



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe it is almost Christmas already! Where has this term gone? I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2018.

Staff News

Mrs Colver, our Deputy Headteacher and Year 3 teacher will be leaving us this term. Mrs Colver has decided to take some time to be with her family. We wish her well for the future. Ms Lemos will be starting in January, as a teacher in Year 3 for 3 days. She has already met the class and worked with them this term.

Miss Duggan will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this term. We look forward to meeting the new addition to her family and wish her well. We will await this exciting news. Mrs Boyd and Mrs Jay have joined our team of Teaching Assistants. They will be working in Year 3 and Year 4.

Christmas News

Thank you to our Friends of Oughton and staff who organised our Christmas Fayre. It was well attended and we raised a lot of money. The final total is being calculated at present to include our Secret Christmas Gift Shop.

Thank you to the Friends of Oughton and staff who organised the disco this half term. Thank you to the Parents who helped supervise the children along with staff. We appreciate your help.

Our school Christmas dinner was lovely this year. Thank you to the Herts Catering team, led by Mrs McIntyre who cooked the dinner for all. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Jordan who organised and set out all of the tables, decorations and bought the children some sweets. Thank you also to some Governors who were able to join us for this event.

Well done to our KS 1 and Early Years team. The performances were fantastic this year. The singing was superb and the costumes were lovely. We were very proud of our children and I am sure that Parents were too. I am sure that the KS 2 Carol Concert will be as good.

Have a lovely Christmas

Yours faithfully,
Lisa Clayton Headteacher

Diary Dates

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

Dates:

Please note:

19th Dec: Last day 2pm finish

3rd Jan: Inset Day:

children are not in school
4th Jan: Children back to school

9th Jan: Rec to Year 6 trip to Milton Keynes Pantomime

Please note:

Please ensure that your child wears full school uniform, including black shoes. Trainers are **not** part of our school uniform. For those without, maybe Father Christmas could provide black school shoes! Long hair (once shoulder length) should be tied back. Earrings **must** be removed on PE days. If your child finds it difficult to remove their own earrings, please ensure you take them out before the start of the school day.

Please book your child in and pay for Breakfast Club in advance. No payment can be taken on the day.

Please pay for school dinners in advance!

Attendance Matters!

Our whole school average is currently 95% (we could do better). Please help us improve. As a Parent/Carer, you want the best for your children. Having a good education is an important factor in opening up opportunities in adult life. ***Did you know.....***

- ◇ a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of 2 years of their school life
- ◇ poor exam results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- ◇ poor school attendance is closely linked to crime
- ◇ at least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- ◇ 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absences
- ◇ 90% of young people with absence rates **below 85% fail** to achieve 5 or more good grades of GCSE and one third achieve no GCSEs at all

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child, but all absences at each stage in education (Early Years, KS 1 and KS 2) lead to gaps in your child's learning. We are currently keeping in close contact with Parents regarding their children's attendance. We are sending out letters when attendance falls and informing Parents of our policy. Please see our Attendance Policy on our website.

Well done to: Ethel, Ameira (Nursery) Zye, Max, Kay-Den, Elliemae, Elsie (Reception) Markuss, Madison, Thomas, Ethan, Eoin, Demi, Destiny, Connor (Year 1) Timur, Georgia, Solomon, Macy, Alex, Yasmin, Olly (Year 2) Skye, Kyi, Ernie, Summer, Mia, Chayse (Year 3) Megan, Mason, Megan, Niamh, Jack, Grace, Connor (Year 4) Chloe, Alexi, Taye, Daniel, Jake, Luke (Year 5) Boyd, Shane, Jessica, Chloe, Buba, Bailey, Calum, Harry, Maddison (Year 6) **All 100% attendance this term to date! Wow 50 children!**

Christmas Tree Festival

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual Christmas Tree Festival. Our trees this year were based on Christmas Carols. We raised £17.03, which will go into our school fund to support our trips and resources.

Hampers

Thank you to each class who raised money for the Hitchin Partnership Hamper appeal. We raised £134.02 and purchased 72 selection boxes for this. Well done everyone.

Christmas Jumper Day

We all looked very Christmassy last Friday in our Christmas attire! We raised £206.30 in support of Save the Children. Many thanks to everyone.

[Governor Update](#)

Our focus this year is subject leadership and the Governors have met with their link teachers this half term to discuss curriculum Action Plans.

