



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, it has been a very sad start to 2024 for us with the passing of Miss Anderson. She was such a big part of our school after over 35 years of service working at Oughton Primary. We have been having Assemblies to talk about her and also we have been planning ways to remember her. Some Parents have been asking to donate some money in order for us to buy something in her memory, which is so kind. We will be talking to her family about the ideas which children and staff have thought of, many of these will involve purchasing items in her memory. We will let you know more once final decisions have been made.

The children this week will be writing their memories / messages to go in a special book and some messages will be read out at Miss Anderson's funeral this Friday.

Reading

As we are all aware, reading is the key to success. We continue to promote the love of reading through our Reading Around the World, so this Spring, the challenges around the world change. Please hear your child read regularly, at least 3 times a week although daily is more beneficial to their reading development. Many children achieved their Reading Around the World Certificate last term and 2 children achieved it twice in Key Stage 1.

After School Provision

I am so pleased that we decided to go ahead with our After School Club in September 2023. It has been a success and continues to grow. Our provision is from 3.15pm until 6pm and includes a snack plus a variety of activities. If you would like your child to attend this Club, please complete the payment and booking via Arbor. We accept childcare vouchers.

3.15 - 4.15pm £7.00

3.15 - 5.15pm £9.00

3.15 - 6.00pm £11.50

Attendance Matters!

Regular attendance in school is key for life chances. At the present time, the Government are focusing on this too. We aim for all children to achieve an attendance of 96%+ although we are aware that for some children, due to medical conditions, this is not always possible.

When a child's attendance drops below 90%, this is deemed as Persistent Absentees. Across the year, this equates to:

90% is 4 weeks of learning missed (19 days of absence)

85% is 29 days of absence (almost 6 weeks)

80% is 38 days absence (over half a term)

75% is 47 days of absence (over 9 weeks)

You can see your child's attendance percentage on Arbor. We regularly email to keep Parents informed when their child's attendance drops below 90%. We know that some children have had illnesses or have had time in hospital this year.

Medical absences / appointments are authorised with medical correspondence. This term, we will be continuing to monitor attendance and will be meeting some Parents to discuss their child's attendance.

Please do not book holidays during term time. A two week holiday means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%. Please note, penalty fines can be issued if a child has more than 15 unauthorised sessions (one day is two sessions) and this includes any other unauthorised session.

Please ensure that you inform us before 9.30am if your child is not in school with the reason for their absence via Arbor or telephone 01462 450716.

Well done to the 36 children who currently have 100% from September! Well done to 3 children in Nursery, 6 in Reception, 1 in Year 1, 2 in Year 2, 4 in Year 3, 7 in Year 4, 7 in Year 5 and 6 in Year 6! Amazing achievement.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton Headteacher

Dates will be published on our school website:

www.oughton.herts.sch.uk

Dates for upcoming half term

Thu 1st Feb - Choir Young Voices concert at Wembley

Fri 2nd Feb - Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop

Tue 6th Feb - Year 3 Let's Celebrate 2.45pm

Fri 9th Feb - Skateboard and Scooter workshop

Wed 14th Feb - Steel Pan Workshop

Thu 15th Feb - EYFS People Who Help Us Wow Day

School Disco - details to follow

Fri 16th Feb - INSET Day. Children not in school.

Mon 19th - Fri 23rd Feb - HALF TERM

Mon 26th Feb - Children return to school.

Key Stage 2 Dinners

Please ensure that you pay for any dinners in advance. We are still continually chasing Parents for dinner money. You can view your accounts and pay for school dinners via Arbor.

Computing / Phones

If your child received any computer games, equipment, iPads, phones over the Christmas period, please ensure that you monitor their use on the internet and messages to others.

We teach e-safety as part of the Computing curriculum and ensure that our equipment and links to the website are safe with blocks in place for unsuitable sites. Please ensure that you are monitoring computer and phone use at home.

We have been dealing with issues linked to messages sent to classmates out of school time this month. Please monitor mobile phone use. Snap Chat and Instagram (both 13+) and WhatsApp (16+) **should not be used by Primary school age children.**

Remember, using technology for long periods of time impacts on emotional wellbeing, focus and attention as well as a negative impact on behaviour. Please limit use of games and technology.