



OULTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! It's hard to believe how quickly the last half term flew by. We have got a busy half term ahead with many lovely activities and events planned.

As a school, we are actively promoting reading, and this forms our main school development priority for the year. We are planning to open our school library regularly after school for pupils and parents to share a book, browse and borrow from our collection. We have many wonderful books in our library that we are excited about lending out to get our children reading a richer variety of books. During the week beginning 20th November, we are having a reading week where school will be open every day after school for pupils and families to join us for a range of activities. Staff will be reading some of their favourite books and planning lots of related crafts and activities for all ages to enjoy. We are lucky enough to have an author, Saviour Pirotta, coming to spend the whole day with our children on Wednesday 22nd to run a range of storytelling workshops. Saviour will then stay after-school to take part in story telling with our families. We hope as many of you can join us as possible. Further details will be sent out shortly.

Staffing

I'm pleased to welcome Mrs Marilyn Johnson who has joined as one of our Lunch Time Supervisors - we wish her well for the future.

Uniform

There are an increasing number of dark blue jumpers being worn by pupils. We have many good quality Oulton jumpers available that we'd be happy to exchange for any darker jumpers.

Parents evening

We are looking forward to meeting you next week for this year's first set of parent & teacher consultations. Appointments are available on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November- please see the separate letter sent out on Monday for further details of how to book your appointment. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mrs Taylor is unavailable on Tuesday 7th but will be offering an alternate set of appointments on Thursday 9th November and at other points during next week. Mrs Taylor will contact you as needed to arrange.

Shoe Box Appeal

There are a few more days to put together a Christmas shoe box which will be sent abroad to children who are less fortunate than ourselves. The boxes are being sent to Libya, a country which is just battling back from an Ebola outbreak and Civil War. This has resulted in a vast number of children being orphaned.

Shoe boxes are available from the school office along with information about the items that can be included. Practical items such as socks, hats, gloves, combs, toothbrushes/paste are always good additions. Full shoe boxes need to be in the office first thing on Friday (3rd Nov) as a group of children will be dropping them off for donation during the day with Mr Westmoreland.

Poppy Appeal

We are proud to support the Poppy Appeal 2018. The school has a selection of Poppies, snap bands, bracelets and zip clips available for a donation. These are available from the school office before and after school. Year 6 pupils will also be bringing the items around to each classroom on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon (7th and 8th). If children would like to buy an item, please send a donation in on either day. Suggested donations are: Wristband (50p), Reflector (50p), Friendship Bracelet (£1) along with Snap Band (£1).

For younger pupils, please put any money in a labelled envelope to avoid any confusion.

Dropping and picking up younger pupils

We have become increasingly concerned that some of our youngest pupils have been dropped at school by older siblings or other unrelated children in school. For safety, an adult should always drop off younger pupils. Where staff have concerns about the suitability of other pupils picking up younger siblings, staff will not release pupils and will instead contact parents. This is for the safety of all pupils involved.

Sports Hall Athletics

Congratulations to our Sports Hall Athletics team who achieved 2nd place in their recent competition. Although we haven't automatically qualified for the City Final, we are eagerly awaiting the results from the other heats as we could still advance to the final if we beat the other 2nd place schools on points. Our pupils were impeccably behaved and showed good sportsmanship, the difference between our pupils and other schools was very noticeable- myself and the staff were extremely proud of our pupils. Well done!

Congratulations!

To our Site Manager, Jason who won the South Leeds Volunteer Hero Award. The presentation took place at Morley Town Hall and Jason was presented with a Certificate and a Golden Owl from the Lord Mayor of Leeds. Jason beat around 30 other applicants to win the award. He thanks everyone who voted for him.

School Open Evening

Just a reminder that we are holding an open evening on Thursday 2nd November, 5pm to 7pm. If you know of any parents who are looking for school places, please pass this information on to them.



Attendance

School End of Year Target	96%
Whole School Figure to Date	97.2%

Below are some reminders on how to support your child's attendance in school.

If your child is not attending school, it is extremely important that you contact school to advise us of the reason for the absence. In line with our safeguarding policy we have a duty of care to our children to ensure that they are safe. We become increasingly concerned when we do not receive communication from parents/carers. This can result in time being spent phoning/sending texts/leaving voicemails and carrying out home visits.

- We ask that you phone school on 0113 2821344 or text on 07797 801419 (this is a free service) before 9am. Please programme these numbers into your phones. If you change your contact details, please advise the office immediately.
- Please inform the school office rather than sending a message via the classroom staff.
- If your child just says they are not feeling too well, but show no sign of sickness, upset stomach or fever then give medicine where appropriate, bring to school and advise the teacher. School will monitor the child and if their health deteriorates we will contact you.
- School starts at 8.50am; please ensure that your child arrives before this time. Being late causes disruption to the class and upset to the child.
- If you are required to take your child out of school during term time, you must complete a leave of absence request form, available from the school office. Although holidays during term time WILL NOT be authorised, a form must still be submitted. REMEMBER if you take your child out of school for a holiday you will run the risk of receiving a fixed penalty notice for the family.
- If your child has a medical appointment, please bring a copy of the letter or appointment card to school, it will be copied for your child's records. If we do not receive this the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. For mid morning/afternoon appointments please try and enable the children to get their registration marks before being collected, this will avoid appointments impacting their attendance. (See Ms Ritson for further information)
- If your child's attendance starts to cause concern you will be contacted to attend a meeting in school to discuss.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact school.

Thank you for your support

Ms M Ritson (Learning Mentor)

TBC	POPS Disco
1 st December 2017	Christmas Fair 3.30pm – 5pm
15 th December 2017	End of term - School Closes
2 nd January 2018	Training Day
3 rd January 2018	School Opens
8 th February 2018	Spring Disco
1 st March 2018	Evening of Elegance 7pm – 9pm
5 th – 19 th March 2018	Smartie Tube Challenge
30 th June 2018	Summer Fair
19 th July 2018	Summer Disco

