



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

October 2014

Diary Dates

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe it is already October, and we have been back over a month! Time flies when you are working hard and the children and staff are certainly doing that. We have not kept still, since returning on the 1st September. The children are now fully settled into their new classes and routines. You will be pleased to know that Nibbles and Humphrey (the school guinea pigs) are very happily settled into life at Oughton. They may be small, but their calming presence is felt throughout Key Stage 2.

Communication

Thank you to those parents who have answered our September plea to sign up with Parentmail. Parentmail will be updated as soon as possible for our Reception parents. We will continue to send out paper copies until the system is up to date.



Again, just a reminder to read the whiteboards on display outside the classrooms for any individual information relevant to the classes.

School Improvement Update

This term's BIG progress drive is reading and writing. Staff are planning different ways to engage the children in writing: you may have heard about a recent visit from Sir Messalot, in Y5, and a witch in Y4! Monitoring of the children's writing so far this term is showing a creative approach is making an impact on raising standards. You can help your child in so many ways at home; making them writing-ready for school. Encourage them to write a diary, or a news report on a sporting event; encourage them to speak in full sentences, modelling good language. If they have a writing task, get them to use a 'writer's voice' (a telephone voice!), remembering we don't write as we speak! Well done to all staff and children.



Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton Headteacher

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

Mon 6th Oct—Sword in the Stone Panto in school—pm for Reception to Year 6.

Tues 7th Oct—Pupil and Family Photos

Tues 7th Oct—Scarecrow Festival 3:15pm—all Parents invited.

Wed 8th Oct—Reception Parents Maths workshop 2:30pm

Wed 14th Oct—Year 6 Let's Celebrate

Wed 15th Oct—Sticks & Stones , Anti Bullying Play (Year 1—Year 5).

Wed 15th Oct—17th Oct—Year 6 Residential visit to Kingswood

Wed 22nd and Thurs 23rd Oct—Open Evening for Reception to Year 6 Parents.

Half term: 27th Oct—31st Oct

INSET DAY: Mon 3rd Nov—Training day for staff only: No children in school please.

PTA Up-date

Many thanks to the parents who have volunteered to join our very friendly school PTA! With lots more helpers onboard, we will be able to put on exciting events for you and your child. We are hoping to appoint a PTA member for each class, so that messages and information from the PTA gets straight to you and if you have any suggestions, you know who to tell! **Watch this space.**

Guinea Pigs@Oughton

Welcome to Humphrey and Nibbles! We ran a competition to name our new Oughton pets and had hundreds of entries, ranging from 'Penguin' (quite a popular one), Trevor and Ant and Dec. Finally, during a Monday assembly, two names were pulled out of the bag. Congratulations to Sammi, for choosing Nibbles and Taye, for choosing Humphrey. However, we now think that the names should have been the other way round as Humphrey quite likes 'nibbling' fingers! To say the animals have been a big hit is an understatement. I have been thrilled with the numbers of children in KS2 coming to feed, hold and clean the cages out. Without their help, the animals would not be as happy as they obviously are. Another HUGE thank you goes to Mrs. Banton, who has carefully constructed a pen so that the guinea pigs can't escape, whilst being cuddled by the children. If you are concerned about the guinea pigs at weekends, please don't fret. They are not left 'home alone' at school. Instead they come for some rest and recuperation, after a week of school madness, at Mrs. Lewis' home in Bedfordshire! As it has been such a success, we will be extending guinea pig time to the lower years. Perhaps we may have to have another couple of guinea pigs, Mrs.



grateful!
Mrs. Lewis

Clayton...? Chickens? Tropical Fish...? I can dream! Mrs. Banton! What about those miniature pigs? ***Got any spare vegetables, fruit or a bit of leftover salad from dinner last night? Pop it into Mrs. Lewis' classroom and the guinea pigs will be extremely***

Let's Celebrate Assemblies

Please join us for your child's class' Let's Celebrate Assembly. These are held across the year and are a chance for you to find out more about the curriculum within school. They are as follows:

- 14/10/14 Y6: Silver Birch
- 18/11/14 Y4: Beech
- 20/11/14 Y2: Both Classes
- 10/02/15 Y3: Alder
- 3/03/15 Y5: Willow
- 24/03/15 Y1: Both Classes
- 19/05/15
- Reception: Pear
- A
- 2/06/15 Nursery: Plum



School Website

We are currently working with our Governors to revamp our website. We are very near its completion.

Another Reminder about...Free School Meals

Please remember to register for Free School Meals if you are entitled to this, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The school receives extra money to support the Free School Meals children within school. This money is called Pupil Premium Grant. You can see how we spend this money on our website. You can apply for this by calling 03001234048 or visiting the hertsdirect website at

www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Governor Update

Governors have met with their link teachers to discuss priorities for their subject and read through new action plans. It was a most useful meeting, as there were several new Governors and teachers joining the team. All Governors now feel fully informed about their subjects and are looking forward to coming into school to see learning in action. Remember if you would like to get in touch with a school Governor they can be emailed on: governors@ohjm.herts.sch.uk



SCARECROW FESTIVAL!

Next Tuesday (7th October) is our annual **Scarecrow Festival** to tie in with our Harvest Celebration. Please join us after school, pay 20p and enter the Scarecrow vote. I can tell you, the theme will make you smile! Mrs. Dovey's famous vegetable soup will also be available for a small fee. We need donations of vegetables towards the soup. KS1: Please see your class' whiteboard for the vegetable we would like you to bring. **Many thanks in advance for your generosity.**

