

# Autumn Term 1 2019 Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers, on behalf of all Staff and Governors, I extend a warm welcome to all our families and children to the start of this Autumn Term 1 and trust you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. This term is always deemed to be important for both staff and children for the effective and respectful building of relationships and for the setting out of the year's expectations as children have all moved or transferred to new year groups. I detail following information concerning the year weeks, terms ahead.

## 2019 – 2020 Staffing Profile

### Reception and Key Stage One

RH: Miss Higgott  
RT: Miss Thwaites  
Teaching Assistants and Support Staff:  
Mr Godwin, Mrs Lakin-Jones, Mrs Malia and Mrs Mincher  
1T: Miss Tomlinson  
1O: Miss O'Donovan  
Teaching Assistants:  
Mrs Bradney and Mrs Sadler  
2B: Miss Billingley  
2H: Miss Hague  
Teaching Assistants:  
Mrs Cooke and Mrs Guy

The School's Middle Leadership Team and their positions of responsibility are:

Miss Billingsley: Reception/ KS1 Leader and English  
Mr Clarkson: Mathematics  
Miss Tomlinson: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

### Key Stage Two

3D: Mr Dean  
3H: Mrs Holmes  
Teaching Assistants and Support Staff:  
Mrs Welsh and Miss Perry  
4C: Mr Clarkson  
4K: Miss Kaur  
Teaching Assistant: Miss Blunt  
5L: Mr Lane  
5B: Miss Bates  
Teaching Assistants:  
Mrs Chapman and Mrs Holyhead  
6G: Miss Gough  
6W: Mrs Worrallo  
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Baker  
Miss Challenor will also support focused teaching and learning in Year 6. Miss Johnston remains at present on maternity leave after welcoming a daughter into the world – hours after attending the Year 6 Leavers' Service in July! A narrow escape!

The Senior Leadership Team consists of myself as Headteacher, Miss Challenor as Deputy Headteacher and Mr Lane who also has responsibility for Key Stage Two and Computing.

As a school, we pride ourselves on our open door policy; two members of the Senior Leadership Team will be out on duty both at the start and end of the day. There will also be a member of staff on each door welcoming children into school each morning. Messages can be shared and staff will ensure they are given to the classteacher concerned. At the end of the day, staff will either dismiss children directly from their classroom door or from a central corridor doorway – this will also provide an opportunity to discuss a matter with a member of staff. Can I also remind you that Year 6 will exit from the doorway at the front of the school by the main entrance area, leaving Year 4 to exit via their usual side door and Year 5 by the doorway in-between Year 1 and 2 classrooms. This will hopefully reduce the congestion at the end of the day and allow you to speak to your child's classteacher in a much easier manner.

Essential to the operational management of the school, our Office Staff will provide you with invaluable support and guidance. Miss Mills is our Business Manager and we welcome Mrs Greathead to our team as Attendance and Admin Support Officer replacing Mrs Bull. Both members of staff can help with any questions relating to your child's attendance at our school or with issues concerning payments or ordering of uniform, e.t.c. Miss Parker is also available as our Home School Liaison Officer and she will be willing to help with any safeguarding, emotional or welfare concerns around your child.

Finally, our Site Staff consists of Mr Purchase who is our Site Manager and Mr Simmonds, our Caretaker, who both ensure the safe operating of our school and site...and who maintain our grounds to an exceptional standard.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



## School Uniform

As a school we are proud of our school uniform and we very much appreciate your adherence to our uniform policy. The children have returned to school looking extremely smart. Thank you.

A reminder that our summer uniform can be worn until the end of this autumn half term, whereby, following the half term break, winter uniform must be worn: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Details of our winter uniform can be accessed from our school's website. However, a couple of reminders:

- . Black shoes must be worn; trainers are not acceptable.
- . Girls must wear trousers or a skirt, leggings are not permissible and all pupils must wear our school tie. Therefore, a collared shirt must be worn.
- . Other than a pair of stud earrings, jewellery is not allowed along with nail varnish or make up.

Thank you for supporting us in adhering to our uniform policy which denotes our unique identity and affiliation with Oak Meadow.

## Introducing our new Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions System

I would like to introduce you to our new behaviour system which focuses very much on rewarding children for their good and outstanding behaviour. The new system also recognises those children who remain consistently good and respectful of our school rules and expectations. Children were introduced to the system at the end of last Summer Term and they may have shared some information with you.

Firstly, we are introducing new House names which will replace the former colour ones: Ash, Rowan, Willow and Yew. Each tree symbolises a particular trait:

**Ash** trees embody resilience.

**Rowan** is a tree representing power, causing life and magic to flower through its vibrant, red berries.

**Willow** trees represent flexibility.

**Yew** trees are the oldest trees in human history and are symbolic of the sum of all wisdom.



Here are our new House crests:



Replacing credits will be coloured tokens which, similar to Credits, will be given for outstanding behaviour, respectful acts towards others, courteousness, excellent work and effort. The award of these tokens will contribute towards the collaborative success of each house as well as recognising individual children in the awarding of certificates upon meeting set milestones. The certificates are detailed opposite. Miss Challenor and I may also award a Gold Token for any of the above behaviours and Lunchtime Supervisors will also award with a white or black counter – all adding to the accumulative totals of each House. To supplement the new Houses and behaviour system, we will continue our, 'It's Good to Green' card system in all classrooms. As the new term commences, we will recognise the good/ outstanding behaviour of those children who remain 'green' over a half-term with a reward afternoon and the additional awarding of a certificate...a positive innovation designed following some of our parents' comments on the questionnaire returns which we collated last school year. Thank you.

## Our Token Reward Certificates



From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



## Dates to Note...

Attached to this newsletter is a list of dates for the school year. We have endeavoured to plan and set out all important dates for you to help with the planning and attendance of them.

### Meet the Teacher:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30p.m.**

The first date to note is above as this is an invitation for you to meet your child's year group staff and to learn of their expectations and routines. The year's curriculum will also be shared with you which will provide support in helping your child at home with their learning and progress. The meetings will be held in the classrooms and if you are unable to attend any one of the meetings, the notes will be uploaded to the school's website.

## Our Cultural Capital Journeys

Another new initiative this year is our focus upon providing and extending our children's Cultural Capital experiences. The focus of our work is to support your child's/ children's accumulation of new knowledge, behaviours and skills. To support this, each year group has designed a 'Journey' alongside each one of our new Core Values and as an example, I have snipped Year 3's to share with you:

<b>More than me</b>	 Learn from the Rainforest Roadshow	 Prevent deforestation	 Go litter picking	 Support a fundraising event	 Visit a new place of worship	 Support Fairtrade	 Write to a Pen Pal	 Work collaboratively with other year groups	 Create a pledge to help others	 Save our planet
<b>Healthy body, Healthy mind</b>	 Try a new food	 Set a fitness goal	 Give someone a 'shout out'	 Visit the supermarket	 Play a new playground game	 Cook a healthy meal	 Make a Stone Age Criddle Cake	 Take part in yoga	 Lead a mindfulness session	 Go on a picnic
<b>I see, I wonder</b>	 Learn British Sign Language	 Play at the park	 Visit the Library	 Discuss and pose impossible questions	 Learn a new language	 Experience nature/weather	 Visit Birmingham Museum	 Build a den	 Ride on public transport	 Discover what's going on in our world
<b>Rise to the challenge</b>	 Grow plants	 Create a dance	 Achieve a personal best	 Learn a new sport	 Challenge your Hit the Button score	 Hold a rainforest animal	 Compete in Sports Day	 Play as part of a team	 Create a Bug Hotel	 Complete a school enterprise project
<b>Express yourself</b>	 Compose a piece of music	 Write a poem	 Perform a poem	 Produce a film	 Create cave art	 Make a pot out of clay	 Design a carnival mask	 Draw a self portrait	 Write an autobiography	 Sing in an assembly

Again, this information is available on our website from the drop down menu entitled 'Our School'.

## Curriculum Information

Also uploaded to our website is our new curriculum

and the following topics will be taught this term:

Reception: Early learning of number and phonics

Year 1: Once upon a Time

Year 2: Super Heroes and Super Villains

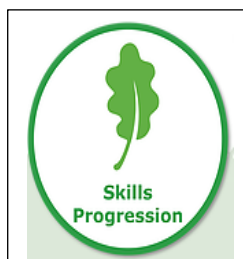
Year 3: Ariba! Ariba!

Year 4: Invaders

Year 5: Best of British

Year 6: Keep Calm and Carry On

Also available on our website are our school's statements for our curriculum intent, implementation and impact. Please have a read to familiarise yourself with our curriculum design.



Also detailed are our subject's skills progression information which will further inform you of the steps your children will learn within their thematic approached learning.



## Year 6 Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for Year 6 commence Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September at Wolverhampton Swimming and Fitness Centre, Bentley Bridge. Both Year 6 classes will swim each Friday afternoon and it is our school's expectations that children partake in these lessons as it forms part of the Government's and School's National Curriculum. Class 6G will depart school at approximately 1:00 p.m. having an early lunch with Class 6W following at 1:30 p.m. We are required to follow the Centre's regulations regarding the wearing of swimming costumes, shorts and swimming caps.

Year 6 will swim until at least Christmas time.

Following the Christmas holidays, children selected for lessons will be reviewed and priority will be given to those children who are not yet confident in swimming the required 25 metres. We will inform you accordingly if your child has been selected for additional swimming lessons.

## Healthy School Status

As a 'healthy school' we ask for your support in ensuring your child's morning snack and lunchbox contains healthy options.

A break time snack can consist of a piece of fruit or a fruit bar; children are not allowed to eat crisps or chocolate bars at this time. Research links healthy eating with healthy minds and optimal thinking and learning at school. We also encourage our children to keep hydrated as much as possible. Water fountains are placed strategically around the school but children can also have their own water bottle with them in class. Again, drinking regularly has positive benefits for children's health, well-being, concentration, physical performance and behaviour.

## P.E Kits

When attending our 'Meet the Teacher' session, your child's weekly timetable will be shared. Your child will have a minimum of 2 hours of PE a week and so it is a requirement that P.E. kits remain in school at all times during the term. As the weather becomes cooler, please ensure your child has access to a tracksuit, sweat top and jogging bottoms for added warmth. Pumps or trainers must be worn for these lessons.

## Information Requests

You will shortly receive letters seeking information about your child/ children's medical information. Please complete and return if your child has a medical need which we need to be aware of. We know that needs might change as time progresses so please keep us up-to-date with any changes or medical requirements as they arise. Thank you.

You will also receive an updated Home/School Liaison Agreement; we would appreciate you reading it and returning it to your child's classteacher. In addition, if your child has ears pierced, we ask your consent for your child to remove them for their P.E. lessons or to cover them with tape in order to prevent any harmful accidents to your child's ears.

Thank you.

## School Dinners

School meals cost £2.20 per day. May I remind you that dinner money must be paid via ParentPay on a Monday, in advance of the week. Payment in advance is stipulated by 'Direct Services' who are our catering service. As this is their directive, we may not be able to allow your child to continue staying for dinners if advance payment is not being made on a regular basis.

It is possible that some families, who are eligible for free school meals, have currently not applied. I would urge you to check the following criteria and apply, even if your child does not wish to take a dinner every day. It is of great benefit to the school's finances to record how many children are eligible. If you are unsure or wish for more information, please speak to Miss Mills in our School Office who will be more than willing to advise you.

If your child receives free meals under the Universal Free School Meals scheme, it is still advantageous to claim Free School Meals as your child will receive subsidised school visits.

## Eligibility to claim Free School Meals criteria:

Income Support, Income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit and annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) of less than £16,190 (April 2017-2018).

If you are eligible for one of the above benefits, your child is entitled to receive free school meals and subsidised school visit costs.

## Final Note

It has been a pleasure welcoming all our children, existing ones and new ones, to the start of our new school year/ term. As a staff we look ahead with keenness to building relationships and working partnerships with you further. Mr Arnold.