



# Oughton Primary & Nursery School

## January 2020

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a good Christmas. Thank you to the Friends of Oughton and staff who organized the Christmas Fayre. Thank you for your donations. We raised £93.18 at the Christmas Tree Festival. We also raised £149.55 for Save the Children wearing our Christmas jumpers! Thank you everyone. Our Staff raised £62.92 for Great Ormond Street Hospital instead of sending each other Christmas Cards. Remember to keep any unwanted Christmas gifts to donate to us for the Summer Fayre in July.

We have a busy term planned this year. Last week was 'Aspiration' Week, please discuss with your child their aspirations in life. What do they want to achieve? What job are they interested in pursuing? How are they going to do this? What places would they like to visit? We had visitors in school discussing their roles and jobs in the community and country.

### Attendance

Holidays - all holidays are unauthorised. Please book your holidays out of school term time. Please be aware, we use a penalty fine for unauthorised absences. Lates will be unauthorised. Please ensure your child is at school, in their classroom by 9am. We have a large number of children who arrive later than this, which impacts on their learning as well as the work of others, both staff and other children.

### Health and Safety

Earrings **must** be removed for all PE lessons. We follow PE health and safety guidance. If your child has just had their ears pierced, please cover their ears with tape for the 6 weeks. Restrictions will be made within lessons. After this, they must be taken out. This rule is to safeguard everyone to ensure that no child is injured by an earring. If your child is unable to remove their earrings themselves, you **must** take them out at the start of the school day. Staff do not take children's earrings out. If your child wears earrings to school, please remember, only plain gold / silver studs are allowed - no hoops or other designs such as stars or hearts or diamanté.

Please also ensure that your child does not wear large clips or bows in their hair. Plain hair bands are acceptable.

Please remember, no dogs on the school site and do not drive into our car park or park your car. Our car park is for staff or external visitors only, not Parents or Carers. Thank you.

Yours sincerely **Lisa Clayton Headteacher**

### Diary Dates

Please ensure you look at the school calendar for key dates across 2020 on our website and dates which have been sent to you via Parentmail.

Please see the dates given on a separate sheet.

Curriculum Letters are being sent out soon with key dates to note.

Last week was 'Aspiration Week' and we had some visitors into school to inspire the children regarding their jobs and roles within the community.

Tues 21st Jan: Y1 Elm visitor - Rev. Jane / Year 4 Beech Let's Celebrate Assembly 2:45pm

Wed 22nd Jan: Y1 Elm Class Walk to the local park as part of their DT work.

Thurs 23rd Jan: Chinese New Year

Fri 24th Jan: Rec 'Wow day'.

Tues 28th Jan: Y3 Let's Celebrate Assembly 2:45pm

Thurs 30th Jan: Y2 Oak visit to St Mark's Church

Fri 31st Jan: Y4 Beech Viking Wow Day

### School Council Update

*Our School Council meet every fortnight and met last week.*

*They are currently planning an Environment Day to be held in March. We know that this is a key issue for all of our lives and I am pleased that our School Council are promoting conservation and sustainability, this is vital to support the environment.*

*The School Council are also requesting feedback from their peers about our school dinners to find out views.*

## Resilience

On the 6th Jan, our Inset Day, staff undertook Resilience training with Young Minds to build up their knowledge in order to further develop resilience in children.

Resilience is vital in life and children need to understand that we learn when things go wrong and that there are changes all of the time. It is the way that we deal with these changes that makes the difference. At Oughton we celebrate progress and perseverance.

“Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”

Nelson Mandela

We looked at the impact of health on resilience; especially sleep and diet. It is vital that children have enough sleep and a healthy diet to deal with everyday challenges. We discussed the impact of a healthy breakfast and ways to look after mental health. We focused on interactions with others and support networks. In school, our Pastoral Team, alongside the members of staff within classes, work closely with children to equip them with the life skills they need, ready for their next steps in life.

We will build on these skills, week beginning 10th February as part of ‘Feeling Good Week’ and we will be highlighting many aspects of resilience at this time. There will be a tea party on the Friday, so look out for the Parentmail invite to book a ticket. Tickets are limited due to space and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

## Internet / TV programmes Update

I am sure that some children received electrical devices for Christmas. If your child did receive a laptop, phone, television, computer, please look into and consider the age appropriate games / programs / apps / programmes.

Please monitor your child's use of the internet. Please be aware that Whatsapp has an age restriction of 16. This age limit was raised a few years ago from 13. No Primary School child should be using this.

We are spending a lot of time dealing with issues following gaming, group chats and inappropriate films / TV programmes. All of these issues stem from home and should not arise in school. Remember, television companies follow the 9pm watershed rules and these programmes are deemed not suitable for children. Please monitor mobile phone usage.

## Governor Update

Rev Jane Mainwaring has been a Governor at Oughton for over 15 years. She has been our Chair of Governors for just over 11 years, working closely with myself and my predecessor, meeting regularly to discuss the developments of the school. Recently within the church, I am delighted to inform you that Rev Jane has been promoted to the position of the Archdeacon of St Albans. This is an excellent and well deserved promotion and I would like to congratulate Rev Jane in this.

Sadly, this has implications for us and I am sorry to announce that Rev Jane will be leaving our Governing Body at the end of the Summer term. We have a replacement Governor, who is also called Rev Jane (I wonder what the children will think of that!) from Tilehouse Baptist Church and she will be starting work with us this term.

