



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th July 2017

Class swap

The children will visit their new classes next week. I hope you are able to come to exhibition evening on Wednesday when you pick your child up. They will be able to show you their new classroom.

Race for Life

The children will be taking part in the Race for Life in school next Friday 14th July.

Year 4 and 5 drama workshops

This week children in Years 4 and 5 had a great time taking part in a drama workshop led by Hatch End High School. Children from Warren Dell came over and joined them too.

Parent Views

Thank you for completing post-its during sports day. Below is a summary of your views which I will share with governors. Several of the 'Even better if' were from one parent. Just to remind you we have an open door policy and if you do have any concerns or suggestions please come and see me.

What is Good about Oxhey Wood? (some of the 'what is good?' comments were repeated on several post-its)

- It has friendly staff
- Staff are approachable
- Staff are caring
- Staff are good

- Nice teachers
- Great atmosphere
- Good community spirit
- Everybody is treated equally
- Lots of different activities
- Children are friendly
- Good sports day and BBQ
- Great breakfast and after school club, with outstanding staff
- Vegetarian food available at the BBQ
- Children enjoy school
- Year 1 teachers do an amazing job
- The emotional support I have received has been fantastic
- All the before and after school clubs
- Much better sports day this year

Even Better if...

| Comment | Actions/ explanations from school |
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| Nothing –school is great | |
| More after school clubs that aren't sport | We have increased the number of after school clubs this year that staff run in their own time; we will discuss options for clubs for next school year |
| Some extra classes like language, music | We will look into this for next school year |
| Have a 'tiny musicians' class | We will speak to the children's centre |
| 'old type' games at sports day | We tried to include a balance of competitive and round robin activities this year; but will look at this for next year |
| Longer school day | We follow guidelines for the length of the school day. There is breakfast club, after school club and a range of clubs children can join. |
| Early finish on Friday | We have so much learning to fit into the week that this would not be possible and could prove difficult for working parents. |
| Performing Arts | We have arranged for Hatch End High |

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| | <p>school to come and deliver some drama workshops for Years 4 and 5. We will look at building on this</p> |
| Weekend sleepover | <p>Year 5 will be having a sleepover in school soon. It is important that children have a break from school and spend time with their families at the weekend</p> |
| More homework | <p>We will be introducing a new homework system from September. This will include signposting children to extra learning if they would like to extend their learning time, although it is important that children have a break from learning.</p> |
| No homework | <p>It is important that children develop learning habits outside of school.</p> |
| Poor leadership, lack of cohesion and whole school vision | <p>We have shared a very clear vision this year in newsletters and various meetings. Our aim this year has been to embed systems to ensure standards improve in learning, behaviour and attendance. Our aim has to been to improve partnerships with parents; many year groups/ phases have run well attended information sessions for parents, we have re-introduced harvest and class assemblies both of which have been well attended by parents. We have introduced a parent council and weekly newsletters to try and involve the community. Events like sports day were planned to further develop us as a community; with very positive comments from parents and other family members.</p> |
| Planning of school trips, especially residential | <p>Teachers work really hard to plan all trips carefully. We did cancel some trips due to security concerns and I</p> |

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| | <p>hope parents understand the reasons for this. There was some delay with information for the year 6 residential as teachers were trying to ensure as many children as possible could attend. We will review this for next year.</p> |
| <p>Communication with parents is inadequate, incorrect or late.</p> | <p>We have improved communication through newsletters and texts this year. There are occasional mistakes but none that have been brought to my attention. We do have an open door policy so if you feel this is the case please come and discuss this with me.</p> |
| <p>Large movement of excellent teachers</p> | <p>We have 3 class based teachers leaving in July. In a 2 form entry school this is not unusual and one teacher has gained promotion which reflects well on Oxhey Wood supporting their professional development. Another is going to work abroad which is a fantastic opportunity.</p> <p>We have the added issue that we border Harrow and Hillingdon where teacher's salary is higher as they get London Weighting.</p> <p>When we become an academy the MAT is hoping to offer higher salaries so that we don't lose teachers in this way.</p> |
| <p>Some teachers are unapproachable</p> | <p>We have an open door policy and I would not want any parents to feel this is the case. We will discuss this with staff</p> |
| <p>Meetings outside of school hours</p> | <p>We will send a questionnaire to all parents in September to find out what information sessions you would like and what time of the day you</p> |

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| | would like them. |
| More parents meetings to find out about our children's progress | We currently hold parent meetings in October and February. There is an open door policy and you are welcome to ask to meet your child's teacher at any time to discuss progress. We will think about other opportunities we could introduce for this. |

Reading before School

If your children are invited in for morning reading sessions, they will need to access the school via the main entrance as the doors leading to KS2 will be locked. There will be no access until 8.30.

School Gates

Please note, the school gates are locked between 8.30am and 9am and again between 2.45pm and 3.30pm. This is to ensure the children's safety entering and leaving the school grounds.

Parking

Please make sure you park your cars legally and safely before and after school. Some parents have been parking in a square that must be vehicle free at all times.

Open door policy

We have an open door policy in school; if you have a question or a concern please ask to speak to your child's class teacher or come to the office and ask to speak to myself or Mrs Stray. We always deal with any concern on an individual basis. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and have spent time with the children discussing 'Fair isn't equal, fair is when everyone gets what they need.' Please do come and chat to me if you would like this explained further.

Punctuality

Please try and make sure your child arrives on time every day. They are often upset if they are late and have to walk into the classroom when everyone else is settled. Thank you for your support.

Packed lunches and KS2 playtime snacks.

Staff have noticed that some children are bringing in lots of chocolate as part of their lunch from home. Please could you try and make lunches as healthy as possible; too much chocolate can cause some children to have a sugar dip in the afternoon that affects their learning and behaviour. Children in KS2 can bring a snack in from home for morning break but this should only be fruit or a cereal bar; no crisps or chocolate.

School Lunches

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.

Attendance

It is really important that all children attend school every day. If you need any support in improving your child's attendance please come in and speak to Jules or a member of the senior leadership team.

Please do not book a holiday in term time.

Every half term children with 95% and above and 100% attendance will receive certificates.

This week's classes with attendance over 95% are:

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| 6CL – 100% | 5JB – 96.2% |
| 6SB – 98.6% | 1TH – 95.4% |
| 1MH – 97.1% | 3KK – 95.2% |
| 4AH – 96.8% | |

Term dates for this year

Term ends on Friday 21st July 2017 at 2pm

Dates for this term

Open evening/museum evening
4.30pm(Years 1-6)

Wednesday 12th July 3.30-

Year 6 leavers performance

Wednesday 19th July at 6pm

Term dates September 2017- July 2018

I have set all term dates for next year including INSET days so that if you need to book a holiday you can make sure you do not book them during school time:

Term starts for children Wednesday 6th September 2017

Half term Monday 23rd-27th October 2017

Term ends Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 2pm

Children return Thursday 4th January 2018

Half term Monday 12-Friday 16th February 2018

Term ends Thursday 29th March 2018 at 2pm

Term starts Monday 16th April 2018

Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 2018

Half term Monday 28th May –Friday 1st June 2018

Term ends for children Friday 20th July 2018 at 2pm

