

Newsletter

May 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Another half term has come to an end and this one has been full of exciting trips, visits and experiences for our children. I have loved hearing about how much fun Reception had with the lemurs and it will be very interesting to hear all about what our Year 6 pupils experience at Eden Camp this week. It seems crazy to say, but we are already looking ahead to the new academic year. We have set our training days for the 2025-26 academic year, which can be found below in the newsletter.

Talking of Year 6, I want to take this opportunity to shout from the rooftops about how proud I was of our Year 6 pupils last week during the SATs test week. They took it all in their strides and did their very best every day – there was nothing more we could have asked of them! It was great to see them enjoying a very well-deserved treat at the end of their busy week when the ice cream van arrived on Friday. Thank you also to the rest of the school for their unwavering support of Year 6; be that staff administering tests or other children waiting to have their playtime after the tests were over. It was a real show of how we care for each other at Oulton.

Year 6 pupils who have purchased leavers hoodies may wear their hoodies to school and in class on the days when they have PE. This is as a replacement for the school PE hoodie. Year 6 pupils will need to wear normal school jumpers and cardigans on all non-PE days.

We are all enjoying a little more sunshine, and as part of that we all love to get out and play. However, please continue to stop children from playing on school equipment before and after school. We also must ask you to stop children playing on the steep hills near the Year 1/2 classrooms. This is to keep everyone safe.

I hope you all enjoy next weeks half term holidays.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our school community. Here's to a fun filled last half term for everyone.

Kind regards,

Mr McAlinden

POPs

POPs volunteers are wonderful people who give up their time and effort to run all the fabulous fundraising events that we all enjoy at Oulton. You may be aware that school budgets are at crisis points across the country. POPs hard work has funded opportunities and equipment that our normal school budget simply could not sustain. Funding from POPs this year has funded celebration and reward events, transport for all school trips as well as committing £10,000 towards outdoor development of the school site – watch this space for what is coming.

However, sadly due to the volume of work involved and the limited number of volunteers, this has led to the school summer fair being cancelled for 2025.

If you wish to join please contact pops@oulton.leeds.sch.uk if you can offer support logistically, behind the scenes with funding bids, on the front line at events or just for simply sharing the workload then please, please help. Without POPs' support, the children will not get to experience some of the wonderful additions this fundraising provides to school.

Father's Day shop is the next POPs event; please continue to show your support to this.



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Safeguarding - Designated Safeguarding Leads

You may have heard of the phrase Designated Safeguarding Lead or DSL. But who are they and what are their roles in school? We currently have 5 DSLs in school: Mr McAlinden, Miss Cooper, Miss Brown, Mrs Holtby and Miss Birch. We will also have a further DSL joining the team in the autumn term once she has completed her training as we welcome Mrs Stebbings to Oulton as our Attendance Improvement Mentor and DSL.

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the person within an organisation who takes overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, including online safety. They act as a point of contact for safeguarding concerns and are responsible for managing referrals to external agencies when necessary. They work as a super team to keep everyone safe.

Diary dates

Key dates for your diary

24th – 31st May - Half term holidays

Monday 2nd June - School opens

2nd June – Arbor goes live. All parents and carers to sign up to the APP: further details to be sent

2nd – 13th June – Year 4 times tables multiplications check

9th – 13th June – Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) phonic screening check

Friday 20th June – School closed for training day 5

25th – 27th June – Year 6 residential to Buckden House

30th June – Year 1 and 2 Sports' Day

1st July – Years 3 and 4 Sports' Day

2nd July – Years 5 and 6 Sports' Day

3rd July – Nursery and Reception Sports' Day

9th – 11th July – Oulton Academy transition days for Year 6 pupils

15th July – Year 6 leavers production in the PM (time TBC but around 2pm)

16th July – Year 6 leavers production in the evening (time TBC but around 6pm)

Tuesday 22nd July – Last day of term. School closes at 1:30pm

Staffing updates

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Stebbings to the Oulton staff team as our new Attendance Improvement Mentor. As you know, school attendance is vital to improve the well-being and academic achievement of our children. Mrs Stebbings will be working hard with all our families to support and encourage our children to attend school every day that they possibly can.

Catering Leeds – school dinner providers

As you may know, most of the primary schools within Leeds use Leeds City Councils Catering Service, Catering Leeds. The service has notified us that from September 2025, the price of meals will increase. From September, a school meal will cost £2.90 per day. The service have told us that the decision has had to be made by the council due to significantly increased food and staff costs over the last few years. Catering Leeds have also told us that although the prices have increased, income will still not be enough to cover costs. Whilst any price increase is not good news, we



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all are aware of the rising food costs within our own weekly shop and have an awareness of the difficult circumstances in which the council operate to provide healthy school meals which are cooked on the premises. If you think that you may be eligible for Free School Meals due to a change in circumstances, please see the school office as soon as possible.

School had taken the decision not to pass the cost increases on to parents and carers from April until September, but from September we will have no option but to raise the cost of a school meal in line with other schools. As you know from my communications since I started in January, I have been working hard with Catering Leeds to improve the quality of the school meals. The children have reported an improvement in the quality of food, the different options and the introduction of pepper, cucumber and carrot sticks along with bread with their meals. We still have a long way to go and Mrs Ellis and Pupil Voice continue to challenge me and in turn our catering providers to provide a better service. With this in mind, I am wanting the Catering team to host a series of taster sessions for year groups/phases where parents and carers and their children can come and sample some of the menu options as we prepare to finalise a menu for September. This is your opportunity to feedback to school so please do try and attend.

Summer term update

Please see communication from the Health Protection Team in regards to keeping safe this summer term [HERE](#)

Training days for 2025-26

Schools statutorily must dedicate 5 days to staff training per academic year. These days are used to complete internal and external whole staff training and preparation. For the academic year 2025-26 the training days have been confirmed as:

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 1st June 2026
Monday 20th July 2026
Tuesday 21st July 2026

High levels of school attendance is one of the best ways in which we can support our children to reach their potential. Attending every day, ready and on time, boosts children's confidence, wellbeing and their chance of academic success. Parents electing to take holidays during term time continues to be a barrier for us. We all understand that it is cheaper to go on holiday during term time, and for that reason, we have placed the training days as additional days to school holidays to allow families to take advantage of cheaper accommodation bookings and return flights. We hope by doing this you will book your holidays for the half term and summer breaks, using that extra day/s to return at a reduced rate. We then look forward to seeing all children back to school on the first day of our term.



