

Newsletter

October 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

After what seems like the longest half term ever, the break is finally here. The children deserve a well-earned break (as do the staff!). Please ensure that you have a restful and safe half term break; especially with any events around Halloween and bonfire night. The children have done some class-based learning about firework safety today in preparation for the holiday. This work was going to be conducted by our local PCSO but due to a clash with our EYFS and KS1 harvest, this could not be delivered by him. However, he kept us in his diary and attended the harvest celebration to see what the children had been learning/working hard to prepare.

The harvest festival today was fantastic! It was a pleasure to see our youngest pupils being confident enough to stand up in front of such a large group of adults. The event was very well attended and it was lovely to welcome our families into school; thank you for your support and being willing to sing along at the end (the children were louder!).

Thank you to all the staff who helped the children to prepare for this celebration- without them, events like this would not be possible. **Mr Horton.**

Workshops

A huge thank you to Miss Brown for arranging the recent parent workshops on Phonics, RWI Spelling and Maths. We hope that you found these useful. We are planning some further sessions. Please do let us know if you have an area that you would like to run a workshop on. I am planning an E-Safety information session and further details of this will follow after half term.

Support Staffing Changes

We have had a few staffing changes over the last half term. We said goodbye to Mrs Longden, Office and Finance Manager, who left us towards the end of September to spend more time with her family. We have successfully recruited Miss Megan Furness to be our new office manager. Miss Furness started with us this week and has hit the ground running. Mrs Unwin, Office Administrator, left us this week after 19-years at Oulton to start a well-earned retirement. We wish her a long and happy retirement! Mrs Unwin will be replaced by Miss Jodie Nicholson who is expected to join us at the start of December.

We have welcomed two new lunch time assistants to the team since September. Miss Lauren Firth and Miss Clare Woodhouse have joined us.

Teaching Staff Changes

We have a few teacher changes confirmed for January.

Mrs Harrison, EYFS Phase Leader, is leaving us at the end of the term. She has decided to try something new and is planning to start her own baby massage business; this is quite a change from her current role but we know she will be brilliant! We have successfully appointed Mrs Amanda Ellis to replace Mrs Harrison as one of the reception teachers and Phase Leader. Mrs Ellis is an experienced EYFS Phase Leader and Reception Teacher. We look forward to welcoming her to the team.

Miss James, our current Y5/6 teacher, has secured a promotion and will leave Oulton in January to be an Assistant Principal of another Leeds School. We are very proud of her and wish her the best of luck with her new challenge.

Due to Miss James's departure, arrangements for Starfish class are still being finalised. Please be reassured that we will be carefully selecting a new teacher for this role and that there will be opportunities for them to get to know the children before they start at Oulton



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in January. Once I have further details, I will email parents in Starfish directly with more information.

Ingleborough

Year 6 had a fantastic residential to Ingleborough Hall. They were a credit to themselves and the school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The weather was relatively kind to us but we did have a bit of snow as 2 of the groups got towards the top of Ingleborough Hill. This year, we tried a new activity and had a campfire on Saturday evening. It was great fun singing around the fire and roasting marshmallows.

However, one thing we do need to say is, this is the worst group we have ever had at playing hide and seek. They did not find any of the staff!

Remembrance Day

The children will be learning about remembrance during the first week back as it will be Remembrance Day on 11th November. As part of this, children will be able to buy a poppies and snap bands in school every day (1st week back after half term). For a poppy, children can just make a donation and for a snap band, there is a suggested donation of £1.00-£1.50. All donations go to the Royal British Legion. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.

Whole school rewards

Classes are still working incredibly hard to fill their class marble jars by showing they are ready, respectful and safe. We have been able to spin the whole school reward wheel three times this half term and the children have earned two 'outside visitor' rewards and when we spun the wheel today, they earned an ice pop treat! After half term, the children will enjoy a 'silent disco' and we also have another surprise visitor who will work with the whole school over two days before the end of term.

POPS Christmas Fair and non-uniform day

On Friday 10th November we will be holding a non-uniform day to support POPS to collect prizes for the Christmas Fair tombola. Please send your donations to school with your child (any alcohol needs to be brought to the office by an adult)

Remember to join us for our Christmas Fair on Friday 24th November 3:20-5:30 too. There will be many festive stalls and games!

Upcoming Events

28th October-5th November	Autumn Half Term- School Closed
6 th November	School Opens
10 th November	Non-uniform Day
21 st and 23 rd November	Parents' Evening
24 th November	POPS Christmas Fair
1st December	School Closed to Pupils - Training Day #3
14 th December	EYFS - Christmas Performance: 2.45pm (Exact time TBC)
19 th December	KS1 - Christmas Performance: 2.45pm (Exact time TBC)
21 st December	Christmas Lunch (School Pupils/Staff Only)
22 nd December	KS2 - Carol Concert: 2.30pm (Exact time TBC)
23rd December-7th January	Christmas Break- School Closed
2024	
8 th January	School Opens
10th-18th February	Spring Half Term- School Closed
19th February	School Closed to Pupils - Training Day #4
20 th February	School Opens
28 th -1 st March	Y4: Whitby Residential Trip

