

As we near the end of this spring term, I would like to thank you for your continuing support – your child/ren are outstanding and continue to work incredibly hard with enthusiastic attitudes. This was also acknowledged by a recent Local Authority SEND inspection who noted children's exceptional working keenness and enjoyment of learning alongside staff's in-depth knowledge of children and their creative planning of learning opportunities to meet children's preferred learning styles and needs. I am extremely proud of Oak Meadow and the relationships which make our school so special.

### **Staffing News**

A number of changes are imminent within our staffing profile and I would like to extend our congratulations to Miss Brown, Mrs Brain and Miss Thwaites who will shortly be undertaking maternity leave. Miss Brown, teaching assistant in Year 4, will commence her maternity leave at the end of this month, Mrs Brain in May and Miss Thwaites at the end of June. We welcome Miss Babb as cover for Miss Brown in Year 4. Mr Dean – a former Oak Meadow teacher who left us two years ago to work in Sheffield – will start with us after Easter and will teach alongside Mrs Brain before she goes on maternity. This will provide time for Mr Dean to get to know the children and to build relationships with them. Mrs Welsh, who is known to all children in Class RT, will become classteacher working alongside existing colleagues at the end of June. In addition to the above staffing changes, Mr Lewis leaves us to undertake employment of a different kind. We wish all of the above staff every best wish.

### **Summer Term Assessments**

Year 6 are currently working extremely hard preparing for their end of Key Stage Two Standardised Assessment Tests: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The tests will be formally set adhering to all Government guidelines – with their opening only on the day of the test.

With all of these tests, results will be reported alongside your child's end of year report.

Given the children's hard work and conscientious attitudes, I am sure the children will face each test with their usual resilience and make us proud.

### **School Football Team Congratulations**

Congratulations must be extended to Mr Clarkson and to all children who have represented Oak Meadow in our local area league football matches. The children have played superbly as a team and have supported one-another very well resulting in us reaching the City's semi-final.

Again, feeling immensely proud of the team's achievements, I wish them every success for their forthcoming game after the Easter holiday.



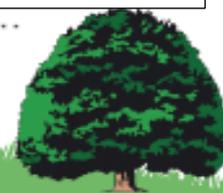
### **Summer Term Assessments**

As the summer term draws close, I would like to share with you the return of all Government statutory tests for children in Years 1, 2, 4 and 6.

All Year 1 children will undertake a phonic screening check – testing children's ability and skills in reading 40 words requiring a blending and decoding of sounds using their acquired phonic knowledge and skills.

During the month of May, Year 2 will complete their Key Stage One Standardised Assessment Tests. The tests are intended to support teachers' end of year assessments. The tests include a reading, maths and grammar test.

Year 4 children will each undertake a multiplication times table check – a digital test whereby children will be tested on their rapid recall of times table facts – entering answers digitally using either a laptop or ipad. To support your child's/ children's recall, please continue to encourage your child to practise using Times Table Rockstars. Thank you.



## Second-Hand Uniform

The Government has recently released new guidance requesting a review of school uniform and following our governor meetings and discussions this term, a questionnaire will follow after the Easter holiday to collect your views about our specific Oak Meadow uniform. I thank the governors for doing this.

In the meantime, I am extremely appreciative of the donations of uniform items we receive which your child has either grown out of or chooses not to wear. This is an important factor of the Government's environmental aims and concerns – preventing unnecessary waste. By our leading of second hand uniform sales, we are supporting the passing on of uniform whilst supporting families with the costs associated with purchasing uniform items.

We are happy to accept donations at any time for our half termly sales and thank you most appreciatively.



## End of Term Reports

Please look out for your child's end of spring term report. The termly summary report details your child's attainment and progress in relation to their year group's expectations. The report also details your child's attendance and as a measure, 97% is our school attendance target.

The attendance percentage includes all absences which were previously coded 'X' signifying a COVID-19 related absence. Therefore, in some instances, attendance may appear high but all 'X' coded absences were counted as absences in the autumn term as per DfE guidelines.

At the end of next term – the summer one – a full, comprehensive report is written which details your child's achievements, attitudes to learning and next steps for learning.



## Attendance and Punctuality

Whilst monitoring attendance, we also monitor punctuality and a late arrival in school can be counted as an unauthorised absence. It is therefore imperative for children to arrive on time and to be in class for the statutory calling of the register (8.55a.m.). This also ensures children do not miss any learning. I thank you for your following of our school expectations which conform to both the City of Wolverhampton's and Department of Education's guidelines. The following table details examples of attendance percentages and the number of days this equates to:

Attendance	Equals this number of absent days	This is approx. this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons

In addition to absences, minutes late each day during the school year can equate to lost learning days, for example:

Mins Late Per Day	5 Mins	10 Mins	15 Mins	20 Mins	30 Mins
Equals Days Lost	3.4 Days	6.9 Days	10.3 Days	13.8 Days	20.7 Days

Given the above information, it is therefore important for children to arrive on time and we thank you for adhering to our guidelines.

**All-Year Track** You will have seen the works which have been taking place on our school field and whilst I have been concerned about the mess and untidiness (I struggle with such things!), I look forward to the children accessing the track once it is fully completed after the Easter holiday. We will undertake a measuring of the pathway to confirm how many times it has to be walked for reaching a mile target. From children's inquisitiveness and excitement, we look forward to using it to boost their physical activity.

**Thank You...** There are many reasons to thank you, not only for your continual help, but for the support you give to our planned school events.

Firstly, we were astounded by the amazing costumes your children came to school in when celebrating World Book Day – they were so creative, fun and imaginative; it was so difficult at times to distinguish who was behind the costume – the Gangsta Grannies challenged my guessing in particular! It was a fun day in school and as per usual, the children entered into the spirit of the learning activities with their usual gusto.

We were also extremely appreciative of your donations for both Comic Relief and The Ethiopian Library Book Appeal. We split the donations equally with a £150 cheque sent to each charity – thank you.

A couple of weeks ago, we kindly received a considerable donation of chocolate items and as a result of raffling it for The UK Red Cross Ukraine Appeal, a staggering £320 was raised. The donation was significantly timely as many children were asking to support Ukraine and I am proud once again of children's empathy, thoughtfulness and kindness – some of our key school values. Thank you for supporting the children in buying the raffle tickets.

Lastly, all staff were in awe this morning for the entries to the 'design an egg' competition. So many brought a smile to my face - for their ingenuity and creativity. I thank you again for your support and for assisting in resourcing the materials needed for the designs. There were so many takes on the competition challenge ranging from fish 'egg' bowls, the 'Egg' Solar System, Sonic the Egg-Hog, Egg Sheeran, Angry Egg-Birds, dinosaurs, The Very Hungry Egg-Pillar and many, many more. Please see some of the egg-traordinary egg-xamples of the children's egg-cellent designs below:



**Notable dates for your diary:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April: Return to School for the Summer Term

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Reception Parent Forest School Sessions (separate letter to follow)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Year 5 Swimming Continues

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Bank Holiday (school closed)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Singing Workshop for Years 3 and 4 led by Wolverhampton Music Service

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May: Election Day (school closed to all children)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May: Year 1's Eid al-Fitr Assembly (9.00a.m. Year 1 parents welcome to attend) and Reception Parent Forest School Sessions (separate letter to follow)

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 Key Stage Two SATs (Standardised Assessment Tests)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May: Year 2's Kingswood Residential Visit

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May: Governors' Finance and General Purposes Meeting

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May: INSET Day (school closed)

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Half Term Holidays

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June: Year 4's Multiplication Times Table Check Window (3 weeks)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June: Year 1's Phonic Screening Check

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Class 4F Bikeability

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Class 4B Bikeability

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June: Reception Reading Workshop (Ash House children's parents and carers - followed by Come and Play. Rowan House Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, Willow House 24<sup>th</sup> June and Yew House, 1<sup>st</sup> July)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June: Governors' Board Meeting

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June: Health Week

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Year 3 'Egyptian' Assembly (9.00a.m. Year 3 parents welcome to attend)

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June: Year 2 'Around the World' Assembly (9.00a.m. Year 2 parents welcome to attend)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 Police Visit Talk

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July: Sports Day (Years 3-6: 9.15a.m. – 10.45a.m. / Reception and Years 1-2: 1.30p.m. – 2.30p.m.)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Year 5 Police Visit Talk

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Governors' Curriculum Meeting

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 PGL Residential Visit

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July: End of Year Reports to Parents and Carers

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July: Class Swap Morning (meeting of new teachers) and Parents'/ Carers' Open Afternoon to Visit Classteachers (3.30-5.30p.m.)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July: Leavers' Performance (9.15a.m.) and Leavers' Party and Disco (5.00 – 7.00p.m. – revised date due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and early finishing of the term)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day (celebratory activities and whole school picnic)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July: End of Summer Term (this is one day earlier than originally shared as school employees have been given Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July as a day's leave in celebration of the Jubilee)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September: INSET Day (school closed)