

Newsletter

January 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

I would like to start by wishing all our families a happy new year. The children have returned to school well and they have settled back into their learning like they have never been away. This term, we have lots of exciting activities planned for the children. They will all be watching a Pantomime this week – a big thank you to POPS for funding this experience. Later in the term, many of our Year 4 pupils will be travelling to Scarborough for their residential. **Mr Horton.**

Training Day

On Tuesday, the staff team received training on our new Positive Relationship and Behaviour Policy. We are raring to implement our new policy from Monday. A summary of our new Positive Relationships and Behaviour policy can be found at the end of this letter. There is a lot of information but please take the time to read it as it contains details of some key changes.

Christmas Collections

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas events. It was fantastic to have parents/carers/grandparents back into school to watch our EYFS/KS1 nativities and also our KS2 Christingle.

At the events, the Pupil Voice committee asked us to do a collection for the local food bank. We are proud to report that we raised £298.11 which will be donated to this worthy cause. Thank you for your generosity.

POPS Update

A huge thank you to POPS for their support and events over the Christmas period. They raised £1,380 from the Christmas Fair, Raffle, Advent Calendars and Tea/Coffee Donations. Hopefully, there is also a possibility of some match funding from one of our parents to further increase this total.

This Year, they have raised a total of £2,500 which will be spent to enrich the school experience of all pupils.

If you would like to get involved with POPS, they are always looking for more helpers please contact POPS@ouulton.leeds.sch.uk. Also, please let them know if your employer can offer any sort of match funding as this does help to increase the money raised to support our pupils.

Christmas Present Distribution

Our Learning Mentors were able to secure hundreds of donated children's gifts, toys and clothes from local charities/churches that they were able to wrap and discreetly distribute to many of our families before we broke up. In addition to what the school secured, one of our families also donated bags full of new toys that were also wrapped and distributed- the kindness and generosity of this family is really appreciated and we thank them on behalf of the whole school community.

Seeing all the donated gifts all spread out was truly humbling and was one of the things that made me feel truly Christmassy this year. It was a real example of community spirit and kindness. Many thanks to all who were involved in this fantastic initiative.



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Back to school advice issued amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever

The UKHSA provided a press release regarding back-to-school advice amid high levels of flu, Covid-19 and scarlet fever being experienced across the country:

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said: "It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved."

"Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading."

"Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent."

"Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late."

Upcoming Events

13 th -19 th February	Spring Half Term- School Closed
20 th February	School Opens
1 st -3 rd March	Y4 Residential to Scarborough
10 th March	Mid-year reports to parents
15 th and 16 th March	Parents' Evening
31 st March	KS2 Easter Singing Celebration: 2.35pm (Exact time TBC)
3 rd -17 th April	Easter Break- School Closed

New Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy

From this term, we are introducing a new behaviour policy informed by the book "When the Adults Change" by Paul Dix. Following training undertaken by the Leadership Team, we have now trained all staff in this approach and are we are excited to see it in action from next week.

Our new policy involves ensuring positive behaviour for learning. We will establish relentless routines, expecting, modelling and promoting the high standards of behaviour from the entire Oulton community. Our new policy shifts the focus onto those who choose to do their best and aim to go above and beyond. We praise, reward and celebrate those who do the right thing and less positive behaviour is not given the attention that is often sought. There are consequences for poorer choices but these no longer follow a prescribed and are for the staff member dealing with the situation to decide on; this could be a simple follow up discussion, a natural consequence (having to miss some breaktime to talk to the staff member) or a prescribed consequence such as missing breaks/playtimes.



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We focus on:

- Having only 3 simple school rules: **be ready, be respectful, be safe**. These rules are easy to remember and can be applied to most, if not all, situations
- Noticing, acknowledging and rewarding the things children do well, their effort, commitment and successes
- Behaviour throughout the entire school day
- Positively greeting children each day
- Always recognising positive behaviours during all parts of the school day including when we move around the building, at lunch/breaks and between lessons
- Embracing opportunities to learn from each other
- Staff commitment to support each other in using the most appropriate terms to describe observed behaviours

We'll do this by:

- Always referring to our three rules and praising those who follow them
- Acknowledging good behaviour on all occasions - public praise in the classroom and at celebration assemblies
- Where possible, we'll remind pupils when their behaviour is not appropriate, in private
- Recognition Boards in the classrooms - 'walls of fame' for children who are showing positive behaviour
- Positive phone calls homes - sharing positive news with carers
- Positive notes home - sharing positive news with carers when children consistently go 'above and beyond'
- A whole class marble jar to earn rewards/activities such as extra playtime or choosing time
- During our Friday assembly, each class/groups' marbles will be combined into a whole school tank to earn school rewards/activities
- Children who consistently go 'above and beyond' will be selected to have hot chocolate with the Head/Deputy Head on a Friday
- During Friday assembly, staff will share with the school the positive parts of the week and we'll celebrate those children who have received notes/phone calls and/been invited for hot chocolate Friday or classes who have filled their gem jar
- The names of those children who receive notes/phone calls/hot chocolate will be displayed outside the staffroom so all staff can congratulate them when they see them around school
- Relentless Routines ensure every child knows what is expected of them and 'how we do it here'
- Scripted Interventions when poor choices are made. Every adult will respond in the same way and say the same 'script'
- Use of positive language - telling the pupil what we want, not what we don't want
- Where possible and appropriate, giving children control and choices - particularly when we know the child is affected by trauma or loss
- No behaviour conversations during learning time- a focus on getting children back to learning as soon as possible
- Supporting pupils to have restorative conversations



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Due to the change in policy, from Monday 9th January, we will no longer be stamping planners following each session. Instead, please ask your child if they got their name on the recognition board or if they earned any marbles for the class/group/communal marble jars. We hope that parents/carers receiving positive notes and phone calls will be a much nicer way of sharing with you when your child has gone above and beyond.

We will also no longer use the steps/traffic lights from 9th January and instead use the following stages of response to poor choices:

Stage 1- Redirection + take up time: praising those around them, not verbal cue/gesture

Stage 2 - Reminder + take up time: a reminder of expectations linked back to the 3-rules and 'how we do it here'

Stage 3 - Warning + take up time: a scripted conversation will be used here or at Stage 4 as necessary.

Stage 4 - Last Chance + take up time: Note added to child's planner 'Warning given for...'

Stage 5 - Reset: time out of the classroom (within classroom for younger pupils) and support given by Behaviour/Learning Mentor to 'reset' the child so that they can reengage with their learning; this adult will not discuss the incident with them as their aim is to get them 'back to learning' as soon as possible. Note added to child's planner 'Time away from classroom needed'; following the Repair stage below, details of any consequence given will also be noted in their planner.

Stage 6- Repair: restorative follow up with the staff member leading the class, session, and/or activity and consequences decide upon if necessary

These stages are used in response to a particular behaviour. Once the child makes a good choice and engages with their learning, they will be praised and the process ends- the stages do not 'stack' or 'accumulate'. If the child later chooses to make a different poor choice, then the process will start again. If your child is regularly receiving reminders, warnings or needing support to 'reset', then class teachers will contact you to discuss so that home and school can work together to support your child.

We will retain the house teams for sports day/quizzes, but house points will no longer be awarded as the focus has now shifted to be a 'class team' and working together to fill their class jars which will help the whole school achieve rewards. We will still celebrate 'Eager Readers' and those with good attendance during assemblies.

Our behaviour policy can be found on our website here: shorturl.at/aQV68. We are excited to be moving to our new system and having more of a focus on celebrating those children who always make good choices.

