



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

Spring Term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy term so far and have lots more organised. Please see our diary dates.

School Premises

I have had a number of complaints from parents and staff regarding adults on our school grounds. Please do not bring dogs onto the school premises and please ensure you use appropriate language on the school site. Swearing is not permitted.

Absences / Lateness

Please can I remind parents that they must ring the School Office if their child is ill and absent from school. If parents do not inform us, we will ring to find out the reason why a child is absent. If a parent does not answer the phone, we will ring the other contacts given to us and we may carry out a home visit. If we do not know where a child is, this becomes a Child Protection concern and the Attendance Improvement Officer is contacted and in some cases, the Police to do a welfare check. Once a child's attendance drops below 90%, medical evidence must be given to ensure absences are authorised. Please ensure your child is on time for school. It is a legal requirement for children to attend school regularly and we aim for the attendance of children to be higher than 95%. Well done to those children who are achieving this at present.

PE and jewellery

Stud earrings are permitted in school but not hoops or any other type of earrings. The guidance that we follow from the 'Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity' states that it is a health and safety requirement for all children to remove earrings for PE lessons. On days that your child has PE, if they are not able to remove earrings themselves, please remove them before school as staff are not able to remove or put in earrings. If earrings cannot be taken out for cultural / religious reasons or are newly pierced, please send in tape to cover them which the children will need to apply before the lesson or you need to apply before school.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton - Headteacher

Diary Dates

Please ensure you look at the school calendar for full dates across the year on our website.

Thu 23rd March: Year 5 trip to Science Museum

Thu 23rd March: Mother's Day gift shop

Fri 24th March: Red Nose Day and Mother's Day Service at St Mark's Church at 2.30pm.

Tues 28th March: Charlotte's Web theatre visit pm

Wed 29th March: Easter Egg Hunt at 3:15pm. (Details to follow)

Thu 30th March: Year 3 trip to National History Museum

Fri 31st March: last day of term.

Tues 18th April: Back to school.

Computing

Remember - Workshop for Parents: Keeping children safe online on **20th April 2017 at 2pm**. This will be run by Richard Maskrey, Herts eSafety Advisor. I would advise all Parents to attend if possible as it is vital that we know how to keep our children safe in our ever changing online world.

Our school website is:
www.oughton.herts.sch.uk

PSHE

We have purchased a new programme for our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. It is called Jigsaw and each class has a jigsaw character: Jack, Jo, Jino, Jaz, Jez, Jenie and Jem. The teachers received training on the January Inset Day and started it immediately this term. Each term we have a theme and key focuses to teach. This term our theme is 'Healthy Me!' This fits in perfectly with our new playground gym equipment. We were successful in receiving a lottery bid for this equipment and the feedback is very positive from the children.

We are encouraging children (and staff) to keep healthy! We are thinking about healthy food, exercise and keeping ourselves safe.



Hertfordshire School Nursing Service

The School Nursing Service is provided by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, for children and young people aged 5 to 19 in mainstream schools. The service provides confidential support and advice on a range of health and wellbeing topics. The service also manages a local Health for Kids website, designed to deliver topical health messages and advice for children, parents and carers, through interactive tools and creative marketing materials. Health for Kids – aimed at those aged four to 11 – can be seen, via www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire The website is kept updated with local information and events. To contact a school nurse with any concerns, a referral form is available to complete online, via www.hct.nhs.uk/forms/school-nursing-form.asp

Red Nose Day and Mother's Day Service

On Friday 24th March, which is also Red Nose Day, it is our Mother's Day Service at St Mark's Church at 2:30pm. This is to celebrate the female carers of our children....Mothers, Aunties, Grandmas. (We have a Father's and male carers celebration planned). As this is also Red Nose Day, the children may wear their red noses. We will be raising money for this charity and would like to invite the children to wear something red to school in return for a £1 donation.

Easter Egg Hunt

Friends of Oughton have organised an Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday 29th March at 3.15pm The children will have an opportunity to solve puzzles around the school to win a chocolate prize and all winning entries will be put into a prize draw to win an Easter prize. Details will be sent out soon.

School Improvement Key Areas

This term we are focusing on: Reading, outcomes for all and attendance. Our Senior Leadership Team have been looking at all of the books across the school and the learning journals in Reception and Nursery. We are very pleased with the efforts of the children, in particular, their presentation and handwriting. We are encouraging the children to write more and use interesting vocabulary. Please help at home: read with your child as this improves their vocabulary, learning spellings and encourage your child to write stories, lists, sentences, letters (to you or trying to persuade you to do something!). The children have to know specific grammatical features as they move up the school, starting in Year 1 and 2: up to Year 6. These include identifying synonyms, prepositions, adverbs and pronouns and using correct punctuation in their writing including capital letters, commas, apostrophes, question marks, colons and semi colons. Please help them and discuss these aspects. If you would like more information, please see your child's class teacher.

Governor Update

Governors have been visiting the school this term. Mrs Nearney has been focusing on Safeguarding. Mrs Matthews has been focusing on monetary items in the office and Computing. Reverend Jane (our Chair of Governors) continues to have regular meetings with Mrs Clayton. Mrs Drakes has been attending meetings to discuss School Improvement and focusing on Maths. Welcome to Mrs Leigh Smith, who has joined our Governing Body as a co-opted member.