



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it has been a very busy half term. I can hardly believe it is the half term holiday next week. There are just a few updates at the moment.

Welcome to Mrs Phillipson, who is our new Inclusion Manager, taking over from Mrs Riddle regarding Special Educational Needs. Mrs Phillipson is also focusing on different groups of children across the school including more able children.

Attendance

Please ring the school office if your child is not in school due to illness. We are spending a lot of time phoning Parents, which is impacting on our school budget. When your child returns to school, please write a letter explaining the reason for their illness in more detail. All absences which are below 90% will automatically be unauthorised unless medical evidence is given. Our school works with the Attendance Improvement Officer and operates a fining system when **15 or more absences are unauthorised**. Our school target is for every child to be at school at least 96% of the school year. I am pleased to say that many children reach this target and higher. In December, the winning class for attendance was Alder ED with 98.7% - well done! The names of children who achieved 100% attendance in the autumn term are displayed in the front foyer, well done to all 102 children.

Punctuality

Our doors open at 8:45am and children come into the classroom. The register is taken at 9am. There are a number of children who are constantly late to school. Lates will be marked as unauthorised absences. Please ensure that your child is on time for school and enters their class at the classroom door.

Sports Awards

Miss Daniels has introduced Sport Superstar Awards this week to promote achievement in sport. Children will be nominated by their teachers for their efforts, commitment and achievements in sport, either in or out of school. Certificates will be given out and children's names displayed in the gym. All names will be put into a raffle for prizes on Sport Relief Day on 18th March.

Yours sincerely **Lisa Clayton Headteacher**

Diary Dates

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

Open Evening: This week

Wed 4 - 6 pm

Thurs 6 - 8 pm

If you have not received your appointment time, please ring the School Office and they will speak to your child's teacher.

Half term 15th - 19th Feb

Back to School: Monday 22nd Feb

1st March: Year 5 Let's Celebrate 2.45pm

3rd March: Mother's Day Service St Mark's Church 2.30pm

4th March: World Book Day - Bedtime Stories Day

18th March: Sport Relief

22nd March: Year 2 Trip to Shuttleworth

22nd March: Year 1 Let's Celebrate 2:45pm.

Last day before Easter: Thu 24th March, back in school Tues 29th March to 1st April.

Easter Holidays: 4th April - 15th April

Back to School: 18th April

Music

Mrs Strange has arranged for a Junk Musician to perform in school on Thu 25th February and run workshops with some classes.

We enjoyed this performance a few years ago and it was so successful that the musician has been booked again! I am sure that the children will enjoy the performance and workshops.

School Improvement Update

Thank you for those Parents who attended our Talk of the Town Workshop, the feedback was very positive. The Talk of the Town Intervention Groups have continued to develop children's spoken language. This half term, our Senior Leaders have been focusing on speaking skills and challenge in the classroom. Our Senior Leaders visit classrooms and discuss learning with children and staff.

Some staff have had additional training to support teaching towards the new tests in Year 2 and 6, focusing on maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Please continue to support your child with their homework; reading books, Learning Logs, maths workbooks (Year 6) and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Dinners

Herts Catering have been working with our School Council to find out their views about School Dinners. They have also spoken to Year 3 children and provided children with the opportunity to taste some of the food. Herts Catering will be showcasing their food at Open Evening this week, so take a look.

If your child would like a school dinner, please pay in advance. The school can not supplement school dinners in the budget.

World Thinking Day

On Monday 22nd February it is World Thinking Day. Children who are Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Rainbows, Brownies or Guides can wear their uniform to school to celebrate the birthdays of the founders of Scouting and Guiding - Lord and Lady Baden Powell.

Governor Update

Governors have been busy this half term with meetings focusing on standards and assessment, premises, staff and the budget.



Some Governors have visited classes this half term.

ICT Corner

As you may be aware from the Learning Log objective this week, it is Safer Internet Day at Oughton on Wednesday 10th February. The aim is to ensure that children are aware of cyber bullying and how to take positive action if they see any cyber bullying. Please talk to your child about this topic.

It is important that all children know how to keep themselves safe when using computers, iPads and mobile phones.

Our Website is:
www.oughton.herts.sch.uk

