

Newsletter

November 2022



Dear Parents and carers

Thank you for your messages of congratulations following the publication of our recent Ofsted report. We are proud of our achievements and keen to continue improving the school. It was lovely to see so many parents at our recent parents' evenings and I hope that you found the meetings useful. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting; this can be done in person or by phone.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the many Christmas events that we have planned over the coming weeks. **Mr Horton.**

EYFS and KS1 Nativity

We are pleased to be able to get back to face-to-face nativity performances this year! I know that the children in EYFS and KS1 are busy preparing for their performances.

Please join us for our:

- **EYFS show on Thursday 8th December 2.30pm**
- **KS1 Show on Tuesday 13th December 2.30pm**

KS2 Christingle and Carol Concert

We are also pleased to be able to hold our usual KS2 Carol Service and Christingle event. This is always a magical end to the term and gets everyone in the mood for Christmas. Please join us for our KS2 event on **Friday 16th December at 2.40pm.**

Pokémon Cards

Over the last few weeks, we have seen an increase in children bringing Pokémon cards to school. To prevent issues with bad trades, card related squabbles and lost/damaged cards, children are not allowed to bring these to school or trade at playtimes. Cards brought to school will be looked after by staff and returned to parents/carers at the end of the day. Thank you for your help with this.

POPS Update

POPS have been very busy over the last few weeks. Thank you to the committee for organising the recent shopping event- this was well attended and raised £440 profit.

POPS are preparing for the Christmas Fair this week on **Friday 2nd December 3.30-5.30pm.** This is our first Christmas fair since December 2019 and we are very excited that it is back. In addition to the stalls organised by POPS, each class (or year group) will have a stall- there is always a healthy level of competition to see who can raise the most money! Thank you to all the parents and carers who sent in a tombola item on our recent non-uniform day; your support is much appreciated.

Please continue to support POPS events as the money raised is invested back into the school by the committee to fund coach travel for trips, equipment such as the trim trail, and much more!

Children in Need

Thank you for supporting Children in Need. We raised a grand total of **£ 423.48** to donate to this worthy cause. I know that the children had lots of fun wearing their pyjamas and joining in with the many different activities



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Staffing Update

We are pleased to welcome some new members of the staff to the Oulton Team. After having a few vacancies unfilled from the last school year, we have been able to recruit Mrs A Wong and Mrs E Wilson as teaching assistants. We also welcome Ms C Dews and Mrs S Pettigrew to the newly created roles of Behaviour Mentor. We also welcome Miss R Thackray who re-joins our team as a SEND teaching assistant. We look forward to welcoming these new members of staff in January.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs J Janney who is leaving her role of Lunchtime Assistant after 10-years. We also say goodbye to Miss L Hutchinson who leaves us as a Lunchtime Assistant this week and two of our cleaners, Mrs C Denton and Mrs S Hocker, who leave us next month; we wish them the best of luck for the future.

Miss E Hupton, one of our teaching assistants, also leaves us at Christmas. I know that she has worked with a lot of children in school and she will be greatly missed.

Cleaner Vacancies

We have two cleaning vacancies. Monday to Friday, 2 hours per day 3.30pm to 5.30pm, 10 hours per week (£10.50 per hour). Some availability to work during school Holidays is essential. Deadline for applications: 16/12/2022, 12pm. Please email applications to recruitment@oultton.leeds.sch.uk

Application form can be found here: shorturl.at/hinoZ

Job description can be found here: shorturl.at/aU468

School Council: Pupil Voice

Pupils have elected their Pupil Voice representatives for the year. This was an enjoyable process and we had a lot of children interested- this was fantastic! Our Pupil Voice representatives can be easily identified as they have been provided with yellow polo shirts to wear. This will hopefully mean that pupils can easily find a member of the Pupil Voice committee to share their views.

Under the guidance of Miss Shaw, the committee have hit the ground running and are having weekly meetings. They have already organised 'odd sock' day to raise awareness of anti-bullying week, organised the Christmas Jumper Exchange, delivered the harvest donations to the local food bank, met with the school's Governing Board (and gave them a grilling!) and they have recently brought back a shopping trolley to start our own food bank collection point. They are now planning a visit to Oulton Manor Care Home to deliver some Christmas cards/sing/do some crafts with the residents.

Christmas Jumper Exchange

Thank you to those who have donated a jumper this year. These will be organised into sizes and displayed outside the Y5 classrooms on Thursday 1st December where they can be chosen by adults and children free of charge. **The children will be able to wear these jumpers when they have their school Christmas Dinner on Thursday 15th December (non-uniform day; Christmas Jumpers/Christmas Colours- no donation requested).**

Please note that all donated jumpers will be washed before they are put out for families to select from.



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Food Bank

Thank you to all families who supported our harvest event and sent in food donations. These were gratefully received by the local foodbank in Rothwell. The school council delivered these on the school's behalf.

The pupil voice committee have placed a shopping trolley in the main entrance for donations of food and uniform. These donations will be regularly donated to the food bank to help support our local community.

As a reminder, the local food bank is Open every Wednesday at Blackburn Hall, Rothwell (rear entrance) at the following times: 10-30am-12pm & 3pm-5pm. The foodbank is there for anyone who is financially struggling. There is a £2 donation on the door. **If your family requires any additional support, please talk to one of our Learning Mentors who will be able to signpost you to support. As a school, we are always here to support you and your family.**

Lateness and Attendance Letters

During the coming week, Miss Birch, one of our Learning Mentors, will be sending an attendance reminder letter to all children who have attendance less than our school target of 96%. When we have previously sent these letters out, some parents/carers have been offended- it is not the aim of these letters to cause offence but to merely highlight when a child's attendance is below our school target and provide the name of a contact who you can discuss any issues that may be affecting your child's attendance. The local authority recommends that schools send these reminders regularly with the aim of improving school attendance.

Attendance Guidance

Our target for whole school attendance is 96%. As a school, we are well below our target at 92.5%. This figure has been heavily impacted by illness absences but there is also a high proportion of children with unauthorised absences and late marks included in this figure.

Punctuality

- This will be a focus during the next term as we try to reduce the number of children arriving late on a regular basis. **From Wednesday 4th January 2022, the school gates will be locked promptly at 9am to encourage families to arrive on time.**

Poor punctuality can disadvantage children in many ways:

- The local authority attendance officer is planning to do some 'late gates' in the new year where she will greet families arriving late and explain the importance of prompt attendance
- Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning- for example arriving 15-minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2-weeks a year
- When children are late, they find it harder to settle into the routine of the day
- When children arrive late, they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to influence their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class
- Some interventions happen first thing in the morning and being late means that the children are not able to access the support that has been scheduled for them



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Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count!

How can you help your child's attendance?

Please read the following information:

- Make sure your child understands why school is important
- Get everything ready for school the night before
- Ensure children are in school at their starting times as lessons start promptly.
- If you do arrive after 9.00am, you must report to the school office to sign your child in on our inventory system
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend (before 8.30am) for whatever reason and keep in contact with school on subsequent days of absence. Telephone 01132821344 or text 07786201172 (this is a free service; please put the number in your phone). As part of our safeguarding policy, we need to know the reason for absence. If we do not receive contact, we will send an absence text, call all contacts on our records and also carry out a home visit where possible. On occasions the area attendance officer from Leeds City Council Children's services will be consulted and will support with home visits
- Schedule holidays during school holidays and not during term time
- Taking holidays during term time may result in a fixed penalty notice from the Local Authority (£60 per child plus £60 per adult). A Leave of absence form must be completed if you wish to take your child out of school during term time
- Keep contact details up to date – When you change phone numbers, please tell school immediately. It is a real concern when we are unable to contact parent/carers due to unobtainable numbers
- Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays. Bring your child to school for the time before or after an appointment wherever possible so they can get their registration marks
- Evidence of the appointment will be required (letter/appointment card/showing text). For mid-morning appointments bring children in for their registration mark at 9am, and then they will be signed out until their return. For mid-afternoon appointments, collect children after registration at 1 pm. Working together, we can try to avoid appointments affecting a child's attendance
- Only grant days at home for genuine illness (you will know!) If your child is slightly under the weather, still send them into school. Children often start feeling better as the day goes on and they get busy, and if the school is worried, they will call you
- If you are unable to come to school to administer prescribed medicine, school can do so with authorisation. Please see the school office for further information
- Please do not encourage your children to lie about the reason for absence. Remember children do get excited about special treats and do tell the adults in school. If we get conflicting information, we will get in touch to clarify
- When we do not receive a reason for absence the attendance record will be listed as unauthorised. Ongoing unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty being issued by the Local Authority



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- When we have not seen a child for 4-days (even when we have had reason for absence) we will carry out a 4th day home visit. This is to support our safeguarding policy in school. If we see the child, we will evidence that we have seen on the child's record this will be evidence to support the absence
- Keep in touch with school staff, we may be able to support you with advice, rewards for your child or other incentives
- Attend attendance meetings if you are invited to do so, in these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve attendance

Upcoming Events

2 nd December	POPS Christmas Fair: 3.20-5.30pm
8 th December	EYFS - Christmas Performance: 2.30pm
13 th December	KS1 - Christmas Performance: 2.30pm
15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Colour Day (no charge)
15 th December	Christmas Lunch (School Pupils/Staff Only)
16 th December	KS2 - Carol Concert: 2.40pm
19th December-3rd January	Christmas Break- School Closed
2023	
3rd January	School Closed to Pupils - Training Day #4
4 th January	School Opens
13th-19th February	Spring Half Term- School Closed
20 th February	School Opens
10 th March	Mid-year reports to parents
15 th and 16 th March	Parents' Evening
31 st March	KS2 Easter Singing Celebration: 2.45pm (Exact time TBC)
3rd-17th April	Easter Break- School Closed

