



Dear Parents / Carers,

What an extraordinary term and as we reflect on the 12 months of 2020, we will look at them with similar wonderment, astonishment and amazement. The year has had a significant impact upon us all in many different ways, either personally or professionally – or even both – and so we will look forward to the new year with eager hope and anticipation.

One of our school governors wrote to me this week recalling the turbulence of the year and it caused me to reflect further on the year we've had at school. It is always exciting to start a new term and in January, we looked ahead to the teaching of new topics, new learning activities, children returning excitedly and happy to see their friends again to share their Christmas experiences. We received our OFSTED call and a 2 day inspection which validated the standards of school and its effectiveness. Following was our monumental University of Oak Meadow week which focussed upon developing children's aspirations for their futures ...and then news reports heightened around COVID-19! As a school, we responded to the partial lockdown, remaining open only for keyworker children but always remaining hopeful for the full reopening of school.

Therefore, it was exciting to reopen to all children in September despite some year group bubbles bursting since due to confirmed positive cases. I thank all staff for their unwavering, determined approach to teaching and learning and to their resolute drive to close the gaps caused by the partial lockdown. Thanks to the children also who have shown tremendous resilience and desire to learning in new, restricted ways, and to all of you as parents and carers for your empathy and understanding of our school guidelines and systems as advised by the Department for Education. Thank you!

I would also like to thank The Friends of Oak Meadow who have continued to support us with their fundraising efforts helping us to develop further our plans to develop the area adjacent to the main school hall as a peace garden. Thinking further ahead to the spring term and summer term, we hope to develop this area as a place conducive to sitting quietly to enjoy a host of sensory experiences. A working party of staff is currently working on its planning and again, with hopeful anticipation, we look forward to having the area completed by the summer term. As a result of the toiletry gift bags and name the bear competition, £583.00 was raised and this will help us with the Peace Garden development.

A further thank you for your generosity in supporting Children in Need and the NSPCC's Christmas Jumper Day. £267 was raised for Children in Need and £328.50 for the NSPCC.

A few reminders for your information:

- Miss Mills and I will remain contactable from Saturday 19th to Thursday 24th December in the event of one of our children testing positive for COVID-19 between 9:00 and 10:00 am. This is a request from the Department for Education to support the track and trace programme. Please email the school's main email address: oakmeadowprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk. I hope sincerely no child tests positive after this date but if so, please inform us in January as we are required to maintain a contact log. Thank you.
- School will reopen on Tuesday 5th January as on Monday 4th we have a planned INSET Day.
- The staggered times for the start and end of the day remain until guidance changes from the Government.

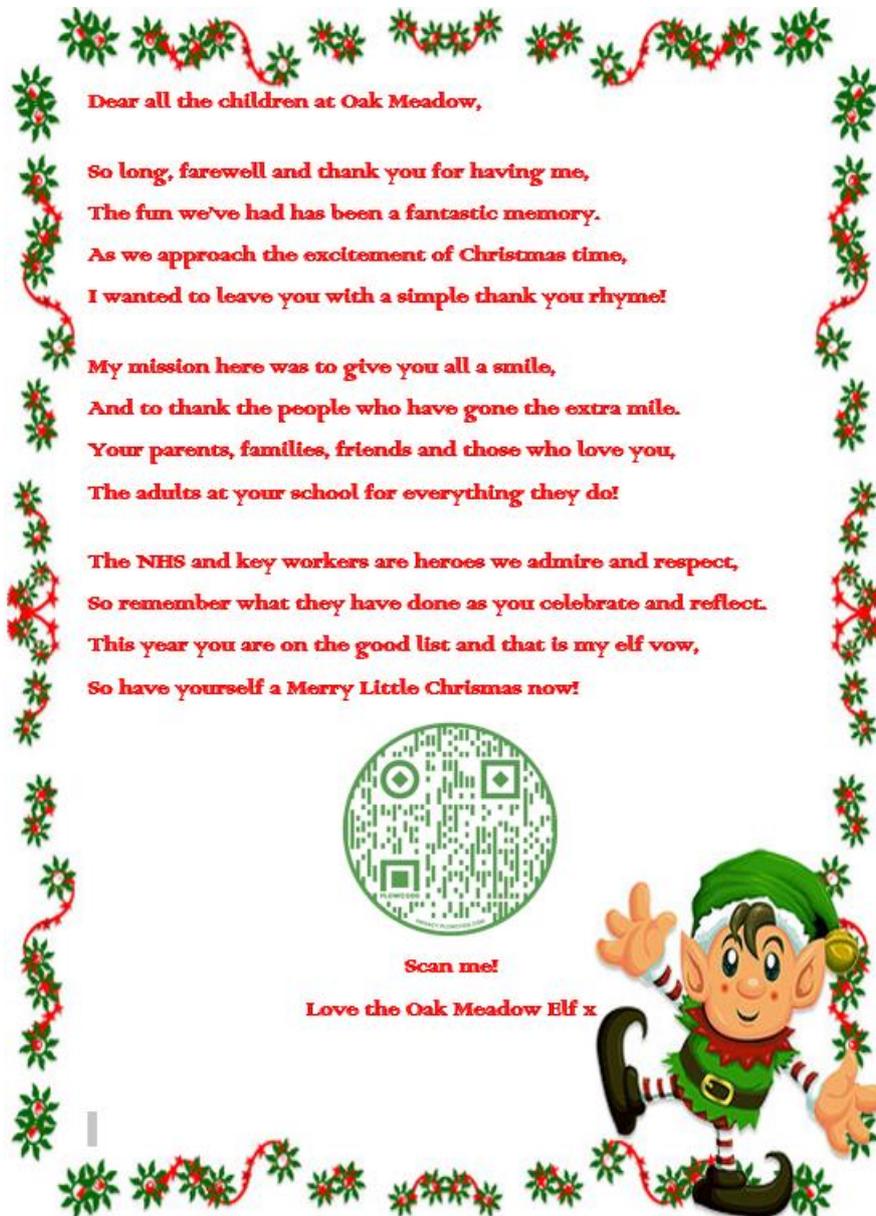
Dates for your Diaries:

Tuesday 5 th January	Return to school for the Spring Term.
Thursday 14 th January	Visit by nurses to administer the flu vaccine for children who were absent on Wednesday 16 th December.
Friday 12 th February	INSET Day (School closed for children).
Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February	Half Term Holiday.
Monday 22 nd February	Spring Term 2 commences.
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day.
Monday 29 th March - Wednesday 31 st March	Telephone Parent/Carer consultations.
Friday 2 nd April - Friday 16 th April	Easter Holidays.
Monday 19 th April	Start of Summer Term 1.
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday.
Tuesday 3 rd May	Y4 Action Adventure Day at Whitemoor Lakes.
Thursday 6 th May	Local Elections therefore school will be closed as it is used as a polling station.
Friday 7 th May	INSET Day (School closed).

End of Term News – December 2020

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June – Half Term Holiday.
Friday 2nd July – Monday 5th July – Year 6 PGL Residential.
Tuesday 20th July Last day of term.
Wednesday 21st July INSET Day

Finally, on behalf of all governors and staff, I wish you all a restful, happy Christmas with everyone staying safe and well and finally, a greeting from our very own Oak Meadow elf!



If you have missed any of the Elf's escapades, please go to our twitter page to see his antics – guaranteed to bring a huge smile to your face ! Twitter@oakmeadow12.

My best wishes,

Mr S Arnold



From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...

