



# ***OUGHTON LIFE:***

***Learning, Inclusion, Friendship, Enjoyment..... for everyone.***

***Everyone – children, staff and families.***

## ***Nursery Parent Handbook***

***September 2023***

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome everyone to Oughton Primary and Nursery School and our Nursery Class – whether you are new to the Oughton community or have children already at our school. We are looking forward to working with you and watching your child grow and learn this year.

Within this booklet we have put together an overview of the Nursery curriculum and also some general information and reminders that we hope you will find useful. The booklets are specific to each year group so if you have more than one child please do read each booklet. Copies of these are also available on the school website and through the school office.

### Welcome to Plum Class (Nursery)

Key Stage Leader – Miss Hurley (Reception Teacher)

Plum Class Staff – Mrs Prosser (Teacher)

Miss Renney (Teaching Assistant), Miss Reidy (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs King (Teaching Assistant) will be supporting in Nursery.

### Working Together

Your support is important to enable your child to do as well as they can and we value a close working relationship with all Parents and Carers. We aim for children to leave our school having achieved their best, by developing their skills and talents through a range of learning activities and experiences. The school teaches a broad and balanced curriculum based on the Early years Curriculum and the National Curriculum, which is enriched through additional events and activities.

Throughout the year your child will be given home learning activities. Please support your child in completing these. It is important that home learning is completed as it supplements learning at school and gives children the opportunity to practise their skills and extend their learning further. Your child's Teacher will be the key point of contact for you and it is most helpful if you let the Teacher know about any matters that may affect your child, so that we can support them in school. You may sometimes have questions or concerns and your child's Teacher will be happy to discuss

these with you. Brief updates, for example about end of day collection, can be easily exchanged at the classroom door as your child arrives for school. However, it is best to arrange a meeting if you wish to have a more detailed conversation. Feel free to ring the School Office 01462 450716 to leave a message for the Teacher who will then ring you back at a convenient time and/or arrange a meeting. Please be aware, discussions at the end of the school day must occur after all children have been dismissed to their Parents/Carers.

Most matters will be appropriately discussed and resolved with the Teacher. However, you may feel a matter is more appropriately discussed with a more senior member of staff, in which case you may wish to arrange a conversation with either your child's Phase Leader or one of our Assistant Headteachers – Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Smith. In some cases, you may wish to speak to Mrs Clayton our Headteacher. Any conversations or meetings can be arranged either directly with the Class Teacher or via the School Office 01462 450716.

If you feel that your child or your family require some Pastoral Support, please pop in the School Office or ring to contact Mrs Woollon, our Pastoral Support Manager. Mrs Phillipson is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator if you have a query about Special Needs. If you have a concern about the safety of any child, within our school or out of school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection – Mrs Clayton, Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Woollon.

### **Timetable and School day**

Just to remind you, we open the Nursery door at 8:45am and our learning starts at this time. Please ensure that your child is on time for school to enable a good start to the school day. Staff are working with children at this time so be aware, it can be difficult to talk to Parents at the door with children in the classroom.

During the course of the day, your child will have some adult led activities including Maths and Phonics as well as one of the other areas of the EYFS curriculum, Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Education, Literacy, Expressive Arts or Understanding of the World. These subjects build up our curriculum and ensure that we teach a rich, broad and varied curriculum to every child.

### **Attendance**

Children are not of statutory school age until the term after their fifth birthday. However, establishing regular routines for your child at an early age is extremely important. There is a strong link between children's good progress in school and their good attendance.

As a school, we aim for every child to attend 96% or above. When a child is absent from school, it is difficult for them to catch up. Please help us to be the best class in the school for attendance! If your child is absent at all from school, please ring the school office to inform them of the reason or send an Arbor message.

### **Curriculum and how you can help your child**

Our Curriculum Overview for Nursery will be sent to you and is also on our website. This enables you to see the topics / key learning areas taught across the year.

**Maths:** By the end of Nursery the children will be working towards being able to count, order, recognise and use numbers to 5 and beyond. The children should be able to subitise, which is when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting, compare quantities using the vocabulary of greater, less, more, fewer and the same.

Counting and understanding of number is extremely important, please support your child to count at home. This could be counting ingredients for dinner, pennies in a money box and how many cars you

see on the way to school. Any opportunity to teach Maths practically at home will deepen your child understanding.

**Literacy:** In Nursery, we use the Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics programme to ensure our children are well prepared to begin grapheme-phoneme correspondence and blending at the start of Reception. During our daily lessons we share high-quality stories and poems with the children, learn a range of nursery rhymes and action rhymes, take part in activities that develop focus listening and attention, blend orally and give the children exposure to high-quality language.

Your child will bring home a weekly library book. Enjoying stories and books is vital for children as it promotes brain development, vocabulary and imagination. It also helps children develop a lifelong love of reading. Please share books and stories with your child each day. Please discuss the books and stories with your child to help them improve their comprehension and deeper understanding of a text.

This year our topics include All About Me, Celebrations around the World, People Who Help Us, Growing, Amazing Animals and Wonderful Water. These topics may change due to the children's interests. If you are celebrating a specific religious festival / celebration at home, we would love to hear about it and share this with the rest of our class.

This year, we will be focusing on Dance, Gymnastics, Games, Ball Skills and the Fundamentals of PE in our weekly sessions.

In PSHE, we will be following our Jigsaw topics of Being Me, Celebrating Differences, Goals and Dreams, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me. In November, we will be focusing on anti-bullying and learning about what this means.

#### **Useful websites to help your child:**

Oughton Primary and Nursery School Website: <http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk>

Please look at [www.oughton.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk) for more information about our Curriculum. Also, keep an eye on our Class page – photos will be added throughout the year.

Little Wandle: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

#### **General Information**

School Book bags can be bought from the School Office. Children are expected to bring their library book back each week.

As a school, we know how important healthy eating is. The Government provides fruit or vegetable snack for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children and we as a school have decided to provide this to Key Stage 2 children as well.

Every child needs their own named water bottle to ensure they get enough fluids during the school day. We encourage child to drink water in the school day and do not allow any other drinks.

Please be aware, we are a nut free school as we have children with allergies. Nuts must not be brought into school at all. Be aware of almonds in sun screen lotion too.

#### **Dates and Events**

Nursery Parental Meeting is being held on **Friday 22nd September at 9am** to discuss the curriculum in Nursery and ways in which you can help your child further with their learning.

There will also be some 'Wow' Days and events across the year focusing on different areas. The first is 'Marvellous Me!' and this will be held on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. We have People Who Help Us Day **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024** and we would like the children to dress up as someone who

helps them. Our Wow Day 'Eating What We have Grown' will be during our Spring term on **28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. There will be other events across the year.

Nursery will be holding their Let's Celebrate our Learning Assembly on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 9:00 am**. Please join us for this and find out more about Nursery and their learning.

Other whole school dates:

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

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

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 3:15pm Scarecrow Festival, celebrating Harvest

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October Individual school photos

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

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

Half term Week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

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

Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November - Anti-bullying Week

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

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Choir visit to Cheshire Home

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

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS Nativity (Reception and Nursery)

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 1 Performance afternoon (Year 1 and 2)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner (whole school)

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

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – last day of term

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Occasional Day – no children in school

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January – children back to school

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Choir – Young Voices

Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February – Feel Good Week

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Inset Day – No children in school

Half term week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> February.

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

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

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

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – KS 1 and 2 Theatre Production of the Little Princess

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day – details to follow nearer the time

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – last day of the Spring term

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – children back to school

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Class Photos

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday – no children in school

Fortnight beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Celebrating the Arts

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day – no children in school

Half term week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Art Exhibition after school

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Afternoon - Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Reserve Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> June)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Transition Day

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - last day of term

We are also hoping to arrange a Parental Workshop on Emotional Regulation led by our Mental Health Support Team.

Please see our website for dates regarding holidays and Inset days. There will be extra dates and events throughout the year so please make sure that you read all correspondence via Arbor and all newsletters. Please note, dates may change if necessary.

### **PE and PE kit**

Our PE day is: Tuesday

Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit in – white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls and this remains in school. It will be sent home at half term to be washed. Getting changed into PE kit will happen once the children are familiar and secure going into the school hall. Please practise dressing and undressing with your child.

### **Finally.....**

The Nursery team are really looking forward to this year. Remember, if you have any concern, ring the Office and we will get back to you. The most successful educational year is built on one which shows a close relationship with school and home. Our priority, is your child. It is vital that they are happy in order to flourish and develop to their full potential, ready for the next stage of their education and life.

Mrs Prosser

Class Teacher