

# Newsletter

## October 2019



### Message from the Head Teacher

We are quickly approaching the end of our first half term of the school year. I would like to say how proud I am of the pupils since they returned in September. Overall, we have had a very settled and calm start to the year and it is great to see the children being so keen to engage with their learning. At the start of the year, I held an assembly about different families and how our school is also a type of family. It has been nice to see that this has been taken to heart by many and that pupils actively help and support each other. This is especially evident at lunchtimes, where the older children have been so supportive of our younger members of the school community that often need that extra bit of guidance and support at this point of the year.

Thinking about family, we have made some changes to our house system this year. We have four houses named after Yorkshire athletes: Ennis, Cockcroft, Clancy and Brownlee. Historically, KS2 pupils were only in houses but this year we have decided to allocate all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 a house. All members of staff have also been allocated to a house and the aim is to encourage more teamwork and collaboration across the entire school. The houses have now elected 'house captains' from Y6 and each candidate had to present their manifesto before facing a school wide vote. Our new house captains will play a key role in some of our new and exciting upcoming school events. Many thanks to Miss Brown for organising this and for supporting the work of our school council. **Mr Horton**

### Harvest Festival

This year, we have made a change to the arrangements for our Harvest festival due to reviewing previous events and the availability of our pianist. This year, we will be only having an EYFS and KS1 Harvest celebration. KS2 children will instead present an Easter themed celebration later in the school year. As our harvest festival is often very busy, we decided to split it into two events last year. However, this did mean that the events felt rushed and did not give each Key Stage enough time to make the event their own. We are hoping that by giving each Key Stage their own dedicated event, it will be a more enjoyable experience for all. In addition to the Harvest celebration, KS1 and EYFS will both do a Nativity. KS2 Children will also do a Christmas Carol Concert.

EYFS and KS1 parents are warmly invited to join us for our Harvest celebration on Friday 25th October at 2.15pm. As in previous years, donations of tinned and non-perishable foods are welcome and will be donated to St George's Crypt. KS2 pupils are also invited to bring in any donated items to benefit this worthy cause.

### School Uniform

Thank you to the parents who have provided feedback both in writing and in person regarding the school uniform policy which says that only white polo shirts should be worn. Apologies for not responding individually to each but I have taken your views on board and considered the implications of the change that was originally made in September 2016. The views raised by parents were discussed with the Governing Body and the decision was taken to re-introduce blue polo shirts back into our uniform policy. For clarity, pupils are permitted to wear either a white or royal blue polo shirt. We do request that if you opt for a blue shirt, it is royal blue and not any other shades.

We are appreciative to those parents who have made the change to white shirts this year and would like to apologise for any inconvenience that this new policy change has caused. Hopefully, you will see that we are receptive to the feedback given to us and where possible, we do take the views of the wider community seriously.

Please remember that children can wear either shoes or trainers. However, these must be black.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all who joined us for our Macmillan coffee morning. We raised a fantastic £415.18! A huge thank you to everyone who baked or bought something for the coffee morning and the bun sale.



# Newsletter

## October 2019



### Book fair

The Book Fair will be arriving in school soon and just in time for Christmas! There are hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. Please support our book stall as school receives credit towards new books for our library. Last year, the fair helped us to get £200 of new books for school.

The fair will run from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. As last year, we will also run some sessions only for parents/carers to allow any gifts to be bought. A separate letter will follow shortly with further details.

### Parents Evening – Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th November

Due to the success of our online payment system, we will be offering all parents/carers the opportunity to book their parents evening appointment on-line. Within the next few weeks, you will be sent a link to your mobile phone allowing you to book a slot with your child/ren's teacher. If you would like Mrs Hoskin (our SENCO) to attend your meeting with the class teacher, please arrange your slot for the Wednesday and let the school office know your requirements. Alternatively, Mrs Hoskin will be running another parents' evening in January for those who require a meeting.

### Shoebox appeal

As in previous years, we are supporting the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child'. For this worthy cause, we collect filled shoeboxes to send to less fortunate children across the world at Christmas time. Last year, we collected 171 boxes- a new record! Mr Westmoreland is keen to beat this total again. There are plain, empty boxes that you can Christmas wrap or printed boxes for 50p at the school office. For further details about the scheme visit: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>. Completed boxes need to be in school for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

### POPS Non-uniform Day

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we will be holding a non-uniform day in exchange for a donation of a raffle or tombola prize. Prizes collected will be used during the POPS Christmas Fair on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Reminders will be sent out closer to the time.

### ALDI Sports Stickers

Thank you to all who have helped to collect the ALDI stickers. We have already completed one poster and we are well on the way to finishing our second. We have ordered another poster which will hopefully arrive soon. It would be great if we could complete at least three posters. The more posters that we complete, the more chance we will have at winning the £20,000 prize! For each poster we complete, we also receive a sports set for school. Thank you for your support.

### Open Evening

We are holding an open evening for prospective new parents of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 between 4.30pm and 7.00pm. The evening is open to all new parents with the intention of showing them the school and hopefully encourage them to choose Oulton for their child. If you know of anybody who might be interested in finding out more about our school, please tell them about our event- we have some leaflets available in the school entrance and there are also details on our website.



# Newsletter

## October 2019



### Governing Body Vacancy

Mr Dodd, one of our Parent Governors, has stepped down from his role. We would like to thank Mr Dodd for his contribution to the Governing Body and for his work designing our school website. This means that the Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Elections will take place week commencing 04/11/2019. We will write to parents next week to provide further details of the role and how to apply. Thanks, Mr Elliott (Chair of Governors).

### Roof Update

The waterproof layer is now complete and we have already noticed a difference with the warmth of the school. There are now a few more weeks of cosmetic and finishing works to complete but this should now not have any impact on the normal operation of the school. The scaffolding and site equipment are due to be removed over the half term break and we are very much looking forward to having full use of our site again. Thank you for your patience during these works.

### Attendance reminder

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. If we are unable to contact you about an absence, we will carry out a home visit. We ask that you phone school on 0113 2821344 or text on 07797 801419 (this is a free service) before 9am. If your child's attendance starts to cause concern, you will be contacted to attend a meeting to discuss this in school.

### Parking Issues

Unfortunately, the school has received complaints from residents about parking on the roads around the site, especially on Parkways. Please do not block residents' drives or park on them. If a car journey is necessary, please park legally and courteously. If there are no legal places to park towards school, please find another space a little further away and walk up. I have contacted the local police to see what assistance they can provide for residents affected and about the possibility of arranging parking enforcement visits. Thank you.

### Upcoming events

11-13 <sup>th</sup> October	YR6 Ingleborough Hall Residential
17 <sup>th</sup> October	KS1 Learn with us (PM)- Letter to follow
18 <sup>th</sup> October	EYFS – Parents Maths Workshop: 9am to 10am
24 <sup>th</sup> October	POPS Shopping Event (evening event)
25 <sup>th</sup> October	EYFS and KS1 Harvest Festival (PM)- Letter to follow
28 <sup>th</sup> October-3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Autumn Half Term- School Closed
4 <sup>th</sup> November	School Opens
5 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS – Bonfire Crafts: 2pm to 3pm
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening
5 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Learn with us (PM)- Letter to follow
6 <sup>th</sup> December	POPS Christmas Fair: 3.30pm
10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS – Christmas Production (10.45am)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS – Christmas Production (2.40pm)
12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS – Christmas Craft afternoon
16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 – Christmas Performance (2.30pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 – Christmas Performance (2.30pm)
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch (School Pupils/Staff Only)
20 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 – Carol Concert (2.30pm)

