



Oxhey Wood Weekly Newsletter

Friday 18th October September

Fundraising

Halloween Disco – Thursday 24th October

Non school uniform day - Friday 25th October- bring sweets or £1

Bonfire Celebration – Tuesday 5th November

Non school uniform day - Friday 15th November-bring a bottle or £1

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



This week

In assembly this week we read a story about being respectful of others property. It is great to see how well the children now understand our 3 rules of Ready, Respect and Safe and in this week's assembly we linked respect to looking after equipment and resources in school and their own property they bring to school.

As you will be aware we introduced our three new rules in January. Some children need extra support with learning and some need extra support to understand and follow our rules; for some children they need support for a short time, others longer depending on the level of learning need or social and emotional need. If a child makes the wrong choice there is always an appropriate consequence to help them develop socially, but to avoid children becoming labelled this is done away from others. It is great to see the significant majority of children always making the right choices and this is positively reinforced through for example, dojo's, hot chocolate Friday, golden time, praise from teachers, teaching assistants, mini MSA's and senior leaders.

I have spent time this week looking at every child's topic, science and guided reading books in Years 1-6 and have been really impressed with the children's work both in terms of quality and quantity. I have also looked at the learning journals in Nursery and Reception and I know when you look at your child's work next week you will feel very proud of your children.

The Woods

As you will be aware we have public woods next to our playground. Some children told staff they had seen someone near to the fence; we checked straight away and also informed the police who visited school this week. We have an adult on duty near the fence at all times as this is an area the public can use.

Next week

Next week is parents evening-on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each teacher will also have some times during the day if this is easier for you. If you have not yet signed up for an appointment: please speak to your child's class teacher. Chartwell's our new school meal provider will have food for you to taste on Wednesday after school; please try the food that will be available in the dining room.

School Photos

Can you please make sure your photo orders and money are handed into school by Thursday 24th October. After this date orders will need to be made through Kittle directly.

Harvest-Thursday 24th October

Next week children from Reception to Year 6 will be sharing a harvest assembly at 9.15am. Each class will sing a song and there will be a whole school song at the end. You are very welcome to attend. If you are able to donate any food for a local foodbank charity, please send this in next week.

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. If you need any help in applying, please ask at the office.

Poster Competition- closing date 23rd October

Watford Rural Parish Council are running a poster competition for their Christmas Fun Day- 30th November 11am-3pm at Oxhey Wood School. If your child would like to enter all posters should be on A4 paper-children can take paper home for this, please bring any entries in by Wednesday 23rd October.

Half term holiday club-Junior Playmakers. www.juniorplaymakers.co.uk

Junior Playmakers will be running a holiday club at Warren Dell every week day at half term.

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.

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;

1 Darwin – 99%

5 Rosen – 97.8%

3/4 Simmonds – 97.3%

3/4 Hamilton – 97.1%

2 Tudor – 96.5%

6 Glennie – 95.2%

1 Sharman – 95.2

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.

Year 1 Stay and Learn Wednesday 20th November 9-10am

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 28 th 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 9.15am
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 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