

Newsletter

February 2019



Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back after half term. I hope that the children all had a pleasant break and have come back energised. It has been nice to have some warmer weather this week and that the children have been able to enjoy the sunshine at break and lunchtime.

As many of you will be aware, there have been warnings on social media over last few days about a dangerous challenge that some young people have been taking part in. After seeking advice, we have made the decision not to discuss this directly with the children as we do not want to encourage any pupils to actively seek this content. Also, we do not want to worry or scare the children which has unfortunately happened in other settings and when being discussed at home. Instead, we are reinforcing the messages around staying safe online and what to do if they come across something that worries them- children are taught to always seek help from a trusted adult. Please reinforce the same message at home and be present when your children are accessing the internet by making it routine to talk about the things that they are accessing. Our monthly e-safety newsletter is a useful resource that we have commissioned for another year. The authors will tailor the content specifically to our needs. Please let me know if there is a specific app and/or issue that you would like them to cover. **Mr Horton**

Parents' Evenings and Mid-Year Reports

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their progress. Parents' Evenings will be held on 12th and 13th March. Letters and reply slips will be sent out on Friday. As we did last year, we are also providing a Mid-Year report for each pupil in Years 1-6, these will be sent out with the Parents' Evening letters. We hope that they help you to have an overview before your meeting with your child's teacher. Please use the report to inform the questions that you would like to ask during your consultation to find out more about your child's learning and next steps. The report will show if your child is currently 'on track' to achieve the end of year standard for their year group, 'on track' to achieve their own individual targets, their attitude to learning, details of any interventions they have received and a target for them to work on at home. It is important to note that even if your child is not thought to be 'on track' to reach the expected standard for their year group, they may have still made good progress from their individual starting point. Children in EYFS (Nursery and Reception) will be also provided with a summary of their learning across each Area of Learning.

Lunchtime Vacancy

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Robinson for her many years of service making our lunchtimes fun and enjoyable. Miss Robinson is still part of the Oulton team but will no longer be undertaking her lunchtime role. As such, we have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Assistant. The post is term time only, 12.00-1.00pm each weekday. You will be part of a team of experienced staff who take care of our children aged 3-11 both in the dining hall and outside at play. As Oulton Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, this post is subject to an enhanced DBS check and two satisfactory references. Applicants need some experience of working with children but training will be given. Please contact the school office for an application form or email recruitment@oulton.leeds.sch.uk

Teatime Club Consultation

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to respond to our consultation about our proposed teatime club. We have had many positive comments. There is still time to let us know your thoughts before they are fed back to the Governing Body for consideration. Please email them to consultation@oulton.leeds.sch.uk or in writing to the school office.



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World Book Day: Thursday 7th March

World Book Day is just around the corner and we have lots planned for your children. We have been able to secure two authors who will be visiting Oulton w/c 4th March: On Monday 4th March, Steve Weatherill will be visiting KS1. On Thursday 7th March, Kate Pankhurst will be visiting KS2. As part of their visits, Orinoco Books will be selling the authors' books for pupils to purchase and have signed.

On the 7th March, we encourage children to dress up for the day. Whilst it is not compulsory to dress up, we encourage children to dress around their year group's theme. We have spoken to the children about their costumes and made it clear that it is not expected for them to buy an outfit specially; many of the characters/topics can be easily created using clothes that the children (or family members!) already own and props can be made. As you may not know some of the books, if you need some ideas of the characters that the children could come as, please speak to their class teacher.

Nursery – Favourite book character; **Reception** – Fairy Tales; **Y1 and 2** – Kings and Queens; **Y3** – David Walliams' book characters; **Y4** – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; **Y5** – Famous Explorers; **Y6** – WWII.

Class Attendance Winners

We award certificates for weekly attendance and certificates for class attendance at the end of each half term. Despite an outbreak of sickness, we managed to maintain an attendance rate of 95.8% for HT3 which means that our yearly attendance rate remains at 96% which is our school target.

The results for Half Term 3 are:

Gold Award- Swordfish (97.0%)

Joint Silver Award- Stingrays (96.8%)

Joint Silver Award- Adelie Penguins (96.8%)

Bronze Award- Sailfish (96.6%)

Parent Governor Vacancy

The Oulton Primary School Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Elections will take place week commencing 4th March 2019. If you are interested, please submit a short personal statement (100 words maximum) to support your application and a passport sized photograph to the school reception. Closing date for expressions of interest is 4.30pm on Friday 1st March 2019.

Evening of Elegance- Thursday 7th March, 7.30pm

A huge thank you to everyone who has already purchased tickets for next Thursday's Evening of Elegance shopping event. It's going to be a fantastic night. The School Council will be meeting with POPS soon to discuss how they would like the money raised from this event, and others, to be spent in school. Previous suggestions of a swimming pool may be a little beyond our means though! Tickets are £3. Once again, thank you for continuing to support our families and children by supporting POPS events.

Parking

A polite reminder about parking carefully on the surrounding roads. Unfortunately, there have still been some occasions where inconsiderate parking has caused issues. West Yorkshire Police are continuing to support the local community to address these issues. If a car journey is necessary, please park legally and courteously. Mr Horton.



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Dogs on the school site

A polite reminder that dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school site, even if they are carried/held by their owner. Others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children. Even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. We also have to consider the health and safety implications of fouling occurring on the school site. Thank you for your cooperation.

SkillForce

A group of Year 6 pupils take part in the SkillForce programme every Friday afternoon. They are making great progress and learning many different qualities. Please find their half termly newsletter attached on the next page. Keep up the good work!

Upcoming Dates:

2019	
27 th February	POPS planning meeting: 7.00pm
7 th March	World Book Day
7 th March	Evening of Elegance- Thursday 7th March: 7.30pm
12 th and 13 th March	Parents Evening
28 th March	EYFS – Mother’s Day Tea Party: 2pm to 3pm
29 th March	School Closes
15 th April	School Opens



February Half Term Newsletter

PWA Journey so far...

The key themes for term 2 of the PWA programme has focused on building relationships and working together. The group have faced a number of team challenges and been asked to demonstrate qualities that support positive teamwork.



Progress

All learners have improved in their ability to cooperate in small groups, which has enabled them to be successful in a number of different activities.

Some of these activities have proved challenging, which has tested the group's ability to remain resilient and demonstrate excellent self-control.

It is fantastic to see all learners respectfully listening to each other's ideas and confidently supporting each other throughout the session.

A message from the school

I really enjoyed joining the children and parents at the last family session. The children's confidence whilst leading the games was impressive and it was lovely to see them speak so clearly when explaining each activity. I could see the difference that the programme has made to the pupils involved. I know that Mrs Giff and Mrs Taylor were also really impressed with the children and are extremely proud of the progress they have made. I am looking forward to the next family session. Mr Horton

Key Date

Our next family session will be held on Friday 26th April 2019 at 1.15pm -3.00pm. More information will be send out at a later date