



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 29th November

Fundraising

Christmas Fair- Friday 6th December (children can bring in up to £4 to spend)

Friday Sweet Shop – Coming soon



This week

This week, year 6 took part in further first aid training as part of their Making My Footprint work. Nursery and Reception continue to enjoy outside learning and it is great to see how their independence is growing. Year 1 have written some great fact files on their own hero linked to their learning on Superheroes. Year 5 have almost finished reading their class book, Cosmic, which they have really enjoyed. Year 6 have carried out an investigation in science to help them understand how the digestive system works. Year 2 have completed story plans to help them write some fantastic stories linked to traditional tales.

Christmas Family Fun Day

Watford Rural Parish Council are holding a Christmas Family Fun Day at the school tomorrow from 11.00am -3.00pm. Everyone is welcome!

Next week

Children and staff are preparing for our Christmas Fair, which is on Friday 6th December. Every class has the chance to go and spend the money they bring in during the school day. The Fair is then open after school until 4.30pm for parents and children.

Christmas Jumper day

Children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers on Christmas lunch day, which is Wednesday 18th December.

Christmas Performances

This year at the request of some parents we will be running a creche for the main performance so that parents can concentrate on the children performing. If you are unable to get your younger children looked after you are welcome to come and watch the dress rehearsal. As our numbers are growing to be fair to all parents please come to 1 performance to watch your child not both. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Christmas Cards

On Monday 2nd December we will be putting the school Christmas Tree up and the Christmas Card post box will be put out for the children to use. Please encourage your child to write their friends name and class on the envelope.

May bank holiday

Due to celebrating the anniversary of VE day the first bank holiday in May is not a Monday it is Friday 8th May.

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.



Books for schools-tokens

I have registered Oxhey Wood with the Sun books for schools- please send any tokens in with your child.

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.

Traffic warning

You may be aware that The Grove Hotel in Chandlers Cross is hosting the NATO Heads of State on Wednesday 4th December 2019. US President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to attend.

Increased traffic congestion is anticipated and restrictions will be in place around the Watford area from 2nd - 4th December. We would therefore advise all parents & carers to plan ahead and allow more time for your journey to School on these dates.

Further details of the NATO road closures can be found here:

<https://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/18033797.people-warned-traffic-disruption-watford-nato-summit/>

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/Advice/NATO/NATO>

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 affect how they settle back into school.

At this time of year children may get colds, but to build their immunity please encourage them to come in to school. Learning continues until the end of term as well as exciting activities; I know you will support your child in coming to school so that they don't miss out.

The following classes have achieved 95% and above attendance this week;

2 Windsor – 99.1%

5 Shakespeare – 98.1%

1 Darwin – 97.7%

Reception Donaldson –97%

3/4 Hamilton – 95.7%

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 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.

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

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

School Uniform and Ordering

We 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.

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.



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 28th October-1st November 2019

End of term Friday 20th December 2pm

6th January 2020 INSET day

7th January 2020 children return to school

Half term 17th-21st February

End of term 3rd April 2020 at 2pm

Children return Monday 20th April

May bank holiday Friday 8th May 2020

Half term 25th-29th May 2020

Inset day Monday 1st June

Break up Friday 17th July at 2pm

Dates have now been set for the school year 2020-2021.

Please do not book any holidays during term time

Children return on Monday 7th September, to support your child please make sure they return on this day to help them settle back into school routines.

2nd September 2020-occasional day-school closed

3rd September INSET

4th September-INSET

Children return 7th September 2020

Half term 26-30th October 2020

End of term 18th December 2pm

INSET 4th January 2021

Children return 5th January 2021

Half term 15-19 February 2021

End of term 26th March 2021 2pm

Children return 12th April 2021

Half term 31st May-4th June 2021

INSET 7th June 2021

Term ends for children 21st July 2021 2pm

INSET 22nd July 2021