

Oakfield Spring Newsletter

5 January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody connected with Oakfield Primary School a very happy new year. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and hear about everything they have been doing over the Christmas holidays.

As Easter is early this year, this spring term will be quite short. The teachers have planned lots of exciting learning for the children. Last term, the staff focussed on improving reading across the school and we would like to thank all of you who hear your children read at home; it really makes a difference. Many of the children are keen to share with us what they are reading outside of school. This term, we will be focussing on improving the quality of children's writing. In mathematics, we have been encouraging the children to talk about how they have solved their mathematical problems and also to work on knowing their number facts such as common addition facts and multiplication tables. We will be setting the children challenges to improve in these areas and we hope you will support your child in learning these important life skills.

Welcome

This term, we welcome Miss Emma Cameron as year 2 teacher and Mr Chris Boalch as early years teacher. They have done an amazing job over the holiday period of organising their classrooms to make them welcoming for the children so they can easily access everything they need for their learning.

Oakie Owl, Sparkle and Professor Owl Awards

Professor Owl has been awarded to Year 2 - Dragonflies as they were really keen to independently write about Christmas. They used phonics mats and words on the learning walls to help them.

Sparkle was awarded to Ben R - Year 4 - for always being kind and considerate of the other children at lunch club.



Headteacher Recruitment

The advertisement for the headteacher position has now closed and the governors will be interviewing prospective candidates in the next couple of weeks. Many of the children will be involved in this process and so they may well mention some special visitors to you.

Changes to the afternoon timetable

As part of our continuing improvements to the children's learning we are making some alterations to our afternoon sessions this term. There will no longer be a whole school afternoon break-time every day. This will enable the teachers to be far more flexible in the delivery of the children's learning.

For some subjects such as science and PE, the children need a session that is longer than one hour. However, for other subjects such as Religious Education and music, the sessions need to be shorter to ensure the best learning happens. By reorganising the afternoons, this will maximise the children's learning.

Each teacher will make a decision about when, and if, the children in their class need to take a natural break in their learning and whether this break should happen indoors or outdoors. On a day when the children have been less active in their learning, the teacher may decide to take them outside for some activity. On a day when learning has been more active, such as when the children have had PE, the teacher may choose to offer a whole class indoor activity such as class time to work on personal and social development.

If your child is in Ladybirds, Caterpillars or Dragonflies, the learning is already designed so that the children have play built into their learning so making it unnecessary to have a separate playtime.

You may have seen in the news that many schools take part in a "daily mile" when the children run or walk a mile by doing laps of the playground or school site. This is something that we are currently investigating.

These changes have already been explained to the children and they may have mentioned them to you. We are going to be working with the school council to make sure that the children's views on these changes can be taken into account. We would like to reassure you that the children will still have plenty of time to play with their friends in other year groups during morning and lunch break-times and opportunities to go to the toilet if they need to.

FOO Quiz Evening in aid of Rock Challenge

Saturday 27th January 2018, 7 - 9.30pm at Totton and Eling Community Centre (Maximum team of 10 people) Raffle, Prize for Best Themed Table, Soft drinks, Tuck Shop, Tea and Coffee for sale - Bring your own alcoholic beverages. £3 per adult.

Absence due to illness

Thank you for being so prompt in advising us when your child is absent due to illness. However, if you leave a message on the answer phone, please ensure that you include the type of illness and/or describe the symptoms. If you choose to use the parentmail system to make us aware, there is also an option to describe the illness in more detail. Please don't leave us explicit details but we are required to note the details to ensure that we know if

there is an outbreak of certain types of illnesses which could affect others in school (particularly those with compromised immunity) or a large outbreak of illnesses such as the norovirus where we may be required to close the school.

With best wishes

G Kynaston

D Lawry

Gwynne Kynaston and Diane Lawry
Interim Headteachers

***Disclaimer re local clubs, business and community events** - From time to time we send out information electronically or by paper flyer advertising clubs, businesses and community events both on and off our site e.g. Fetes, Activity Days, Brownies, Cubs, Sports Clubs, Martial Arts Clubs, Holiday Clubs, Pre-School Events etc. Please note that the school is not responsible for undertaking any vetting checks on these activity providers. The school will only undertake vetting checks on parties providing clubs and events organised by the school.*

Attendance Information

Please note that the 'Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006' were amended as of 1 September 2013 to prohibit the proprietor (headteacher) of a maintained school granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the proprietor considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. A family holiday is not considered exceptional.

The law also requires parents/carers to ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually.

Failure to attend school regularly and punctually may result in prosecution under the Education Act 1996, Section 444(1) and 444(1A). The Local Authority is empowered to issue Penalty Notices to parents/carers whose children who fail to attend punctually and regularly. Please see our school 'Attendance Policy' and the 'Hampshire County Council Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices' both of which are available from the school office or on our school website.

We would also like to remind you of the information below:

- Penalty Notices are issued for 10 unauthorised sessions in a 10 school week period (this can include 10 sessions where you arrive late). The 10 school week period can also continue from one academic year to the next.

If you receive a Penalty Notice one academic year and a further 10 unauthorised sessions occur in a subsequent year, a referral is made to the Hampshire Attendance Legal Panel. In the past they have decided not to issue a further Penalty Notice but they have taken the case straight to court. Where the court found against the parents they have received criminal records.

Dates for the diary, for the school year 2017 - 2018, as at (Also now available on our website www.oakfield-pri.co.uk)

January	27 th	FOO Quiz Evening in aid of Rock Challenge
February	9 th 19 th 23 rd	Last day before half term First day back after half term Rock Challenge
March	9 th 29 th	FOO AGM 3.15pm (In Year 4 Classroom) Last day before end of term
April	16 th	First day back after holiday
May	14 th 25 th	Year 6 SATS Week Last day before half term
June	4 th 11 th	First day back after half term Y1 Phonics testing begins (two week period)
July	20 th 23 rd	Last day before end of term INSET Day