



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Nuts

We have a number of children in school with nut allergies, some with severe and potentially life threatening consequences. Please ensure that your child does not bring any products into school which contain nuts. This includes all packed lunches - Nutella in sandwiches, nuts of any kind, cakes with nuts. If you are making cakes for any sales in school, please ensure that there are no nuts used e.g. crunchy nut cornflakes. Thank you, this is a very serious situation and we need to ensure that all children are safe and healthy in school. Also, please do not put chocolate bars or sweets in packed lunches - a chocolate biscuit is acceptable.

Attendance

Regular attendance is vital in order for children to learn. We expect attendance to be 96% or higher. We are spending a lot of time contacting Parents regarding children who are not in school - phoning and visiting homes. It is **your** responsibility to inform us of the reason that your child is not in school, as it is a legal requirement for children to attend. Please make sure you ring us between 8:30-9:30am or contact us via email: attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk. We have extended our facility within ParentMail - you may now inform us of your child's absence through ParentMail, following the absence link. **Please ensure that you add in the reason for the illness in the additional information box** in order for us to look at the authorisation of the absence. We must have written reasons - emails / letters following a period of absence, please ensure that you send in a letter, email or add detail into ParentMail. We are also spending a lot of office time chasing up written notes. Thank you to those Parents who always follow absences up in writing. Please note, holidays are not authorised. We issue penalty fines within school regarding unauthorised absences, so if your child has more than 15 unauthorised sessions (morning / afternoon is 2 sessions) you may be subject to a fine. **Please be aware that this term, if your child's attendance drops below 90%, we will require medical evidence** (medicines, doctor's note, evidence of visits to doctor / hospital) **in order to authorise absences.**

Please keep in contact with us.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Clayton
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Please ensure you look at the school calendar for key dates across 2017 / 18 on our website.

Dates:

21st Nov: Y5 Let's Celebrate Assembly
2.45pm
22nd Nov: Y6 trip to RAF Museum
28th Nov: Y4 Let's Celebrate Assembly
2:45pm
30th Nov: Y3 Wow event.
5th Dec: Friends of Oughton Christmas Fayre
3:30pm
13th Dec: KS 1 Christmas Performance 9:30am
13th Dec: Christmas Lunch
14th Dec: Nursery and Reception Nativity Performance 9:30am
14th Dec: KS 1 Christmas Performance 2pm
14th Dec: Friends of Oughton Discos
15th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation) and Christmas Tree Festival 3.15pm
18th Dec: KS 2 Carol Concert 2.30pm
19th Dec: Last day 2pm finish

Reception Places

Please be aware that Reception applications are open until 15th January 2018 for children to start Reception with us in September 2018. If you do not apply, there may not be a space for your child - we currently have a full Reception class and being in our Nursery class does not guarantee you a place. Please apply via admissions: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Scarecrow Festival

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Scarecrow Festival. We raised £80.68, which will go into our school fund to support our trips and resources. Thank you to everyone who sent a food donation. The food was gratefully received by the Hitchin Foodbank. Well done to Year 1 who won the class Scarecrow competition, with Year 3 in second place and Year 4 in third place. Thank you to the families who also made a scarecrow and took part in the competition - this was lovely to see and the first time families have entered. Well done to Shea in Year 4 and his family, our winners of the family competition - a superb 'Help the Heroes' Scarecrow.

Go Green Day and Stay Safe

Thank you - we raised £191.57 in support for the NSPCC, focusing on keeping safe.

Trips and Enrichment this term

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Windsor Castle....how royal! Year 2 visited the Science Museum in Tring, which was great. Year 5 had a visitor this term to help them make chocolate treats as part of their topic work. I can talk from experience.....this was delicious! Our Year 6 visited Kingswood for their residential trip this year. This was very successful and the children enjoyed the experience.

Year 4 and Year 6 have visited Hitchin library. Well done to our Year 4 children who had their work displayed in the library too. A photo of our display was retweeted by Michael Rosen! Reading is essential and a life long experience. We want all children to love reading. Please encourage your child to read each day. We have revamped our reading rewards and the children are travelling around the world every time they read, moving continent to continent. Remember: to move on to the next continent they need to complete their reading challenges too.

All of the children enjoyed Ash Dickenson's visit. He is a poet and he performed to the school and spent time with each class. It was lovely to see all classes combining Art and Geography last week and their work celebrating the world is on display in the main corridor. Last week, some classes took part in workshops focusing on stopping bullying called 'The Power of One.'

Children In Need

Last Wednesday, we had a special visitor join us for lunchtime - Pudsey Bear! Thank you to everyone that dressed up in spots on Friday. We are still counting the money and will let you know how much we raised soon.



Governor Update

Our Governors have been busy reading policies and meeting to discuss school improvement this term.

