



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

December 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can not believe that Christmas is nearly upon us! I would just like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2015.



We have a lot of Christmas celebrations this week. Well done to our Nursery and Reception children who performed a very special Christmas Play last week.

This week:

- Wed 9:30am Year 1 / 2 Christmas Production
- Wed 2pm Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert (KS2 parents welcome)
- Thurs 18th Dec: a special treat for all and hopefully a visit from ... you know who(sshh)!
- Thurs 18th Dec: class parties. Children may wear their party clothes to school (sensible footwear please and no jewellery).
- Thurs 18th Dec: early finish 2pm.



Thank you to our PTA and staff for a great Christmas Fayre and disco this year. Well done to Year 6 who won our Christmas Tree Festival with their tribute to 'The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe.'

Staffing news

We say goodbye to Mrs Doggett, a Teaching Assistant who has worked in our Nursery since Easter. She is leaving us for a job closer to home. We wish her well. We are interviewing for her replacement this week.

School Improvement Update

We have had a busy term focusing on reading, writing and maths across the curriculum. We have closely monitored lessons and looked at the work children produce. We are pleased with the progress the school is making and continue to focus on learning across the school.



Yours sincerely **Lisa Clayton Headteacher**

Diary Dates

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

School breaks up on Thursday 18th December!

Mon 5th Jan: Inset Day—School Closed

Tues 6th Jan: School starts

**Thurs 8th Jan:
Reception to Year 6
trip to Stevenage
Theatre to watch the
Aladdin Pantomime.**



**First 2 weeks in Jan:
Year 5 and Year 6
Progress Meetings with Parents.**

**Tues 10th Feb: Year 3 Let's
Celebrate Assembly**

**Wed 11th Feb / Thurs 12th Feb:
Open Evening**

Fri 13th Feb: I love Science Day!

16th-19th Feb Half term

**Trips and visitors are currently
being booked to support our
curriculum.**

How you can help

Please hear your child read daily at home and discuss their books. Frequent reading helps children develop their language and comprehension. Please help your child with their maths facts: learning number bonds to 10, 20, 100 and multiplication facts. Please count with your child ie counting in odd numbers, even numbers, 4's, 8's etc.

Snow news—Due to the winter weather we are currently experiencing, please ensure that your child has a coat, wellington boots (in the event of snow) hat, scarf and gloves. All clothing must be labelled. If your child walks to school in boots, please ensure that they have their black school shoes ready to change into. Make sure you keep an eye on the weather reports. If the conditions are deemed icy or severe snow, the front entrance may be used and children can be dropped off at this entrance. If the school needs to shut due to Health and Safety of the pupils, **Three Counties Radio** will be informed. The **School website** and **Herts Direct website** will show this and a text and email will be sent out in the morning as early as possible via **Parentmail**. We aim not to close during the school day and would only do so in an emergency. Parents would be contacted via Parentmail or telephoned directly.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember the school receives extra money for children who are entitled to **Free School Meals**. This is regardless of the entitlement of all in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. **However, unless you register for this, the school will not receive extra money that we can use to support your child.** You can apply for this by calling 03001234048 or visiting the hertsdirect website at

www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Please remember, you are entitled to a free school jumper if you are registered for this.

Sign up so everyone benefits!

Communication

Please sign up to Parentmail. We have paid for the facility for more text messages in order to keep you well informed.

It has been brought to our attention that Parents and Carers would like more up-to-date information about the curriculum. We aim to address this through: Parentmail, individual classroom whiteboards; our new website, using social networking, and a school blog to keep you informed.

Governor Update

Our School Governors have greatly been involved this term. Mr Gary Neville visited us focusing on Health and Safety and met with Mrs Banton (Caretaker). Rev Jane Mainwaring visited the Foundation Stage classes and has been involved in many meetings. Mrs Ro Freestone has visited our Year 6 class and attended many meetings. Mrs Helen Matthews has visited the school and supported PTA events. Mrs Allison Drakes and Mr Peter Watson have worked hard with our new website, which is near its launch. We are in the midst of changing our domain name and are awaiting confirmation. Once we have this, the new website will be up and running. Mr Dan Nearney, who many of you are aware is an Assistant Head at The Priory School, has also visited our Year 6 class.



Remember if you would like to get in touch with a school Governor they can be emailed on:

governors@ohjm.herts.sch.uk

Dinners

Please ensure that your child is able to use a knife and fork when eating. There are a lot of children who are unable to use knives effectively. This helps the children's fine motor skills and promotes good table manners.

ICT Corner

Mrs Pritchard and Mrs Smith have attended an iPad course focusing on creative learning using computing. New ideas have been gathered to further enhance the use of the iPads. A number of children in Year 5 have been entered in 'The Golden Book' for their use of iPad and art to create moving and talking pictures. These were very impressive, well done Year 5.

