



# Oughton Primary & Nursery School

## Week beginning 21st November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Attendance

I am pleased to announce that 100 children achieved 100% attendance last half term. We gave our certificates in our Assembly. Well done to those children. Their names have been put in a box for a lucky draw at the end of December, with the winner given a family prize! Any child who achieves 100% attendance this half term, will also enter the draw.

Attendance is vital in order to give children a great start to their education. If children miss days or a week, this impacts greatly on their learning and understanding across the curriculum.

If a child's attendance drops below 90%, this is deemed to be persistent and we then contact Parents to meet with them to discuss this. Any subsequent absences will be unauthorised unless we receive medical evidence. We inform Parents of their child's percentage if it drops below 90% via ParentMail. We also discuss attendance of individual children with our Local Authority Attendance Officer.

### Anti-Bullying Week

Last week, we focused on the theme 'Reach out' as part of Anti-Bullying Week to ensure that children know who to talk to if there is a situation they are unhappy about. We reminded the children of their network of support. We discussed what is bullying - a **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or a group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. We discussed that bullying can take place face to face and also online. We discussed that bullying is not a 'one off' unkind incident and talked about how we deal with any incident.

### Reading / Library Club

We are pleased with the number of children and families attending Reading / Library Club on a Thursday after school in our library. Activities and refreshments are organised and children pick a book to take home. As you are aware, our School Improvement focus is Reading as this is the key to success in life. Feel free to come along to our club with your children to encourage the love of books and reading. You do not need to book a place, just come along!

### Music

As many of you are aware, Hitchin Youth Brass Band rehearse and play at Oughton every Monday and offer brass instrument lessons to children in KS 2 for a £1 a week. I am delighted to say that they performed a concert to KS 2 towards the end of last half term and this involved some of our children. If you are interested in your child learning a brass instrument and taking up this superb opportunity, contact us and we can put you in contact with the band.

### Oughton in the Community

The secret is now out of the bag! We are delighted to announce that our Year Six children were given the amazing opportunity to work with Sarah Graham, a local artist with world-wide acclaim and ex-pupil of Oughton, to create designs for a snowman to take part in the trail of Snowman which has been opened in the town this weekend. Sarah took the designs of our pupils, with the theme of 'Ten Lords Leaping', and used them to create the most colourful and eye-catching snowman in the trail. See the photos.

Representatives of Year 6 braved the rain and visited the snowman alongside Sarah, a local councillor and representative of Cala Homes this week, for a photo opportunity and another chance to chat to Sarah.

We are very much looking forward to working with her again. We challenge every family to find Sarah's Snowman in Hitchin and take a photo of your family next to it. Please send them in to Mrs Channa: [admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk) and we will put them on display.



Yours sincerely

**Lisa Clayton Headteacher**

Dates will be published on our school website:

[www.oughton.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk)

### Dates for upcoming half term

**Tues 29th Nov** - Coffee morning at drop off

**Tues 29th Nov** - Year 4 DT Wow Day

**Tues 6th Dec** -Yr. 5 Science Forces Wow Day

**Fri 9th Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day

**Tues 13th Dec** - Year 1 and 2

Christmas Performance 9.30am and 2pm

**Wed 14th Dec** - Nursery and Reception Performance to Parents 9.30am

**Thurs 15th Dec** 5.15-6pm - Books at Bedtime

**Fri 16th Dec** - Coffee morning at drop off

**Mon 19th Dec** - KS2 Carol Concert 2.30pm

**Mon 19th Dec** - Christmas Tree Festival 3.15pm

**Tues 20th Dec** - Year 1 & 2 Panto Trip

**Wed 21st Dec** - Occasional Day (School closed)

**Thu 22nd Dec to Wed 4th Jan** - Christmas Holidays

**Thu 5th Jan** - Children return to school.

**Thu 5th Jan** - Years 3 - 6 Panto Trip

### School Council Update

Our School Council have been working on ways that we can be more environmentally friendly. They have produced information to classes about bin use and ways to reduce their energy usage.



## **Results of Annual Questionnaire/ Survey - The school keeps my child safe**

As you are aware, following the annual questionnaire to Parents in July, we are sharing information about different areas of Oughton Primary and Nursery School over our first few newsletters of this academic year. In this issue, the focus is on 'The school keeps my child safe'. Results from the July questionnaire showed that 99% of those who responded, agreed / strongly agreed or were satisfied that this is the case. This is a very pleasing result and we hope reflects all the systems we have in place. Below you will find information about what our school does in this area.



- We have a number of policies in place to support us to keep your children safe. These include Health and Safety, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Supporting Medical Conditions in School, as well as individual curriculum policies which also detail expectations for safety in each curriculum area. All policies are reviewed annually, alongside staff and Governors and clearly show our expectations and procedures.
- Working within the policies mentioned above, we have a number of systems in place to support keeping your children safe. Our staff receive training in 'First Aid at Work' and we have staff who have Paediatric First Aid training. Mrs Banton undertakes training to ensure our site is safe including Legionnaires and Fire Safety training. To ensure the children would be confident in knowing what to do if needed, we hold termly fire safety practices with the whole school.
- Mrs Banton undertakes regular checks of the school site to ensure it is safe. We do have a large site though, so we would encourage you to report any issues to the front Office if you spot anything which you feel is unsafe and so we can rectify it as soon as possible.
- Our school curriculum has a strong focus on keeping children safe. This is woven through all subjects for example ensuring children handle PE or DT equipment correctly, teaching road safety skills when out and about in the community or on a school visit as well as the more everyday such as ensuring they wash their hands regularly, particularly before eating. We also have specific times over the school week where we focus specifically on this area, particularly through our PSHE/ Jigsaw curriculum or weekly Wellbeing and Discussion point assemblies where we consider a range of issues including race, gender and discrimination in general terms.
- We strive to ensure all children at Oughton enjoy their time here but accept sometimes children can be unkind to one another. Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable. To minimise the risk of this, we work closely with children, Parents and staff to minimise the risk. The aim of our Against Bullying Policy is to ensure that children learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Our School Council produced a child friendly version, within our policy. We have focused on the theme of 'Reach Out' this year in Anti-Bullying week to encourage children to talk about their feelings and to tell someone if there is a problem.
- Alongside curriculum learning, we have a strong ethos of pastoral support in school. Both classroom staff and our pastoral support team offer a variety of different ways to support your children emotionally. This can include regular check-ins with nominated staff through to more structured one-to-one sessions. We are also supported by a therapist from Safe Space who works with a small number of children across school over the course of the year.
- We also have a number of systems across school to support children's wellbeing. As detailed previously, we use Zones of Regulation across school to allow the children to share, in a visual way, how they are feeling. Each class has a Worry Box which are checked by our Wellbeing Ambassadors weekly and we also promote that each child considers who would be on their 'Network of Support' if they had a worry and wished to talk it through. These are reviewed in class each term.
- We acknowledge that sometimes parenting can be difficult and so part of our role is to provide early help for our families. This may involve putting in extra pastoral support for individual children and/or working with Parents to provide advice or guidance with areas of parenting; sometimes this can just be providing an ear! Amongst our staff, we have a wealth of knowledge about local services and are always happy to signpost Parents to these.
- All our staff are trained annually in Safeguarding and receive regular updates. We have three Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in school, myself as Lead and Mrs Phillipson and Mrs Woollon as Deputy. Our role is to ensure safeguarding is at the heart of our school ethos and that all staff are supported in knowing how to recognise and respond to any potential concerns. Our role requires that we must provide advice, support and guidance to any other staff on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required. We also liaise with other agencies, including Children's Services as required.



Please remember, we welcome your general feedback 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.

