



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe it is the Summer term already. This year is flying by!

As the Covid regulations are adapted once again, we start to live with Covid. Please make sure that you are familiar with the guidance. A ParentMail giving all information was sent out recently. We will not be informing Parents of cases within classes unless we are instructed by the Local Authority to do so or in the event of an Outbreak.

Exciting staff news

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Smith has joined Mrs Phillipson in the role of Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Smith will continue to teach Year 6 but will be working closely with myself and Mrs Phillipson, focusing on leading and developing Oughton Primary and Nursery School further.

Curriculum

As you are aware, our drive within our curriculum is language in order to extend the children's vocabulary. You can support us by talking to your child about their learning. Try to build in some take time each day to talk about the school day, focusing on the lessons and what they can remember from the day.

Retention and memory is key to children's learning and talking about subjects, facts and methods helps to reinforce learning. It is important to make links between subjects and previous learning.

Class curriculum letters will be sent out shortly via ParentMail. Some Parents have requested more information about what is being taught at Oughton; we would like to take this opportunity to remind you to look on our website under the Curriculum tab to find out more. You will see our Curriculum Intent statement, an overview for each subject, showing what is taught in each year group plus some additional information. We are in the process of adding more content on the EYFS tab, although Nursery and Reception learning can be seen in all curriculum areas as well. Our Phonics teaching is clearly laid out and will be useful to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Parents in particular.

We are also updating each Class page on the website at the present time.

Attendance

Please ensure that your child attends school regularly. We have a growing number of children whose attendance is dropping below 90%; this leads us into monitoring their attendance carefully. I check all absences across the school each day and monitor alongside Mrs King in our front office, Mrs Phillipson and Mrs Woollon (Pastoral Manager).

If your child is absent from school, you **must inform us** - ring or send a ParentMail or email: attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk in order to explain why your child is not in school. It is a legal requirement for children to attend school once they are over the age of 5. As a school, we do use a Penalty Fines system with the LA and we also involve external agencies (Attendance Officers and Children's Services) when we are concerned about a child's regular absence from school. A common cold or runny nose is not an acceptable reason to keep a child off school and minor illnesses such as these or tummy aches will not be authorised unless there is a medical reason. Remembers, holidays should be booked out of term time and will not be authorised.

Children only have one chance at their early education and good attendance is key to this. We aim to provide every child with a broad and creative curriculum based on deep learning which identifies and responds to priorities against each pupils' strengths and needs in order to prepare them for the next stage of their life. This can only be done if they regularly attend. Poor attendance can lead to lower progress, lower achievement (often below their peers) which reduces their options in life. We strive for every child to fulfil their potential in life.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton
Headteacher

Please check ParentMail and read all messages sent out.

Calendar

2021 / 2022 dates are on our website.

Tues 3rd May: KS 1 Playground development starts.

Week beginning 9th May: SATS week for Year 6 (tests in school)

Fortnight beginning 16th May - Year 2 SATS (within class, Teacher Assessment)

Tues 17th May: Let's Celebrate Reception (Pear) Assembly.

Week beginning 23rd May: Walk to School Week and Recycling Assembly (LA visitor)

Tues 24th May: Parents Coffee Morning

Thursday 26th May: Platinum Jubilee Celebration within school

Friday 27th May: INSET Day, no children in school and half term the following week.

Development at Oughton

Over the last 3 years, we have worked hard to provide Key Stage 2 with extra playground equipment and now I am pleased to announce that we are now redeveloping part of our Key Stage 1 Playground.

Year 1 have been focusing on a project to redevelop this area as part of their Design and Technology work. The building work will commence on Tuesday 3rd May.

Please ensure that you keep your children away from areas cordoned off, in order to keep them safe. We will keep you guessing as to what will be built!

Governor Update

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Victoria Brown, who has a child in Year 4, has stepped forward to offer her services to the school as a Parent Governor.

Thank you Mrs Brown, on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to welcome you.

Governors this term will be discussing our school budget, looking at the priorities across the school and talking about our School Improvement Plan.