



# Oughton Primary & Nursery School

## Spring 1 2019

### Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is flying by. The children have been working on their New Year Resolution goals as part of our Jigsaw theme.

It has been a busy start to the term with our trip to the Gordon Craig Theatre to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Our Oughton Choir performed at the O2 last week, singing as part of the Young Voices choir, with over 8000 children from around the country! The choir performed alongside 80s popstar Tony Hadley (lead singer of Spandau Ballet), Sharlene Hector (lead vocalist of Basement Jaxx) and Beau Dermott (performed at Britain's Got Talent 2016). This was a fantastic experience, enjoyed by all. Thank you to Mrs Merriman and Miss Evans for organising and training the children for this event. Thank you to Mrs Reynolds for helping at the concert, as well as at our choir rehearsals.



### Attendance

Our whole school target is 96%. We are currently at 95.5%. Some classes have received a reward this term, having completed their Perfect Attendance sheet. It is vital that every child attends school regularly. There is a strong link with good attendance to good progress and achievement. If a child's attendance drops below 90%, this is a concern for us and their attendance will be monitored closely. Medical evidence must be given at this point - all absences will be unauthorised without medical evidence and penalty fines will be given. Mrs Woollon meets with children and their Parents to discuss attendance. Holidays will be unauthorised, unless there are special circumstances.

**Please ensure you contact us via Parentmail / 01462 450716 / [attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk) before 9:15am if your child is absent.**

Please ensure Grandparents and other relatives are aware of our school dates so they do not book holidays in term time.

Yours sincerely

**Lisa Clayton Headteacher**

### Diary Dates

**Please ensure you look at the school calendar for key dates across 2018 / 19 on our website.**

Mon 11th Feb: Feel Good Week: see Parentmail and flyers for full details  
Mon 11th Feb: Book Swap lunchtime, Sponsored Run after school  
Tue 12th Feb: After school Toy Swap  
Tue 12th Feb: Year 6 SATS Parents Meeting at 6pm  
Thurs 14th Feb: Visit from Team GB athlete, Messy Church after school  
Fri 15th Feb: 2pm Parents Tea Party - **ticket only event**

18th to 22nd Feb: Half term  
Half term: Year 6 Booster Classes - Wednesday and Thursday

Back to school: Monday 25th Feb  
Wed 27th Feb: 9am Year 2 SATS Parents Meeting  
Tue 5th March: Year 2 Let's Celebrate Assembly  
Thurs 7th March: World Book Day: Dress up as a favourite book character  
Tue 12th March: Year 3 Let's Celebrate Assembly  
Wed 13th March: Coffee Morning for Parents at 9am Lime class  
Fri 15th March: Comic Relief Day: details to follow  
Wed 3rd April: Easter Egg Hunt after school  
Friday 5th April: Last day of spring term



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### Feel Good Week

You will have received information about the various events next week. Please join us in our Feel Good Week.

### Snow at Oughton!

Thank you to Mrs Banton for her hard work in ensuring the school was safe last Friday. It is always exciting when it snows!

Please ensure that you are using ParentMail. If ever we take the decision to close the school, this will be a last resort and **Parents will be the first to know**. We will send a text out via Parentmail or an email. Always assume we are open unless you hear otherwise from us - not via a friend.

**Please do not ring the school to ask if we are open as this ends up prolonging messages to parents as we try to communicate and answer phones.**

When it snows, we normally shut some entrance and exit points to limit access. We ensure these are clear and often use the front entrance for KS 2 and the walkway to KS 1. Please ensure you use the path when walking on the school site.

Please send your child in suitable footwear such as wellington boots / walking boots and with their normal school shoes.



### Times Table Awards

This term we have launched a new Times Table challenge to KS 2 children. All children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to earn badges linked to table facts.

We have introduced Red, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum badges. Children earn badges through completion of a times table grid leading to the Gold Award - all tables up to 12x12 out of order, and Platinum, with associated division facts.

Please help your child learn their multiplication facts, this is vital for so many areas of maths and will help them in the future. Remember, all children have access to Times Table Rock Stars website and app. Passwords are in your child's Reading Contact books.

### ICT and Gaming

Please monitor your child's use of ICT (computers, ipads, Xbox, phones etc) as we have been increasingly aware of many children using devices for many hours at a time. This type of activity has a negative impact on their ability to learn and focus, sometimes leading to friendship issues.

Please ensure that games used are **appropriate for their age**. We hear a lot regarding **Fortnite** which has a PEGI rating of 12. PEGI has said that this is due to the: 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under **12 years** of age.' However, this game is the main topic of conversation of many of our primary children.

**Please check the games children are playing and what they are doing on the internet, including videos on YouTube.**

### Governor Update

Governors have been visiting this term, focusing on Safeguarding, Health and Safety and some areas of the curriculum. Our Chair of Governors has been meeting with Mrs Clayton regularly to discuss aspects of the school.

