

Newsletter

February 2024



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Although this half term has flown by, it also seems a very long time since Christmas. We have had a productive and busy half term and the children should be extremely proud of their hard work and achievements. The new members of our staff team have settled in well and it feels like they have already been here for years!

Luckily, the snow this week did not have any impact on school. Hopefully, as spring gets started, we'll have some pleasant weather. As you will see below in our Pupil Voice update, POPS are supporting us to fund some further improvements to the KS2 playground; hopefully, we can get this done soon to enjoy during the warmer months.

Have a well-deserved half-term break. **Mr Horton.**

INSET Day

Reminder- school is closed to all pupils on Monday 19th February for our 4th INSET day. School reopens on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

During the INSET day, teaching staff will be working in subject teams to review the delivery of the curriculum and monitor each subject to help us to further enhance our curriculum offer.

Support Staffing Changes

Today, we wished Mrs Pettigrew, one of our Behaviour Mentors, a fond farewell as she leaves us to undertake a new role and career direction. We would like to thank Mrs Pettigrew for her hard work and dedication during her time at Oulton. We wish her every success for the future. We are currently recruiting for Mrs Pettigrew's role and I will update you once we have filled this vacancy.

Pupil Voice Update

This half term, Pupil Voice representatives have held weekly meetings with Mrs Ellis. In these meetings, they have discussed ideas for future projects and events they would like to organise and what they would like to improve in school. The Pupil Voice representatives have included their classmates by asking them for suggestions and ideas. On Wednesday 7th February, Daisy and Lucy from Year 6 and Nellie-Jean from Year 5, proudly represented Pupil Voice at the Outer South Community Youth Summit at Morley Town Hall. They participated in activities about democracy and confidently asked local councillors and the Mayor of Morley questions about local parks, Rothwell Sports Centre, roads, street lighting and improving disabled access where we live. The children would now like to invite a local councillor to one of the Pupil Voice meetings to further discuss their ideas for improving the local area.

Next half term, Pupil Voice have decided to:

- Litter pick in the playground and around the perimeter of the school grounds.
- Organise and help at a book swap on World Book Day, Thursday 7th March. For more information, please read the separate newsletter about World Book Day.
- Have a funky hair day to raise money for Comic Relief on Friday 15th March (more information nearer the time).
- Develop links with the residents at Oulton Manor Care Home.
- Use the ideas from their classmates to purchase new playground resources.
- Meet with a member of staff from 'Green Moon' to discuss ideas for developing the grassed area of the KS2 playground.



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Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion have asked us to pass on their appreciation to the school community for the money raised during their annual poppy appeal. The school helped to raise £282 by selling poppies and other items. Thank you for your support.

Whole school rewards

Classes are still working incredibly hard to fill their class marble jars by showing they are ready, respectful, and safe. The children have enjoyed their class parties and non-uniform day; this was a lovely end to the half term.

Just before the end of the day, the children managed to fill the whole school jar and we spun the wheel in assembly. They were rewarded with a 'Teacher Swap'; this is where another teacher will take the class for part of an afternoon and lead a fun activity with them.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Please see the letter sent out this week for full details of the events planned. As a reminder, we are holding a 'book swap'. In the days leading up to World Book Day, please bring in any unwanted children's books that you have (in good condition only please). We will display these books in the hall and, throughout the day, every child in school will be able to come and choose a new book from the selection to take home and keep.

The half term break is the perfect opportunity for the children to sort through their books at home and select any that they would be happy to donate!

Friday Super Sing

In previous years, we used to do a weekly 'Music Workshop' where children learnt singing skills and a variety of songs; some requiring quite complex skills. To enrich our school offer, we have decided to bring these lessons back in the form of 'Friday Super Sing'. During the last half term, Miss Brown has taken the EYFS and KS1 children each Friday and taught them a range of singing skills using engaging songs; the children performed 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' in assembly today. It was such an impressive performance and fantastic to see our youngest children singing together and in different parts throughout the song!

After half term, Miss Brown will take children in KS2 for a weekly Super Sing and they will be working on songs to perform during their Easter celebration. The phases will continue to swap each half term between EYFS/KS1 and KS2.

POPS Disco

A huge thank you to POPS for organising the school disco this week. Both the EYFS/KS1 and KS2 Discos were well attended; the children looked to be having a fantastic time. Thank you also to the staff who stayed to support these events.

School Trips

We have a few upcoming trips and visits during the next half term. Y4 will be heading to Whitby at the end of the month. This is the first time we have taken the children to Whitby on residential and they have a packed itinerary including a town trail, jet polishing, boat trip, a beach visit, a storyteller and making Viking swords/shields. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to them and I am sure that they will have a fantastic time. The Y3/4 children



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who are staying at school will have an outside visitor to come and do Viking themed activities with them whilst the residential is happening.

Year 1 and 2 are visiting Lotherton Hall on two trips during the first week back. Also, during the first week back, Miss Brown, Mrs Hoskin and Mrs Greaves are taking a group of children to 'Young Voices'; they have been busy practising the songs and are ready to join thousands of other children to form one huge choir!

Further into the half term, Reception pupils will visit Askham Bryan Wildlife and Conservation Park; further details will follow about this visit from the Reception team.

Upcoming Events

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
19 th and 21 st March	Parents' Evening
28 th March	KS2 Easter Singing Celebration: 2.45pm (Exact time TBC)
29th March-14th April	Easter Break- School Closed
15 th April	School Opens
6th May	May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
13 th -16 th May	Y6 SATS (Statutory)
25th May-2nd June	Summer Half Term- School Closed

