



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

How strange the weather is at the moment! We seem to need to plan for every occasion - sun cream, hats, rain coats and umbrellas!

Staff news

It is with much sadness to share that Miss Papamichael passed away last Thursday. She had been ill for about 8 months and lost her battle with cancer. She was a fantastic Midday Supervisor and she sometimes helped out as a Teaching Assistant. We have told the children who knew her today. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this very difficult time.

Ms Lemos left at the end of the spring term for health reasons. We wish her well for the future. Mrs Merriman is now teaching in Year 3 for 3 days and continues to work in Year 6 for the other 2 days. Mrs Merriman was previously teaching across the school and we are pleased that she has stepped in for the summer term.

Well done to Mrs Phillipson for running the London Marathon - wow! Congratulations on raising a lot of money to support mental health.

Friends of Oughton

Thank you to Friends of Oughton, staff and Parents who organised our Easter Egg Hunt just before the holiday. It was a great success and the children enjoyed it.

Sports Relief

Thank you to everyone who dressed in red or sports wear for Sports Relief on 23rd March and to all the children that ran a mile during the day. We raised £221.50.

Year 6

I am very pleased with our Year 6 class who continue to work hard in preparation for their SATS tests in a few weeks. Many children have attended the holiday booster lessons and many attend after school boosters plus Morning Maths. We can see a huge difference in the progress of those children who attend these extra sessions. Thank you Parents for supporting us and encouraging your children to attend. Well done Silver Birch!

Yours faithfully,
Lisa Clayton
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Please look at the school calendar for key dates on our website.

Dates:

Mon 7th May: Bank Holiday

Thurs 10th May: Messy Church at 3:15pm

Week of 14th May: Year 6 SATS tests.

Tues 22nd May: Reception Let's Celebrate Assembly 2.45pm

Fri 25th May: INSET day - no children in school

Dinner money

I apologise for moaning again about this issue. However, the collecting of dinner money continues to be a big problem for us regarding Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. We spend so long chasing Parents for money. This is not our job, it should be paid in advance or Parents should send in a packed lunch. We phone, send texts and letters; this is at a cost to our school. Herts Catering is a separate company to Oughton.

To be blunt, you can not visit a restaurant, eat and not pay your bill for a few weeks or longer.

We DO NOT have money in our school budget to pay outstanding bills to Herts Catering.

Please pay in advance.

Attendance

We continue to monitor our attendance closely. Well done to Pear class who were the top class for attendance for the second half of the Spring term. They receive their class certificate and extra play.

Please remember, if your child's attendance drops below 90%, we will require medical evidence such as medication, appointment cards etc. in order to authorise their attendance. We still continue to have many children below 90%.

Just a reminder we do not authorise any holidays or days away during school time, unless it is exceptional circumstances. **Our school target is 96% for each child.**

- 95% = 8 days missed in education or 1 week and 3 days, approximately 47 lessons.
- 90% = 16 days missed in education or 3 weeks and 1 day, approximately 95 lessons
- 85% = 24 days missed in education or 4 weeks and 4 days, approximately 142 lessons
- 80% = 32 days missed in education or 6 weeks and 2 days, approximately 190 lessons

We do have a significant number of children who have an attendance of 90% or below. This greatly impacts on their learning and the gap between others can widen. This month we **have been looking at the progress of each child in reading, writing, maths and science and it is very evident that poor attendance is impacting on progress.**

If your child arrives late each day i.e. after 9:15am, they will have missed a lesson. Our learning starts at 9am and our classes focus on reading at this time. This life skill is vital so **please ensure your child is in their class by 9am.** Our office staff have other work to do and late children are impacting on other important work.

Attendance last half term:

Well done to: Mia, James, Akaalvir, Brianna, Albi, Rowen, Logan, Hayden, Kay-Den, Esmae, Elsie, Louis (Reception), Riley, Markuss, Amelia, Jake, Harleen, Thomas, Cadence, Theo, Ollie, Ethan, Alivia, Connor, Amiyah, Daniel, Youssef, Demi, Madison, Othelia, Teodora (Year 1), Logan, Freddie, Solomon, Macy, Alex, Olly (Year 2), Corey, Rachel, Lucas, Harry, Bethany, Peyton, Kyi, Ernie, Tyler, Lola, Alfie, Tia, Mia, Amy (Year 3), Kayo, Megan, Cynthia, Megan, Shea, Lewis, Mason, Shinead, Niamh, Kai, Mohammed, Willow, Jack, Henry, Annie, Connor (Year 4), Erin, Chiara, Olivia, Sophie, Anabelle, Dylan, Indiyah, Bartosz, Chloe, Charlotte, Alex, Tianna (Year 5), Kadeeza, Caleb, Boyd, Jessica, Jamie, Bailey, Caitlin (Year 6)

All 100% attendance last half term Feb - March! Wow 86 children!

Visitors to school

We have been focusing on road safety. Year 2 and 3 had a Scooter workshop this month with a Hertfordshire Advisor. There are other workshops booked for this term.

Year 2, 3 and 4 took part in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths workshop run by Setpoint last week. The children enjoyed this, completing challenges in groups.

Governor Update

Some of our Governors have been visiting the school and talking to our subject leaders about developments across the curriculum. We have been looking at the use of our budget and our School Improvement Plan.

