



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

Week beginning 11th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new children and their families who have joined us this year. It is lovely to see new children in Nursery, Reception and across the school this week.

Staff News

We welcome to our team Mrs Day, who is a Teaching Assistant and MDSA in Reception and she is also working in our After-School Club. We welcome back Mrs Tracey, as a MDSA who worked with us previously. We also welcome back Miss Reidy as a Cleaner, MDSA and Teaching Assistant.

Communication

Please ensure that you are using Arbor and read the messages, emails and attachments sent via Arbor. This is now our main avenue of communication. Please read the Parental Information handbook sent to you on Friday. The Nursery Parental Handbook will be sent this week.

If you need to speak to your child's Class Teacher or another member of staff, please ring the Office 01462 450716 or email admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk to book a convenient time to talk. Please be aware that it is not possible to talk on the classroom door when the staff are supervising or dismissing children.

Attendance

It is vital that every child attends school regularly in order to fulfill their potential. We aim for every child to meet or exceed the 96% expectation. If your child is not in school, please send a message explaining the reason via Arbor or ring us. If we do not hear from Parents and Carers, we become concerned about their safety / wellbeing and we follow up with phone calls and in some cases home visits. Please be aware, the school monitors absences and we will only authorise these for illnesses and medical appointments. If a child's attendance drops below 90% they are deemed to be persistent absentees and at this point, we will only authorise absences with medical evidence. This can be a photo of medication or an appointment with a medical professional. Tiredness, refusing to come to school or having a cold / 'under the weather' are not reasons which we will authorise a child's absence. Please be aware, we issue penalty fines for unauthorised absences, this includes holidays too.

Lateness

Our school gates open at 8:30am. Children should be outside their classroom doors ready for the doors to open at 8:45am. Learning starts at this time with the register taken at 8:55am and the gates locked at this time. If your child is not present in their classroom during registration, they will be deemed late and will need to be taken to the Office. Please ensure that your child is on time for school. Lateness disrupts the learning of others, the work of the Office staff and impacts greatly on your child if they are late as they miss valuable learning time. If your child arrives after 9:20am, their absence will be unauthorised.

RAAC

You may well have seen in the news that some schools have been affected by the presence of RAAC in their buildings. RAAC, or Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in the past in schools and other building construction. After some time and in some circumstances this concrete can collapse. I wanted to reassure you that buildings on our school site which were constructed within the period of 1959 and 1989, which is when RAAC was most used, have already been surveyed by building surveyors appointed by the County Council and no RAAC was found. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, increasing the age bracket from 1950 to 1995. Therefore to guard against any possibility, however remote, that RAAC was used in any part of the school within those new dates, the County Council is arranging to have additional reassurance checks carried out in the near future. We have no reason to believe RAAC was used in this school, but nonetheless a survey is taking place to confirm this.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton - Headteacher

Dates will be published on our school website:
www.oughton.herts.sch.uk

Dates for upcoming half term

See your child's Parental Handbook which has been sent via Arbor.

Parental Meeting dates:

Tues 12th September Year 5 Parental Meeting after school
Thurs 14th September 2:45pm Year 1 Parental Meeting
Thursday 14th September Year 4 Parental Meeting after school
Fri 15th Sept Reception Parental Meeting at 9am.
Tues 19th Sept - Year 3 Parental Meeting after school
Wed 20th Sept - Year 2 Parental Meeting after school
Fri 22nd Sept - Nursery Parental Meeting at 9am

See overleaf for whole school dates

See Parental Handbook for more dates and details about each class. This has been sent via Arbor.

Fun outside!



Governor Corner

Our Governors have been busy over the holidays reading and reviewing our policies. Our Governing Body are meeting to discuss the policies this week.

Some of these updated policies will be added to our website this month.

Results of Annual Questionnaire/ Survey

Thank you to everyone who filled in the Parental Questionnaire at the end of the Summer term. It was very positive overall and thank you to those of you who have made a few suggestions.

As you are aware, we are using Arbor for our main communication. We will be ceasing the use of ParentMail completely this term. We hope that our communication to Parents and Carers develops further.

After School Club

We have started our own After-School Club to help working Parents. The Club runs from 3:15 - 6pm and the cost depends on the time required. Children are given a healthy snack, such as a sandwich, wrap, beans on toast, fruit / yoghurt and a drink. This is a snack and is not dinner. If you would like to use this provision, please book a place via Arbor. You must pay at the time of booking otherwise children will not be accepted into the Club. You are also able to use Childcare vouchers. This provision is open to Reception - Year 6 children.

3:15 - 4:15pm £7.00 per child

3:15 - 5:15pm £9.00 per child

3:15 - 6pm £11.50 per child

We put this provision in place due to the need of some Parents. I hope that other Parents will support this and use it too.

Diary Dates for Autumn and Spring term

Monday 18th September Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Friday 29th September Parents / Carers Macmillan Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime

Tuesday 10th October 3:15pm Scarecrow Festival, celebrating Harvest

Monday 16th October Individual school photos

Wednesday 18th October 4-6pm Parents / Carers Open Evening

Thursday 19th October 6-8pm Parents / Carers Open Evening

Half term Week beginning 23rd October 2023

Tuesday 31st October Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Week beginning 13th November - Anti-bullying Week

Friday 1st December Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Thursday 7th December – Choir visit to Cheshire Home

Tuesday 12th December – Trip to the Pantomime at Stevenage Year 4, 5 and 6

Tuesday 12th December – EYFS Nativity (Reception and Nursery)

Wednesday 13th December – Trip to the Pantomime at Stevenage Year 1, 2 and 3

Thursday 14th December – Key Stage 1 Performance afternoon (Year 1 and 2)

Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner (whole school)

Monday 18th December – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert afternoon (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) Christmas Tree Festival afterschool

Tuesday 19th December – last day of term

Wednesday 20th December – Occasional Day – no children in school

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Thursday 4th January – children back to school (**typo in the Handbook- well spotted by a Parent!**)

Thursday 1st February – Choir – Young Voices

Week beginning 12th February – Feel Good Week

Friday 16th February – Inset Day – No children in school

Half term week beginning 19th February.

Wednesday 28th February 4-6pm Parents / Carers Open Evening

Thursday 29th February 6-8pm Parents / Carers Open Evening

Friday 1st March Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Wednesday 6th March – KS 1 and 2 Theatre Production of the Little Princess

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day – details to follow nearer the time

Thursday 28th March – last day of the Spring term

See Parental Handbook for Summer term dates

Monday 15th April – children back to school

Tuesday 23rd April—Class Photos