



# Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

### Fundraising

**Halloween Disco** – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October

**Non school uniform day**-Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October- bring sweets or £1

**Bonfire Celebration** – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

**Non school uniform day**- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November-bring a bottle or £1

**Christmas Fair**- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December (children can bring in up to £4 to spend)



### This week

In assembly this week, we read a story about a lion who chose to take responsibility for his behavior and didn't just follow what all the other lions did or said. The children were able to reflect on this and how it is important to do what they think is right rather than join in with someone who may be making the wrong choice.

It was great to see parents attending the meeting for our next trip to Spain in 2020 for Years 5 and 6. If you were unable to come, a letter will be sent home soon to all children in Years 5 and 6.

Thank you for supporting MacMillan coffee morning; the children enjoyed having their own class 'coffee morning'.

### 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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). If you need any help in applying, please ask at the office.

### Information session for Year 5 parents-Secondary school entrance tests

We will be holding an information session on 8<sup>th</sup> October at 9am on the process of the Consortium tests that children take for some of our local Secondary Schools.

### Additional support for children in Years 5 and 6.

You may be aware that some of our local secondary school 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.

### **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.

### **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;**

3/4 Simmonds – 97.3%

5 Shakespeare – 97.1%

2 Windsor – 96.8%

3/4 Holmes – 96.2%

6 Elton – 95.2%

3/4 Hamilton – 97.2%

Rec Walliams – 97%

6 Glennie – 96.4%

1 Sharman – 96%

## 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.



## 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 £2.40

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 this term**

Harvest Celebration	Thursday 24th October 9.15am
Parents Evening (school)	w/c 21st October (Tues and Wed after school)
Diwali	27th October
Half-Term	W.b. Monday 28th 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 28<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2019

End of term Friday 20th 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