



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, Christmas is in full swing at Oughton! Our hall looks lovely with the Christmas displays and trees. Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fayre. Thank you to the Friends of Oughton and staff who organised this event. We are calculating the profit at the moment, when we have a total, we will let you know. Please make sure you join us in our 2016 Christmas Performances - Reception and Nursery plus KS1 (Year 1 and 2). KS2 are leading a Carol Concert. Please see the diary dates.

Oughton LIFE Mosaic

We hope that you have seen our mosaics at the front of the school. An artist visited us and worked with children in Reception to Year 4. The children designed our mosaic and it shows our strapline: Oughton LIFE - Learning, Inclusion, Friendship and Enjoyment for all. All areas of the curriculum are displayed in this artwork. Reception completed a sunflower which is in the Early Years outside classroom area.



Absences / Lateness

Just to remind all Parents, if your child is ill, please ring the Office before 9:15am and then follow up with a letter explaining why your child was not in school. Alternatively, you can email attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk. No absences are authorised without written reason. Absences for children with less than 90% attendance will not be authorised without medical evidence. Please do not book holidays in term time, holidays are not authorised. Be aware we operate a fine system regarding unauthorised absences. Lates also count as absences and are impacting on the work of the Office staff as well as the learning of the child who is late. Doors open at 8:45am and registers are taken at 9am. Please see our Attendance Policy.

Premises

Please be aware that our site has many trees which shed their leaves at this time of year. Please be careful in the ice and in the wet weather as it is not possible for us to remove all the leaves to completely clear the paths.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Please ensure you look at the school calendar for full dates across the year on our website.

13th Dec - R-Y6 Trip to Panto, Stevenage

14th Dec - KS1 Performance 9.30am

14th Dec - School Christmas Lunch

15th Dec - EYFS Performance 9.30am

15th Dec - KS1 Performance 2pm

16th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day. £1 Donation

16th Dec - EYFS Performance 9.30am

20th Dec - KS2 Carol Concert 2.30pm

21st Dec - Last day of term. School finishes at 2pm.

2017

9th Jan 2017 - Children return to school

School Dinners

Once again, I need to remind Parents in Years 3 to 6, that any school dinners must be paid for **in advance**. We do not have money in our school budget to pay for dinners. We still make a lot of phone calls each week chasing up bills. This impacts on the work by the Office staff and is a cost to us.

If you think your child might be entitled to Free School Dinners please visit the Hertfordshire County Council website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals or call 0300 123 4048

PE Kit

Please make sure your child leaves their kit in school: plain white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers or plimsolls for younger children. We still have a high number of children without their kits each week. All children must participate in PE as it is a curriculum subject.

Raising Money for Charity

We have raised a lot of money for charity this term. Thank you to everyone who either made or bought cakes for MacMillan; we raised £122.50. We raised £221.20 for Jeans for Genes Day and £291.52 for Children In Need. We are currently raising money for Christmas hampers for families in Hitchin as part of the Hitchin Partnership. Thank you for your help and support. We are very proud of our charity appeals.

Snow News

If the school needs to shut due to Health and Safety, BBC Three Counties, BOB FM and Heart Radio stations will be informed, the School website and the Herts County Council website will show this and a text and email will be sent out in the morning as early as possible via ParentMail.

If the conditions are deemed icy or severe snow and the school is open, the front entrance may be used and children can be dropped off at this entrance. Reception children will use their normal entrance.

Please ensure that your child has a coat, wellington boots (in the event of snow) hat, scarf and gloves. Please ensure all clothing is labelled. If your child walks to school in boots, please ensure that they have their black shoes ready to change into.

We aim not to close mid school day and would only do so in an emergency.

We aim to be open at all times and will only shut if we do not have enough staff or if there is a problem with our heating.

School Council and Parking

Our School Council have written a letter to Parents regarding parking outside the school, which they feel is an issue.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is an important letter because people are parking on the zig zag lines. We want to tell you that there are zig zag lines at the back of the school and at the front of our school, so please can you not park on them because it is dangerous. This is dangerous because when children are crossing at the zig zag lines, if they can't see properly they might run into a car.

The zig zag lines are there so that children can get safely in and out of school. In our School Council meeting our ideas were: get a Lollypop person, talk with the Police and repaint the zig zag lines. We are also writing to the Council to help us too.

Thank you for helping us keep all the children safe.

Jake R and Grace on behalf of the School Council.

Governor Update

Governors have been visiting the school this term and meeting subject leaders to discuss their action plans.

Some of the Governors will be joining us for Christmas Dinner and the Performances.



Computing Corner

I am pleased to announce that we have booked a workshop for Parents to understand how to keep children safe online on **20th April 2017 at 2pm**. This will be run by Richard Maskrey, Herts eSafety Advisor and this is the earliest date due to the demand of training. Please keep this date in your diary.