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Head Teacher: Mr S Arnold

Friday 21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are about to embark upon the October half-term break, I reflect back upon the last seven weeks and marvel at the speed in which it has passed by and the super way in which children have responded to their learning. Within our school hall, we proudly display our Oak Meadow lion and its associated vocabulary, vocabulary which we attribute to our children's learning attitudes, keenness and enthusiasm for learning. Such words for example include: resilience, resolution, bold, perseverance all of which our children display daily and none more so than our new Reception children who have settled extremely well into their school learning journeys.



Parent/ Carer Consultations – You will have recently received a letter inviting you to meet with your child's classteacher. The consultations are planned for Tuesday 8th November 3:30 – 7:00 pm and Wednesday 9th November 3:30 – 5:30 pm. The consultations will take place in the school hall and provide you with an opportunity to learn how your child has settled into their new year group, work they have been undertaking and the progress they are making. Please return the slip at the bottom of the letter requesting a preferred learning time. Teachers will do their utmost to provide an appointment time convenient to you. If your child has not brought a letter home, please speak to your child's classteacher to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

Academy Conversion – In a former letter (and for information for all our new Reception parents and carers), following due diligence and consultation as a governing board, we have made an application to the Regional Schools' Director to join St. Bartholomew's Multi Academy Trust. We will shortly hear the outcome of our application and as soon as we receive the notification, I will write to inform you of the next steps in our journey to be part of a trust.

Again, for information, a Government White Paper ' Opportunity for all: Sharing Schools with Great Teachers for your Child ' supports the desire for a fully trust led education system whereby every child learns with the benefits of a strong, supportive family of schools. Having undertaken extensive research and consultation, St Bartholomew's was identified as our preferred Trust. If successful in joining, Oak Meadow will retain its distinct name, character, curriculum, uniform and will benefit from a greater collaborative approach to teaching and learning. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to speak to me. Thank you.

Length of School Day – Again, within the Government's White Paper is the requirement by 31st December 2022 to review the length of the school day. Discounting before and after school activities and the 10 minute window of arrival which we currently have, each school week must be 32.5 hours in length. As we are now unable to count the 10 minutes from 8:45 – 8:55 am as part of the overall school week, we must extend each school day by 10 minutes. Advice for this has been sought from governors and Ashmore Park Nursery School. Following this consultation, we therefore propose a school day of the following times:

8:50 am – 3:20 pm (with a window of arrival between 8:40 and 8:50 am ensuring all children are seated within the classroom for the statutory register at 8:50 am). Arriving on time will ensure no lates are recorded. If a child is persistently late this can be recorded as an unauthorised absence. We hope this does not cause disruption to you; Breakfast Club will remain available for the extended period of 7:30 – 8:40 am.

Our next Full Governors' Meeting is on Tuesday 10th November where the proposal will be presented for approval. The change in times will become effective from **Tuesday 3rd January 2023** – the start of the Spring Term.

School Governance – I am extremely pleased to inform you that following governor nominations and the subsequent ballot, Mrs Emily Butler and Mr Simon Spragg have been elected as parent governors. At the next Full Governors' Board meeting, Mrs Butler's and Mr Spragg's membership will be approved. I wish to thank you for your support in both nominating and voting for all three parents, again demonstrating your support and commitment to our working partnership. Thank you.

School Uniform – As always, I thank you for your support in maintaining uniform standards of the highest level. I have also appreciated the many positive comments I have received regarding the change to having one school uniform in order to save costs. Given the continuing increasing costs of living expenses, I am pleased this has been a supportive step for you. May we also thank you for all donations for our pre-loved uniform sales.

Lost Property – Within school at present, we have an increasing number of jumpers and cardigans sitting within our lost property areas. These have accumulated from being found outdoors or from being left in the dining room. If your child has misplaced any un-named uniform items, please contact the school office who will do their utmost to help you identify your child's lost item. May I please encourage you to label all items of your child's uniform to help with its return if found misplaced. This will also save costs avoiding its replacement.

Harvest Donations – Given all my references to the increasing costs associated with energy and food etc, I was extremely grateful for the incredible donation of food items to this year's Harvest Charity appeal: to Ashmore Park Pantry. I thank Mr Turner, Our Site Manager, for delivering to St. Alban's Church and pass on to you Reverend Tom Fish's gratitude for your generosity supporting families on Ashmore Park. Thank you.



Children in Need – Whilst not wishing to keep asking for voluntary donations, the children's School Council would like to organise and lead a non-uniform day in support of the national event of Children in Need on Friday 18th November. As we have done previously, the School Council invite children to wear their own clothes in support of this year's theme: 'Together We Can Change Lives' for a donation of 50p as well as bring a bottle for our Christmas Fair. This can be paid via cash or via ParentPay.

School Meals – We encourage all children in years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to take advantage of the Government's Universal Free School Meals scheme, giving children a free hot meal or sandwich meal daily whilst in school. Parents and carers of children in Years 3-6 entitled to Free School Meals are also encouraged to take advantage of the free meals on offer to help with food costs at home. All other children that would like a hot or cold school dinner for a daily charge of £2.30, may book each day by informing their class teacher with parents making pre-payment via ParentPay. You will shortly receive the new menu on offer for after the half term break.

To balance our request for donations and support, our School Fund this year will pay for a travelling theatre company to perform its Christmas edition of Aladdin. This will take place on Friday 2nd December at 1:30 pm. Also, I thank the Friends of Oak Meadow who have prepared and organised Reception – Year 4's disco and refreshments this half term which will be extended to Year 5's and 6's disco on Thursday 15th December, 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

Dates for your Diaries:

A Christmas letter will follow after half-term which will detail key dates for the planning and leading of our Oak Meadow Community Christmas. We will be making requests for pre-loved toys, games and children's clothes after half-term.

Following are some key dates for your diary.

Monday 31 st October	INSET Day (school closed for children).
Tuesday 1 st November	School re-opens for Autumn Term 2.
Wednesday 2 nd November	School photographer to take children's individual pictures.
Friday 4 th November	9:30am A prospective parents' meeting for Reception children intake in September 2023.
Tuesday 8 th and	Parent / Carer consultations.
Wednesday 9 th November	Parent / Carer consultations.

Thursday 10 th November	9:00 am Year 6 Remembrance Assembly (Y6 parents and carers welcome). 4:00 pm Full Governors' Meeting.
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th November	Anti-Bullying Week.
Monday 14 th November	2:00 pm A prospective parents' meeting for Reception children intake in September 2023.
Tuesday 15 th November	Year 3's visit by The Rainforest Roadshow.
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need Day.
Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th November	Whole School Assessment Week (to support end of term teacher assessments).
Wednesday 23 rd November	9:00 – 12:00 Reception – Year 6 Influenza Nasal Spray vaccine.
Wednesday 30 th November	Year 5's visit to Warner Brothers Studio (Harry Potter). 2:30 pm Reception Christmas Assembly.
Thursday 1 st December	9:00 am Reception's Christmas Assembly
Friday 2 nd December	10:00 am A prospective parents' meeting for Reception children intake in September 2023. 1:30 pm Christmas Pantomime 'Aladdin' performed to all children.
Monday 5 th December	Year 6's visit to RAF Cosford 12:00 Class RFB/1B Grandparents' Lunch
Tuesday 6 th December	Reception's visit to Telford Wonderland.
Wednesday 7 th December	12:00 Class RAB/1O Grandparents' Lunch.
Thursday 8 th December	9:00 am Year 1's Christmas Assembly. 2:30 pm Year 1's Christmas Assembly.
Friday 9 th December	NSPCC Christmas Jumper Day. Santa visit to Oak Meadow!
Tuesday 13 th December	Christingle activities - school Christingle and Carols. 3:30 pm Oak Meadow's Community Fair.
Wednesday 14 th December	12:00 Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 15 th December	1:30 Reception – Year 4's Christmas Party Afternoon. 3:30 – 5:30 pm Christmas Disco.
Friday 16 th December	Autumn Term reports to parents and carers. End of term.

Finally, to conclude this autumn term 1, I would like to thank you for your support and unwavering partnership in helping your child/ren to be the best they can be. I wish you all a restful half-term and look forward to Autumn term 2 to support children's continuing learning journeys and progress.

Yours sincerely,

S Arnold

Mr S Arnold
Headteacher

From tiny acorns **miahty oaks** grow...

