



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to say thank you to the Friends of Oughton who have organised school events over the last few years. They have now passed a total of £4211.83 to the school, as they are unable to continue to run this organisation. However, school staff alongside Parent volunteers will continue to plan and run events for the children at Oughton.

We are planning to use some of this money to fund part of our sensory space in the KS 2 playground. In early January, work will be starting to repair our outside classroom and we are developing a sensory area next to this. The Friends of Oughton are also going to fund another Living Eggs experience for the children for this year, focusing on ducks, which will be lovely.

Thank you so much to the committee of the Friends of Oughton who have given up hours of their time over the last few years. We have really appreciated your help and look forward to continuing to work in partnership.

Next school event.....Winter Wonderland

We are planning a Winter Wonderland event after school on Mon 18th December alongside our Annual Christmas Tree Festival. To help with this, we have planned a non-school uniform donation day on **Fri 1st December**. In return for wearing non-school uniform, please could children bring in a donation for this event:

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2: Chocolate donation, anything chocolate, without nuts please -all unopened and in date please (for our chocolate tombola).

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: Bottle of.....alcohol, soft drink, shampoo, condiment, anything in a bottle - all unopened and in date please (for our bottle tombola).

Charity this term

I am pleased to say that we have supported two charities this term - we raised £81.71 for Macmillan earlier this term and for Children in Need, we raised a total of £201.85 for this worthwhile charity. Well done to Bonnie in Year 2 who has raised a lot of money for The Princess Trust and donated her hair this month.

Attendance

If your child is not in school, please ensure that you send a message via Arbor to explain the reason why your child is absent. If you have evidence of a medical appointment, please attach this. Attendance below 90% is deemed to be persistent absentees and without medical evidence, any further absences will not be authorised.

Well done to Alder (Year 3) and Beech (Year 4) who are ahead of the rest of the school in their attendance, having won our weekly competition over the last 3 weeks between them. Alder have won for 2 weeks running with Beech on their heels! Each week, both classes have attendance of over 96% which is our aim for all classes. Attendance Ted has been staying with these two classes over the last 3 weeks and they have had extra playtime too!

Parental Communication

Just to remind you, staff are extremely busy teaching children during the school day and are unable to call or email during the day. We have had many Parents who have emailed in the evening out of school working hours and expect a response the following day. This is not often possible. Messages are passed onto Teachers during working hours, however, our priority is teaching and first thing in the morning, Teachers are organising their lessons. Staff will contact Parents, and of course deal with issues, but please be patient.

If you have a piece of information which is important, involving Safeguarding, please come to the front office and staff there will then pass your message to someone who will be in touch. We are not often able to meet with Parents immediately as most staff are continually working with children and in classes.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton
Headteacher

Dates will be published on our school website:

www.oughton.herts.sch.uk

Dates upcoming

Mon 27th Nov 9am: Parent Workshop 'Dealing with challenging children and setting boundaries.'

Fri 1st Dec after drop off: Coffee Morning for Parents (Lime Room)

Fri 1st Dec: Non-school uniform donation day, see note for more info.

Tues 5th Dec: Year 4 The Great British Sewing Beech

Thurs 7th Dec: Choir trip to Cheshire Home

Tues 12th Dec pm: Sleeping Beauty Panto trip, Stevenage - Year 4, 5 and 6

Tues 12th Dec: 9:30am EYFS Nativity for Parents

Wed 13th Dec am: Sleeping Beauty Panto trip, Stevenage - Year 1, 2 and 3.

Thurs 14th Dec: Year 1 & 2, 2pm Christmas Performance to Parents

Fri 15th Dec: Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Mon 18th Dec: Year 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2:30pm Christmas Carol Concert for Parents followed on by Christmas Tree Festival & Winter Wonderland

Winner of our Scarecrow Festival

Well done to Year 2 who designed their Art themed Scarecrow as Sarah Graham, a Hitchin Artist and past Oughton pupil! We invited Sarah back to see Year 2's Scarecrow. Earlier on this term, Sarah worked with our Year 6 on a project to support The Samaritans.



Governors

Our Governors have been busy this term meeting subject leaders and discussing their Action Plans for this year. Some have also met with their leader for an official visit, ready to update the rest of the Governing Body at the end of this term.