

Newsletter

February 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Another half term has flown by and we are now halfway through the school year. The introduction of our new positive relationships and behaviour policy, from January, has been a real success. The children have been really enthused by the change and really enjoy collecting marbles, receiving positive phone/positive notes and coming for hot chocolate. Hot chocolate Friday is my favourite time of the week as it allows me to spend quality time with a range of pupils who have worked hard and it's great to celebrate this. **Mr Horton.**

Girl Guiding: World Thinking Day

A few members of the girl guiding movement in school have been writing to me over the last few weeks asking if they are able to wear their Rainbows/Brownie uniforms for World Thinking Day on Wednesday 22nd February- this is a day which celebrates the international friendships that members of the guiding community have built. If you are a member of the guiding community, you are welcome to wear your uniform to school on this day. All other pupils are to wear their usual uniform/PE kit.

Parents' evening

Due to proposed strike action by the NEU on Thursday 16th March, we have taken the decision to move our parents' evenings to the following week. These will now be held on Wednesday 22nd March and Thursday 23rd March. Text invites to book an appointment will be sent out soon. You should still receive your child's mid-year reports on Friday 10th March.

NEU Industrial Action- Strike Action

There is another planned day of industrial action planned for Tuesday 28th February 2023. As was the case with the last strike, I am still unable to confirm how many teachers are intending to strike and the year groups/classes that this will affect. As a reminder, staff are under no obligation to inform me in advance of their intention to strike.

As I am unaware of the numbers of teachers that I will currently have available, I am unable to safely plan for the children to attend school. **As such, I am asking all parents and carers to plan for the school to be closed to all on Tuesday 28th February. Please make any necessary childcare arrangements in preparation.**

However, on the day, we may be in the position to open specific classes/year groups if any teachers report for work. I can then decide on how we can open the school to the greatest number of pupils. School will send text messages to each class who are able to attend and we will aim to do this at the earliest opportunity in the morning. We will also update our website with a list of the classes able to attend as these are confirmed.

If you do not receive a text message, please assume that your child's class remains closed. Our webpage <https://www.oulttonprimary.co.uk/schoolclosure/> will be updated each day to reflect the classes that we expect to be open. If your class is expected to be open, please continue to have childcare arrangements in place as this is only an indication.

POPS Disco- Appropriate Parent Contact

To organise any school event, whether it be on-site or off-site, takes a great deal of careful planning to ensure that it runs smoothly and, most importantly, safely.

Our school discos are organised by members of POPS who give up their free time to provide this opportunity for the children. They are supported by members of staff who also give up their free time to attend. Deadlines for submitting permission slips and making payments are put in place to allow enough time for POPS and the school office to collate



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pupil information, check that supervision levels are safe, put arrangements in place to support specific pupils, purchase refreshments and ensure that any allergy/ dietary needs are met. These are processes that take time and care to ensure that they are done properly and that all children are safe.

Sadly, leading up to the recent disco, office staff and POPS members have been faced with verbal abuse, threatening behaviour and unacceptable comments from some of our school community because children have not been able to attend due to their parent/ carer missing the deadline. Deadlines are clearly stated on all disco correspondence and, when these are nearing, reminders are texted to families and posted on the POPS Facebook page.

As a school, we are incredibly grateful for the time and hard work that POPS put into organising events for our children. The money they raise subsidises school trips, buys additional resources and provides experiences for children that they might not otherwise have access to.

All members of the school community have the right to work or be in school without fear of aggression or abuse. The school has a 'Dealing with Abusive Behaviour' policy which will be followed if there are further instances of this type of behaviour by individuals- this could result in restrictions on how you can contact the school and may ultimately result in you not being able to access the school site. We want to work constructively with parents and carers and hope that this is not a course of action we need to take. **Mr Horton and**

Miss Brown

Staffing Changes

As was detailed in a letter to Mrs Hudson's class yesterday, it is with sadness that I announce that Mrs Hudson will be leaving Oulton at Easter. She has made the difficult decision to relocate with her family. I know that she is very sad about leaving Oulton and will miss all of Jellyfish class. I would like to thank her for her commitment and hard work over the last 4 years. After the Easter break, the class will be taught by Mrs Senior who currently works in our Nursery.

Following her maternity leave, we are expecting the return of Miss Harden during the Summer term. Miss Harden will be returning to teach in Nursery. I will confirm the arrangements for Miss Harden's return with Nursery parents in the coming week.

Car Park Safety

Please ensure that you stay on the marked paths when moving across the lower car park. This is a road and vehicles could be moving around the site. It is not appropriate for children to be walking/scooting/riding up and down the slope to the top car park; this area is not suitable for pupils to access. Please ensure that you supervise your children to keep them safe before and after school.

Sports Hall Athletics

Many congratulations to our Sports Hall Athletics team who came 1st in their heat. The team performed fantastically and they are through to the semi-finals with 5 other teams on Thursday 23rd February. Here's hoping we can make the final!

Cross Country

Last half term, several different groups competed again in a cross-country competition after qualifying in the last round. Our Y4 Boys team, Y5 Girls Team, and Wildcard entry, Tyler (Y6), all gave their best and completed the run. Unfortunately, we did not have any



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qualifiers for the next round (city wide competition) but we are very proud of our teams and individual who took part.

UKS2 Cricket Sessions

Thank you to Miss James for organising some girls' cricket taster sessions for years 5 and 6. If your child would like to find out more about sessions held by Oulton Cricket Club, please email hello@oultton.leeds.sch.uk and Miss James will be able to give you more information.

Upcoming Events

1 st -3 rd March	Y4 Residential to Scarborough
10 th March	Mid-year reports to parents
22 nd and 23 rd March	Parents' Evening
31 st March	KS2 Easter Singing Celebration: 2.35pm (Exact time TBC)
3 rd -17 th April	Easter Break- School Closed

