



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

Week beginning 26th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Prior to the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I wrote a message in the Royal Family Book of Condolence which I have copied for you below:

On behalf of the children, staff, Governors, families and community at Oughton Primary and Nursery School, we send our heartfelt condolences to King Charles III and all of the Royal Family. It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Some of us fondly remember seeing the Queen in 2012 when she visited Hitchin, a special moment for our school. This year our school celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, learning about her extraordinary and inspirational life showing true dedication to our country and the Commonwealth.

**Queen Elizabeth II is an example to us all and reflects our British Values.
She will be missed by all us.**

We have been thinking about how we can commemorate her life in school and we are considering different ideas.

Communication

If you have an issue / concern at all regarding school, please speak to your child's Class Teacher in the first instance. Feel free to ring the Office and request a class Teacher to contact you, but please be aware, they may not be able to contact you immediately due to meetings and teaching. If you still have worries after this discussion, please contact our Phase Leaders - Miss Hurley (EYFS / KS 1) and Mrs Smith (KS 2). At the present time, Parents are sometimes coming into school and demanding to see either myself or Mrs Phillipson or emailing to request a meeting with either of us when it is a class based issue. May I remind all Parents to be polite to our Office staff and please follow our procedures.

Attendance

I am concerned about the number of absences already this term, which are not acceptable, including holidays. Holidays will lead to Penalty Warning Letters being sent as these are not authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Tiredness is not a reason to stay off school and also will not be authorised. Remember, children can come to school with a cold. May I remind you to always contact the school each day via ParentMail to inform us of your child's illness. Medical appointments such as dentist / optician need to be made out of school hours. We will be sending information to Parents regularly if a child's attendance drops below 90% so you are aware. Please ensure your child is on time for school as lateness disrupts the learning of others as well as the child who is late. It also disrupts the work of the Office staff who need to be available in the front office and not taking children to their classrooms due to lateness. All Parents need to ensure that their child is in their classroom at 8:45am when learning starts.

Packed Lunches

We are increasingly concerned about some of the home packed lunches provided. Some packed lunches are absolutely superb and are well balanced and healthy; others are not. High sugar / fat content impacts on a child's concentration as well as other health concerns. If you are providing a home packed lunch, it is important that it is a healthy lunch - sandwich with protein / wrap / pasta / rice / salad / pitta / vegetable sticks with hummus etc. Biscuits, a cake or a bar should be limited to one only. Please do not put bars of chocolate in your child's packed lunch. Please limit crisps across the week. Water is the best drink, please be aware of the sugar content in some fruit drinks. Be aware as sugar content can increase considerably with a juice, yoghurt, cake and a bar! If you are struggling with what to put in a home packed lunch, please see: www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/

Remember, Herts Catering Ltd cook on site and provide a variety of healthy meals, hot or cold.

Water bottles in school

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school, filled with only water, no juice.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton

Dates will be published on our school website:

www.oughton.herts.sch.uk

Dates for upcoming half term

Friday 30th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thursday 6th Oct 9am Year 1 Phonics Workshop for Parents
Tues 11th Oct 3:15pm Scarecrow Festival
Thurs 13th Oct Year 4 Multiplication Test Parental Meeting
Tues 18th Oct Wow Day: Year 3 Stone Age & Year 6 WWII
Tues 18th Oct Year 5 Trip to the Cambridge Science Museum
Wed 19th Oct Year 2 Wow Day Antarctica
Fri 21st Oct 9am Parent Coffee Morning
Fri 21st Oct Nursery and Reception Marvellous Me Wow Day.

Half term 24th- 28th October

Year 6 Boosters Monday and Tuesday 9:30-12:00pm during half term

Monday 31st October is an Inset Day - children are not in school.

Tuesday 1st November children return to school.



Daily Dash



Governors

Welcome to Mrs Victoria Brown who attended her first meeting this month. She is our new Parent Governor. Our other Parent Governors are Mrs Julie Simpson and Mrs Rachel Hayzen.

More Governor news to come.

Results of Annual Questionnaire/ Survey - Meeting your child's needs

Following the annual questionnaire to Parents, we will be sharing information about different areas of Oughton Primary and Nursery School over the next few newsletters. In this issue, the focus is on 'meeting your child's needs'. Results from the July questionnaire showed that 96% of those who responded, agreed / strongly agreed or were satisfied that the school meets their particular child's needs. This is a pleasing result which, we hope is reflected in the 99% of you who agreed / strongly agreed or were satisfied that your child is making progress in school. Below you will find information about how our school works to meet your child's particular needs.



- At Oughton Primary and Nursery School, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which focuses on equipping our pupils with the knowledge, skills, vocabulary and life experiences required for the next stage of their education. We feel passionately that all pupils have the right to succeed and should be developed to become enthusiastic and lifelong learners.
- We aim to provide high quality teaching in all subjects across the school. Our Teachers plan lessons to meet the needs of all the children in the class, taking account of what they know already, building on this, ensuring they bridge any gaps.
- All children are encouraged to reflect on their learning and identify their next steps. We have a strong marking policy in place with marking recognising where a child has met the learning outcomes of the lesson as well as identifying how they can improve their work. All children are encouraged to participate in discussions about their learning and should feel that their views are valued. Celebrating success is part of our ethos.
- We offer a number of intervention programmes in a range of areas to support whole class learning, led by both additional Teachers and Teaching Assistants. For Maths, we offer Booster sessions led by our staff and Third Space Learning, which is 1:1 Teacher based Tuition. For Reading, Phonics and Spelling, we have recently introduced Little Wandle and use an online programme, Lexia. In order to support Speech and Language, we use Wellcomm programme in our Early Years and KS1. Finally, we run a number of pastoral interventions such as check-ins, sensory circuits, Drawing and Talking. Some of these interventions are delivered 1:1 and others in small groups. Pupils very much enjoy these interventions, and we are working hard to improve the links between these interventions and work within the classroom.
- We ensure that our staff are well-trained and confident to run these interventions, and have developed "specialist" support staff in certain areas. Staff have had training in sensory circuits, trauma and attachment, mental health, Little Wandle interventions and Speech and Language support.
- Whilst many children's needs are met through our everyday curriculum, with adjustments/ interventions made as required, we also cater for children with a range of additional needs such as communication and interaction needs (e.g. speech, language, Autistic Spectrum Disorder etc); cognition and learning needs (e.g. moderate non-specific learning difficulties, and specific learning difficulties); social, emotional and mental health difficulties (e.g. behaviours reflecting underlying mental health or emotional difficulties, Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Attachment Disorder, bereavement) as well as sensory and/ or physical needs (e.g. hearing, visual or multi-sensory impairments or physical disability). We will always contact Parents or Carers if we have a concern that a child may have a Special Educational Need. We work closely with children with SEN and their Parents which may result in an Individual Support Plan / or Emotional Regulation Plan, which agrees outcomes and how we will all work towards these, and then a review of progress. We do this through meetings and regular informal discussions. We also have a small number of children in school whose needs require further support which is recognised through an individualised Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). Please note the criteria for an EHCP are very specific and a diagnosis of a special need does not mean a child is automatically entitled to one as most needs can be met through everyday school provision.
- The progress of all of our children is tracked each term through professional discussions held between classroom staff, Mrs Clayton and Mrs Phillipson each term (Pupil Progress Meetings). During these meetings analysis of pupil tracking data and test results for individuals and pupil groups is considered alongside progress towards agreed outcomes reviewed and assessments made as to whether the support that is in place has made a difference and what we need to do next. We evaluate this progress against age related expectations.
- The quality of provision, linked to how well pupils are progressing is also evaluated through monitoring of classroom practice, book scrutinises and pupil discussions led by members of the Senior Leadership Team and Curriculum Co-ordinators.
- We are able to offer a wide range of professional expertise in Special Educational Needs, from our own school staff (led by Mrs Phillipson, our SENDCo who holds the National SENCo qualification) and also through consultants who work within our school such as Special Educational Needs Advisory Service, Educational Psychologist, Autism Advisory Service, Speech and Language Therapist, Language and Communication Advisory Teacher, Community Staff Nurse, Paediatric Occupational Therapist, Children's Services, Primary Care and Mental Health Services. Information about these services and what they offer can be found on the Herts for Learning SEN webpages.
- All children have the opportunity to share their views through their School Council representatives. Mrs Phillipson also regularly holds pupil discussions to find out how children with SEN are feeling about their school experience.
- We value feedback on our provision and have a number of systems in place for this from our annual Parent / Carer questionnaires, suggestions received directly from Parents and children, Parent coffee mornings, School Council, Parent / Teacher consultation meetings or our Parent suggestion box.
- We hope that you have found our Parent Information Handbooks sent at the start of the term useful. We have tried to give you as many dates as possible in advance to help you plan accordingly. We hope that you have found our 'Meet the Teacher and Curriculum' sessions informative. The aim of these sessions were to inform you about our curriculum, each cohort's key priorities and explain ways that you can help your child with their learning. If you have any questions or concerns about your child or their learning, please either speak to their Class Teacher at the end of the day to book an appointment to meet them at a mutually convenient time. Please note teachers are not available to speak at morning drop-off as they are busy welcoming and settling their class. Alternatively, please ring the office and our office staff will speak to the Teacher to book a time for you. Some Parents also find emailing the Teacher via our admin email account (admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk) is also a useful way to get any immediate information to the Teacher which could impact their child's day. Please be aware that Teachers are not able to respond immediately but messages will be passed on.
- Parent consultations are an invaluable opportunity to discuss your child's attainment and progress as well as future targets for your child; these have been booked into the diary for 19th / 20th October 2022 and 8th / 9th February 2023. Annual pupil progress reports will be sent out in July; these include assessment information as well as any statutory assessment/ SATs results as appropriate.
- Whilst we work hard to ensure your child makes good progress in all the ways detailed above, we also acknowledge all the hard work you, as Parents and Carers, put in too. Every piece of home learning you support your child with, either sitting with them, heading to information sources, attending curriculum workshops, Open Evenings, checking our school website for class information or even just finding the time to talking to your child about their learning, what is happening in the world around them or help them to learn new life skills, ensures a strong partnership between home and school which contributes to how your child flourishes over time.



Please remember, we welcome your general feedbacks and suggestions, but also recognise that not everyone is able to come up to school. Our feedback/ suggestion box can be found on the shelf in the main Office Reception area if you wish to jot anything down and post in there. The box is checked regularly and your thoughts are reviewed with staff / Governors as appropriate.