OUGHTON LIFE:

Learning, Inclusion, Friendship, Enjoyment……. for everyone.
Everyone – children, staff and families.

Year 3 Parent Handbook

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely Summer. There are lots of exciting activities planned this year. Within this booklet we have put together an overview of the curriculum for your child this year 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 Year 3
Key Stage Leader – Mrs Smith (who also teaches Year 6)

Year 3 Alder Class
Mr Lee (Teacher)
Mrs Gemmell (HLTA) will be teaching for one afternoon a week.
Miss Duguid (Teaching Assistant) will also be working in Year 3.

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 National Curriculum, which is enriched through additional events and activities. We expect children to fully participate in events and educational visits. If there is a concern or difficulty in your child participating, please speak to your child's Class Teacher or the Key Stage Leader in confidence.

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 via the Office or email admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk to ask to speak to a DSL.

If you have a concern regarding the safety of a child outside of school hours ie evenings / weekends, please ring Social Care 0300 1234 043 or Police 111.

Timetable and School day

Just to remind you, we open the classroom 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.

We teach Maths and English each day, this includes Guided Reading. In the afternoons, we teach the Foundation subjects and other Core subjects such as Science, Computing, Geography, History, RE, PE, Art, Design and Technology (DT), Music, French (KS 2 only) and Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). These subjects build up our curriculum and ensure that we teach a rich, broad and varied curriculum to every child.

Attendance

It is vital that every child attends school regularly. There is a strong link between children's good progress in school and their good attendance.

We are a Local Authority school and governed by both the LA and Government policies. Holidays and days out of school will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances deemed by the Headteacher. Any requests will be considered and authorised at the Headteacher's discretion in accordance with the Local Authority and National guidelines. Be aware that we issue penalty fines for holidays and unauthorised absences for 10 or more sessions, each day is considered to be 2 sessions, so a week's holiday falls into this bracket. Please also be aware that lates (after 9:25am) are unauthorised and are included within this.

It is essential that children do not miss learning through being late for school. This disrupts their start to the school day and also impacts on the teaching of the class. Please read our Attendance Policy, which is on the website for more information.

In Year 3, we aim to win the Attendance Award each week! 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! We give rewards for attendance – certificates as well as a prize draw!

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We are committed to working closely with Parents and Carers to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) receive the support they need to thrive. You will be invited to meet with the class teacher three times a year to discuss your child's Individual Support Plan which includes your child's progress, needs, provision and next steps. A copy of this will be available to you via Provision Map using the link and code that the class teacher will be sending out to you. Some children will have a Pupil Passport that outlines a child's strengths, interests, what is important to them and how best to support them**.** This can also be accessed through the Provision Map link that will be sent out.

For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), there will also be three meetings each year to review progress and provision with the class teacher, alongside the statutory annual review of the EHCP which will be led by the SENCO. We value parents' views and encourage open communication between home and school so that support can be reviewed and adapted as the child's needs develop.

Curriculum and how you can help your child

Our Curriculum Overview for Year 3 will be sent to you and is on our website. This enables you to see the topics / key learning areas taught across the year in all of the subjects.

Maths: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure all pupils become fluent in the fundamentals of Maths, solve problems and reason mathematically. Fluency in Maths is related to children being able to learn and remember key facts e.g. the 4 times table. Problem Solving is the ability to apply Maths to a variety of problems e.g. word problems, investigations. Reasoning is to use what is known about mathematics to tackle a problem and make connections between their learning.
Our School Calculation policy is available to view on the school website.
Please work with your child to learn the times table facts up to 12x12. In June 2025, (when they are in Year 4) they will be tested on these facts and will need to know them with speed. We focus on 3x, 4x 6x and 8x in Year 3 as well as reviewing 2x, 5x and 10x.

English: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils become fluent and confident speakers, readers and writers. Language is a key priority at Oughton Primary and we know that language and vocabulary is the key to success in life. Reading is vital as it helps us learn in all other subjects.
Please listen to your child read each day and sign their Reading Record Book. We expect the children to read to an adult at home at least three times a week, with an aim of 5 times a week, as part of their weekly home learning. Please discuss books with your child as well as listening to them read to help them improve their comprehension and deeper understanding of a text.
Please read the information in the Reading Record Book. Children will be rewarded for reading at home as they move around the World! Reading Around the World offers challenges and rewards throughout.

Also, share a book with your child, read to them; we are never too old to listen to stories! It is important that we build up vocabulary and listening and discussing stories helps this.
Help your child practise with their spelling. See the spelling words expected to be known by the end of Year 3, please practise these words with your child and similar words with the same word patterns:

Word list – Years 3 and 4

accident(ally)	early	knowledge	purpose
actual(ly)	earth	learn	quarter
address	eight/eighth	length	question
answer	enough	library	recent
appear	exercise	material	regular
arrive	experience	medicine	reign
believe	experiment	mention	remember
bicycle	extreme	minute	sentence
breath	famous	natural	separate
breathe	favourite	naughty	special
build	February	notice	straight
busy/business	forward(s)	occasion(ally)	strange
calendar	fruit	often	strength
caught	grammar	opposite	suppose
centre	group	ordinary	surprise
century	guard	particular	therefore
certain	guide	peculiar	though/although
circle	heard	perhaps	thought
complete	heart	popular	through
consider	height	position	various
continue	history	possess(ion)	weight
decide	imagine	possible	woman/women

Science – this year our topics are Animals including Humans, Forces and Magnets, Rocks, Light and Plants. To help your child build up their knowledge, you could do some research about these topics and find out language associated with these areas.

RE – this year our topics will be; What makes us human? Where do our morals come from? Is scripture central to religion? What happens if we do wrong? Why is water symbolic? Why is fire used ceremonially?

Computing – we will be learning how to use the Internet for research and communication, improve our word processing skills, programme in Turtle Logo and Scratch and to draw using a desktop publishing programme. We will be reminding the children about e-safety when using technology. Please talk to your child about keeping safe online when they are using technology at home.

History – our topics this year are The Stone Age and The Iron Age and The Bronze Age. Extra research on these topics will enhance learning further.

Geography – we will be learning about: Why some people live in Megacities? Why some earthquakes cause more damage than others? How we can live more sustainably. Talk to your child about the world, living in different places and the environment.
Music – we will be learning to play the Djembe drums and Glockenspiel. Talk about different genres of Music.

Art – this year we shall be experimenting with different drawing techniques, making our own Egyptian scroll, and exploring 3D abstract shape and space. Encourage your child to create pieces of Art at home.

Design and Technology (DT) – this year we will be using seasonal produce to eat healthily, designing and making a piece of wearable technology and constructing our own castle. Encourage your child to design a product and help with food preparation.

PE – this year, we will be focusing on cricket, dance, gymnastics, football, hockey, fitness, Outdoor

and Adventurous Activities, tennis, athletics and swimming. It would be greatly beneficial if your child could go swimming before the Summer term. This will build up their confidence and skills prior to our swimming lessons.

French – we will be learning simple words and phrases linked to Getting to know you, All about me, Food, Family and friends, Our school and time. Ask your child about new French words they have learned.

PSHE – this year, we will be following our Jigsaw topics of Being me in my world, Celebrating difference, Goals and Dreams, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing me. In November, we will be focusing on anti-bullying and learning about what this means. In the Summer Term, we will be teaching our Sex and Relationship Education. Encourage your child to talk to you about their feelings and emotions.

Useful websites to help your child:
Oughton Primary and Nursery School Website: http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk
TT Rock Stars: https://play.ttrockstars.com
Mathletics: https://login.mathletics.com/ (if your child is unsure on an element there are videos on the website)
SPAG.com: https://www.spag.com/
Your child will have a log in for Times Table Rock Stars, Mathletics and SPAG.com, please see their Reading Record.
Please look at 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.

Trips, Events and Key Dates
Year 3 Parental Meeting is being held on **Monday 14th September at 3:30pm** to discuss the curriculum in Year 3 and ways in which you can help your child further with their learning.
Year 3 will be holding a Let's Celebrate our Learning Assembly on **Tuesday 9th February 2027** at 2:45pm. Please join us for this.

We are hoping that in Year 3, the children will have the chance to visit Whipsnade Zoo, where they will participate in different activities to experience how animals are adapted to the habitat in which they live and Celtic Harmony linked to our Stone Age topic.

There will be three 'Wow' Days across the year. We will be having a Stone Age 'Wow' day on **Friday 6th November 2026** when the children can dress up as Stone Age children, a Geography Wow day on **Friday 26th February 2027** and a DT 'Wow' day on **Friday 18th June 2027**.

Please see our sheet sent out via Arbor for **additional dates across the whole year**. Please see this sheet for dates regarding holidays and Inset days, plus our KS 2 Carol Concert. 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.

Online Safety
Throughout all of the units in Computing lessons, children will be taught how to keep safe when using any computer, tablet or website. This will include the safe use of photographs, usernames and email. Children are encouraged to use tablets and computers in the presence of their Parents at home. We will follow up any concerns regarding children's use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp etc. Social Media sites are not considered appropriate for children of Primary school age. Please follow the Government guidance and age guidance for games, apps and media sites.

Home Learning
We expect every child to complete their home learning tasks.

We expect every child to read regularly as already stated. We also expect Year 3 children to be practising their times table skills on TT Rock Stars 3 times a week, 10 minutes at a time is advisable. Maths home learning will be set weekly using Mathletics and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar work will be set each week using SPAG.com. See your child's Reading Record Book for log ins.

General Information

School Book bags can be bought from the School Office. Children are expected to bring their reading book in each day.

Snacks: 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.

Dinners: Herts Catering Ltd provide our school dinners and offer a hot meal each day which is either meat or vegetarian as well as jacket potato option. They also offer a cold packed lunch option. Children pick their lunches in class, each day. We provide milk for KS 2 children to drink at lunchtimes if they wish.

If you provide a home packed lunch for your child, please remember, we are a nut free school. Nuts must not be brought into school and this includes chocolate spreads which often contain nuts. Be aware of almonds in sun scream lotion too. Due to a case of a severe allergy, please do not also include eggs for example, boiled egg, scotch eggs or egg mayonnaise in packed lunches Home packed lunches need to be healthy and balanced – no chocolate bars or fizzy / high sugar drinks.

Every child needs their own named water bottle to ensure they drink enough fluids during the school day. We encourage children to drink water in the school day and do not allow any other drinks, following Government guidelines. Please ensure your child does not use Air-up pods in their water bottles.

PE and PE kit

Our PE days are: **Monday and Tuesday** (this half term) this will change after half term.

Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit in – white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers and this remains in school. It will be sent home at half term to be washed. Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. Please ensure that your child removes earrings prior to the start of the school day.

Fitness is a key focus in Oughton and children in KS 1 and 2 will be running our 'Daily Dash' circuit each day. Please ensure that your child has their trainers in school each day.

Year 3 will be swimming this year. If this is the case, please ensure your child has a named swimming kit and towel in a separate bag. Also, include swimming hats or goggles if your child needs them. If your child has not been swimming before, please take them to a swimming pool to help settle in with swimming.

Clubs

As a school we offer a range of sport and subject based clubs which will be delivered by staff throughout the year. Messages will be sent about clubs via Arbor.

Breakfast Club

Premier Education provide a Breakfast Club within school for Reception to Year 6 children. Please book your child in – there is a link from our website. The room which this is held in is Lime, access is via Moss Way Red gate and through the green gate, first classroom is Lime.

After School Club
We provide an after-school provision from 3:15pm-6pm which includes a healthy snack. If you require a place for your child, please book and pay via Arbor. The room which this is held in is Lime, access is via Moss Way Red gate and through the green gate, first classroom is Lime.

Rewards / Houses
We will continue to use House Points and awards such as 'The Golden Book' and 'Super Star', 'Positive Play' and attendance treats. Your child will be in either Sapphire (Blue), Topaz (Yellow), Emerald (Green) or Ruby (Red) and will be able to earn house points. Certificates will be given for house points. Great effort, good home learning effort, completing Times Table Rock Star challenges, extra work at home, as well as regular reading will help your child to earn lots of house points throughout the year.

Finally…..
The Year 3 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.

Mr. Lee
Class Teacher