them. Children making the right choices get dojo points, we have Hot chocolate Friday, achievements in a Friday assembly and additional play/ golden time/ trip to the local park for children who always make the right choice
Dinner ladies to be more alert in situations	Many of our midday assistants are also class teaching assistants so they know the children well. Senior leaders are also available at lunchtime to support and spend time outside as do the pastoral team. All are very observant but as with all schools they may on occasions miss something but we have supported the children in knowing who to go to if they are worried about something
Teachers need a better attitude	This was a disappointing comment but I have included it to be transparent. All teachers work extremely hard to ensure all children have the best opportunity to learn and on occasions, they have been upset by the manner in which they are spoken to. If you do ever

	feel there has been a problem, please come and speak to Mrs Caplan or me.
More school trips(only 1 this year)	As explained school budgets are tighter than they ever have been. Unfortunately, although we subsidise trips for all children many parents do not pay towards them. We have however had several trips and theme days over this year: Nursery: Santa Show, Woburn Safari Park Reception: Santa Show, Woburn Safari Park Year 1: MOD pizza, Odds Farm, Pantomime show, theatre show, science museum, Woburn Safari Park, trips to local woods to explore the seasons Year 2: pantomime show, science museum, Windsor Castle, florist experience in school, theatre visit, Woburn Safari Park Years 3 / 4: science museum, pantomime show, Roman Day, Greek Day, tri-golf, athletics, circus skills day, Woburn Safari park Year 5: science museum, pantomime show, theatre visit, residential, Hampton Court Palace, Tudor feast experience, planetarium visit in school Year 6: science museum, pantomime show, theatre visit, residential, skillforce

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.

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. 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. One parent has also been taken to court by Hertfordshire County Council for continued low attendance.

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;

5JL – 96.4%

3/4KK – 96%

3/4AM – 95.5%

5AL – 95%

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 are £2.40

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.

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.



Smoking

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



Dates for Summer term:

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
Term ends Friday 19 th July 2019	

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