

Autumn Term – Newsletter 1



Headteachers update

Families

Welcome back! What a fantastic start to the new academic year. The children have come back from the summer full of enthusiasm and determination. It has been lovely welcoming so many new faces to our Owlsmoor family. The children have settled in beautifully into their new surroundings and have been full of energy even in this intense heat – where was this weather a couple of weeks ago 😊.

I hope you have managed to have a look at the new building works around the school. The new canopy for KS1 is complete and will provide a wonderful outdoor learning area for our children. A huge thank you goes to Wellington College for providing the funds for the project, it even doubles up as a cover for you all when the weather starts to change 😊. Please can you ensure, that at drop off and pick up, the children are not playing with the equipment that has been set out for the day – thank you 😊.

Lisa Martin's (one of our last year's year 6-parents) support and determination has paid off and we have an amazing new crossing for our community, hopefully this will make the front of the school a safer place for all of us. The council did a fantastic job with our fence line and have made good in our reception garden. A few of you have asked me about the railings by the road, this has been brought to the attention of the council and will be getting back to us shortly and the gap under the fence is being rectified 😊.

The PTA have been as active as ever and the new noticeboards by both our front entrances look stunning! Hopefully they will add to our improving communication to our families, please do have a read as you wobble past.

Next week is the start of our 'Meet the Team' meetings. These meetings give families the opportunity to meet class teachers and find out about all of the exciting things that will be happening over the next 12 months. The meetings will be held in the hall and will start at 14:30, finishing at 15:00 in time for pick up. It will be great to see you all over the coming weeks and I hope you can make it. The presentations from the sessions will be available on the school website if anyone can't make it – I hope you can 😊.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you for being so supportive over the change in timings of the school day. Change is never easy but as always you have shown your support in numbers. We cannot do what we do without your support and appreciate everything you do for our incredible children. Have an amazing weekend, slap the sun tan lotion and make sure your little ones have a rest – the first week back is always a tiring one.

Take care and be kind to each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cope'.

Mr. Cope

Welcome Back from the Teams

Nursery

Welcome to Puffins, we are super proud of how well the children have settled in this week. They are picking up the routines quickly and have enjoyed sharing news about what they have been up to during the Summer holidays. This half term, our topic will be 'All about me, Friends and Family', providing the children with opportunities to talk about themselves, their families and their favourite things. If you would like to send a copy of a family photo in with your child that would be greatly appreciated.

We know that mornings can sometimes be a little busy whilst we get the children settled. Therefore, it isn't always easy to have conversations regarding the children. If you have any important information to share with us, please write a note and hand it in to myself, or one the team. Alternatively, I am always happy to talk to parent's afterschool.

On the lunch trolley, you will find a pot for our voluntary contribution of 50p per week, this helps towards purchasing essential items for the children, such as cookery ingredients, food tasting, messy play etc. Any contributions would be gratefully received.

If you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk to us.

Reception

A warm welcome to all our children and their families to the start of this Reception year. We hope you all have had a lovely summer break. The children are settling in nicely and are familiarising themselves with the school rules and routines.

Please remember to send your child in with a **NAMED** hat and water bottle as they can get very thirsty during the day.

Our topics for the first half of the autumn term are 'Magical Me', 'My Family', 'Families around the World' and 'Harvest', giving the children lots of opportunities to talk about themselves, their families and things they enjoy doing. After half term, our topics will be 'Festivals', 'Autumn' and 'Christmas'.

After the children have settled in and their Baseline assessment is done they will bring home a reading book to be read at home for the week and a sharing book which they can change daily and a reading record for you to record their reading. At the back of their reading records will be their first set of key words to learn on Teddy 1. They will also bring home a phonics book on a Friday where they can practise the letter sounds they have been learning that week.

Finally, we would like to politely request that each child brings in a **family box of tissues** for us to store and share in the unit, allowing the children to use over the term. Thank you very much.

Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Year 1

Welcome to our new Year 1 classes! We hope you had a wonderful summer break.

We are pleased to see the children have settled quickly back into school are making use of our new outdoor provision, especially the water area!

Our first topic this half term is 'The Farm' where we will be exploring animals and their young, grouping animals according to what they eat as well as creating our own small farms through map making. We are also very lucky to have a visit arranged from Miller's Ark Farm in a few weeks' time.

As the hot weather continues we kindly ask that you send your child in with a **named** hat and water bottle everyday.

RESPECT – KIND – INCLUSIVE – DETERMINED - SAFE

Please may we ask that the children do not play in the outdoor area before or after school.

If you have any questions or concerns please phone or call the office. We look forward to working with you and the children this year.

Year 1 Team

Year 2

We hope you have had a good holiday and that you are as keen as we are to get going on our new learning adventure. In the next half term our topic will be 'The Enchanted Wood'. As part of this topic we will be studying woodland animals and making mini enchanted gardens. If you have any resources you think might be suitable and small enough for this, please send them in (e.g moss, shells, buttons, sequins, fairies/elves). In Geography we will be studying our local area and finding out about the town we live in. If you have any books about Sandhurst, we would love to have them in our classrooms.

Finally, we hope you have a really happy time in Year 2 and we are here to help your child achieve everything they are capable of. Please phone the office or send an email if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working in partnership with you.

Year 2 Team

Year 3

Welcome back after what we hope was a relaxing summer break and a warm welcome to new children and families joining our school.

We have been very pleased with how well the children have transitioned from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. They are settling in to their new classrooms and routines well and are enthusiastic about our geography topic, rainforests, which will link into many of our other subjects over the term. Thank you for the most amazing rainforest displays the children created over the summer in boxes and through a variety of video games – they were so creative and they have enjoyed sharing them with their classmates this week.

Please bear with us with regards to issuing school reading books. We are unfortunately still waiting on a delivery of books which are suitable for our year group to use. Until we are fully up and running with the new reading books, we are encouraging the children to bring home a sharing book to enjoy with an adult at home as well as their school library books and any other books they may already have at home.

Year 3 Team

Year 4

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a relaxing summer. We have enjoyed seeing the children and finding out what they have been getting up to since they were last in school!

We are already enjoying our new history and geography topic this term, learning about the lives of the Ancient Egyptians. There will be plenty of cross-curricular links with our English too. Alongside this, we will be learning about teeth and digestion in Science, where we will set up and carry out a range of practical investigations.

There is a strong focus on a rapid recall of all the times tables up 12 x 12. In order to support your child we encourage the use of times tables rock stars on a frequent basis, as we have seen that this has really helped children in the past. Your child should already have their login details but their class teacher will be able to remind them of the details they need to log in if required.

We look forward to working in partnership with you. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Year 4 Team

Year 5

A very warm welcome to you all – we hope you had the chance to enjoy some of the sunny weather during the holiday. We have been delighted to welcome the children back into school; they seem happy to be back and have enjoyed seeing their friends again.

This term our history topic will be 'The Ancient Greeks', focusing on how the ancient Greeks lived and what they have contributed to our lives today. There will be many cross-curricular links to geography within this topic. In science lessons, we will be studying 'Forces' and carrying out a variety of scientific inquiries to test gravity, friction and air resistance.

Each child has been given their own school reading book. Please try to hear your child read every day and discuss what they have read. Understanding the text (comprehension) is hugely important and will be a key focus during guided reading lessons this year. When your child has read to you, please remember to sign their reading record.

If you have anything you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working in partnership with you to help your child achieve their full potential.

Year 5 Team

Year 6

Welcome to Year 6! We hope you had a wonderful summer and coping with the hot weather since we came back. The children have settled in extremely well in their first few days and are getting to grips with the expectations of their final year at primary school.

Our history topic this term is "Tudors" and we will be learning about a fascinating period in British History including the reign of Henry VIII. In English, we will be reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, using this great book to learn how to fully investigate an extended text.

We would like to remind you that water bottles are to be brought in daily and that they should only contain water. We are trying to encourage children to have drinks more frequently at break and lunch time, as this will prepare them for the expectations of secondary school. Please also ensure that break time snacks, brought in from home, are fruit and/or vegetables only. In the current heat it would also be best for them to have a hat and access to sun cream.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be spending some time undertaking baseline assessments to identify starting points and gaps in the learning to inform our planning ready for the year ahead. We will also be encouraging children to decide if they wish to take on responsibilities, such as becoming a House Captain, School Councillor or various other Year 6 "jobs".

Our meet the team session is on Monday 18th September and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this where we can go in to more detail about the year ahead.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Year 6 Team

PE DAYS 🤝

Reception	Thursday	
Year 1	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 2	Monday	Tuesday
Year 3	Wednesday	Friday
Year 4	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 5	Monday	Wednesday
Year 6	Monday	Tuesday

Tissues anyone...

One item that is very well received across all year groups are tissues. We would be very grateful of any donations as we move into the winter months.

Please drop any donations in with your child's class teacher – thank you in advance.

Data Collection, Medical and Consent Forms

These will be sent home with your child/children during next week (w/c 11th September) please look out for them as they need to be back by **Friday 29th September**. Failing to do this could stop your child/children from going on any visits or activities run by the school.

Please check all details, if they need changing please write on the form. Paying great attention to their NHS Number, Date of Last Tetanus Injection and the last page making sure you cross out all of questions with I agree/do not agree before signing it and returning it to the school office ASAP.

Thank you.

RRS – THEY HAVE ARRIVED!!

During the Summer term, we held a Rights Respecting Schools day, where we raised an amazing £485. The RRS Champs are happy to announce that the money raised, was used to buy a cow which has been donated to a family as part of the 'Reaching Rwanda' project run through Sandhurst School.

'Thank you so much for the wonderful donation Owlsmoor gave to the Reaching Rwanda project. I was delighted to deliver a cow to a survivor of the genocide in the name of your school. Receiving such a gift will truly change the life of the survivor and their family.'



In the next few weeks, the children will have the opportunity to run for RRS Champ and I look forward to sharing with you their ideas and plans for this year.

Miss Grant

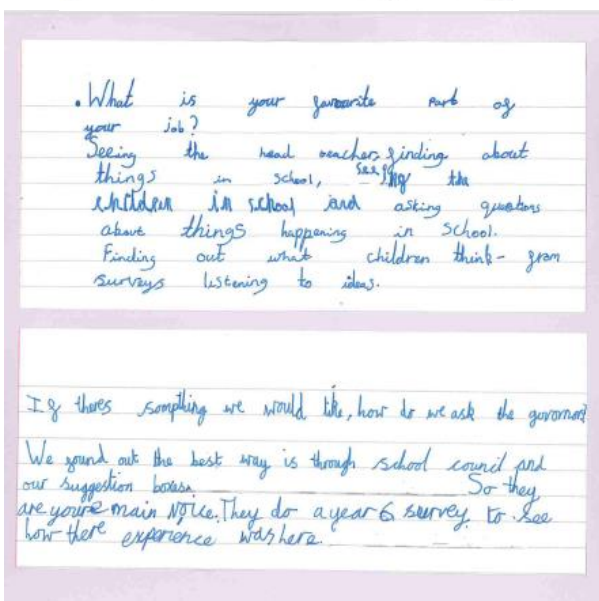
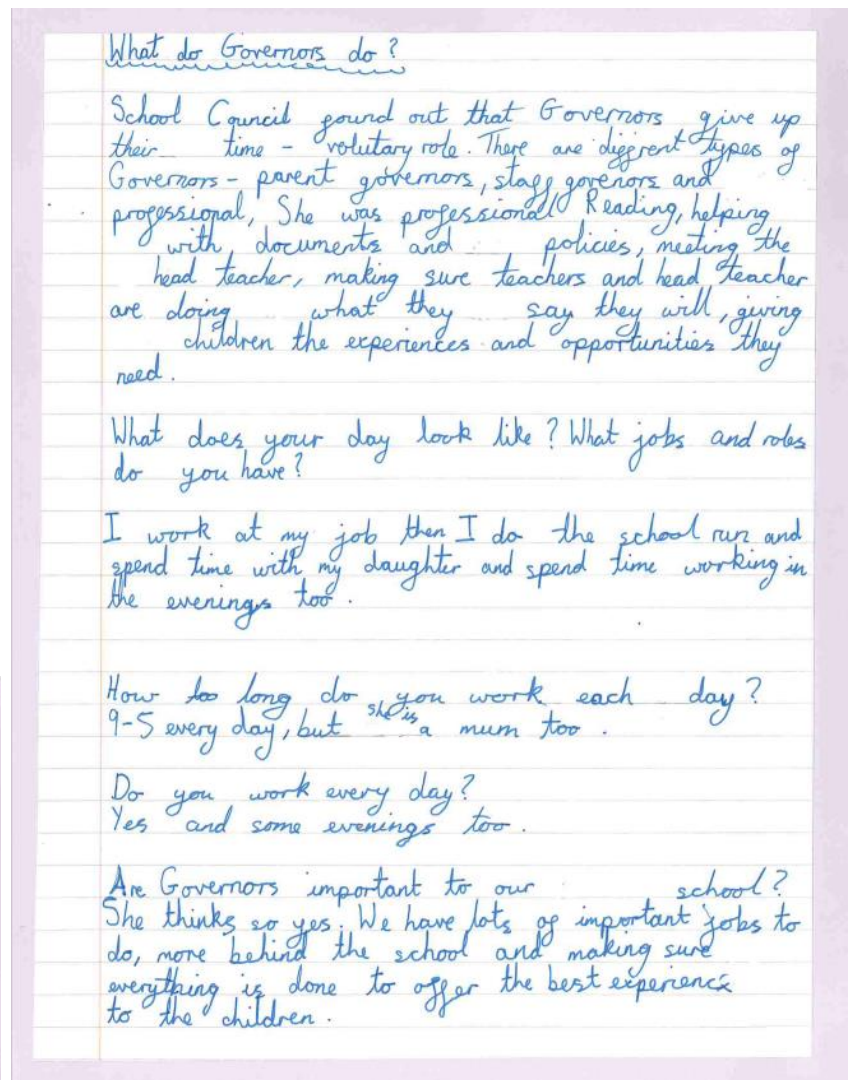
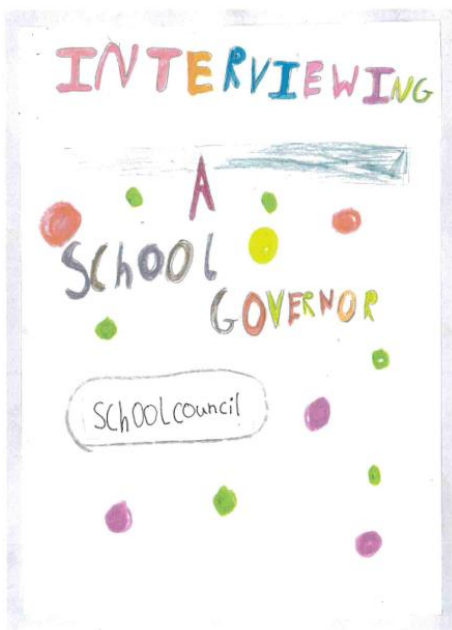
Reminder from the Kitchen 🍷

The price of school meals has gone up and will now be £2.45 for the children in Years 3 to 6.

Also, last year's Year 2 children will no longer be eligible for FSM under the government Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative. If you wish your child to have school meals from September, the cost is £2.45 per meal and must be paid for in advance, details for online payment facilities are on SCOPAY these details can be found at the school office. Your child may still be entitled free school meals if you meet certain criteria, details of which and the application form can be found on the Bracknell forest website - <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

School Council Interview our Chair of Governors

The school council are delighted to have met Angela Allard, one of our school governors, and interviewed her about her role and how she helps our school:



It's photo time! 😊

The school photographer will be coming on **Tuesday 3rd October** to do single portraits of the children. On **Tuesday 31st October** they will be back to do the siblings who go to the school and any absentees from their first visit.

Medicines for our children

A number of our children have daily medication and it is important to ensure the medication is in date 😊. At the 'Meet the Team' meetings we will bring any medication we have for the children into the hall, where you can check or collect it. If your child does need any medication new forms will be accessible for you to complete there and then.

If your child does not need the medication anymore you can simply take it away with you 😊.

European Day of Languages – Tuesday 26th September 2023

This year, we will be celebrating European Day of Languages in school on **Tuesday 26th September 2023**. European Day of Languages celebrates all the different languages spoken by people living in Europe. We are very lucky as a school to have a broad range of different languages spoken by both pupils and staff. Later this month, class teachers will be inviting children who might speak any other languages at home to **bring in any books they read at home in their other language** to share with their class on Tuesday 26th September. Children are also welcome to come to school on Tuesday 26th September **dressed in the colours of the flag of a country of their choice** and Mrs Bruce will be holding a language-based quiz at lunchtime on that day for pupils in Years 3-6 to participate in if they wish to do so (with prizes!).

European Day of Languages T-Shirt Design Competition

The European Centre for Modern Languages holds a competition every year giving school-aged children the opportunity to design a T-Shirt which will be made and used during the following year's European Day of Languages celebrations. Full details of how to enter can be found at the following website: EDL.ECML.AT/TSHIRTCONTEST. This is also where you would upload your child's design for entry into the competition should they wish to take part. Any submissions must be uploaded to EDL.ECML.AT/TSHIRTCONTEST by 31st December 2023 to be entered. If your child submits an entry for the competition, please ask them or their class teacher to let Mrs Bruce know 😊.

Message from our Family Support Advisors

Hello! We are Tina Shepherd and Cath Jones your Family Support Advisors (FSA'S) here at Owlsmoor. We provide friendly, non-judgemental, confidential and supportive advice.

We work together with you, your child and school to help achieve positive outcomes.

Life can be challenging and parenting is not always easy. We want to help support you along your parenting journey; at Owlsmoor Everyone Matters.

We may not have all the answers, but we can put you in touch with someone who can help.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to help and listen. We look forward to working with you and meeting the new families to the school.

How we can help:

- Provide a listening ear
- Bereavement support

- Benefits advice
- Paperwork/form support
- Food vouchers/Hygiene products
- Sleep advice
- Parenting courses/workshops
- Concerns about your child
- Give practical parenting advice
- Attendance issues
- Health Eating advice
- Family routine support

We are available from 8:30am – 3:30pm, Monday - Friday.

Catch us on the gate on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Call to chat or arrange a meeting on 01344 776642 ext 4 or via fsa@owlsmoorprimary.com

Come to one of our informal coffee mornings: **Next one 12th September 2023**

We look forward to meeting you,

Tina Shepherd and Cath Jones

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS 2023

Day	Before School or Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Judo** (Y1-6) (8:00-8:45am school hall) – Coach (Gary) – STARTS 11th SEPTEMBER 😊 RRS - Ms Grant – Falcon classroom (12:15 – 12:45) School Council – Mrs Judd and Mrs Walter – Music Studio (12:15 – 12:45) Deep Thought – Ms Megrath – Toucans - Y4 – Y6 (12:15 – 12:45) Top Trumps – Mrs Hadley – Flamingos – Y3 & 4 (12:15 – 12:45) Handbells – Mrs Gardiner – Y2&3 – Penguins (11:45 – 12:15)	Y3 Basketball (3.15-4.00pm) Mr Methven **Reception - Y2 Football (3:15pm - 4:15pm) In2Sport Booking link for website is: https://In2sport.class4kids.co.uk
Tuesday	Digital Learning – Mr Francis – Swans - KS2 – (12:15 – 12:45) Cross Country – Mr Stevens – Y4 – Y7 – 12:45 – 1:15	Pokémon Card Club – Mr Taylor – Kiwis – Y5 & 6 (15:15 – 16:15) Y4 Basketball (3.15-4.00pm) Mr Methven Y6 Netball (3:15- 16:00) Mrs Panesar
Wednesday		Y5/6 Basketball (3.15-4.00pm) Mr Methven

Thursday	Makaton – Y5 & 6 - Mrs Judd – Music Studio (12:15 – 12:45) Deep Thought – Ms Megrath – Toucans (12:15 – 12:45) Y1-3 Makaton – KS1 – Ms Wakelin – Parakeets (11:45-12:15)	**Pop Fizz Bang (Science Club) – Falcons – 15:15 – 16:15 YRs 4-6 Choir – KS2 - Ms Parr & Mrs Read – Music studio – 15:20 – 16:00 Girls/Boys Football Training – Y5&6 Mr Methven (3:15pm – 4pm) by invitation only
Friday	Top Trumps – Mrs Hadley – Flamingos – Y3 & 4 (12:15 – 12:45)	

All Clubs to start W/C 18th September 2023 (unless told otherwise)

Please note:

- If any changes to the above arrangements need to be made during the term, children and parents will be notified.
- If an activity has to be cancelled on the day (e.g. because of staff illness/weather), children will not be sent home unless parents have been informed. Please monitor the weather and collect your child at 3:10pm if a club cancellation is likely.
- * Permission slips will need to be completed for before & after school clubs only.
- * * There will be cost for these clubs which will be detailed on the permission slip.

KEY DATES

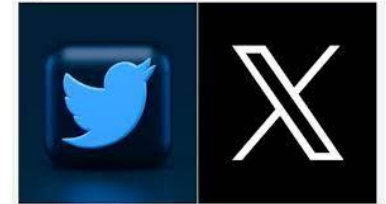
Tuesday 12th September	Meet the Teacher Year 5
Wednesday 13th September	Meet the Teacher Year 3
Wednesday 13th September	Family Forum 18:00 – 20:00 All welcome ☺
Thursday 14th September	Meet the Teacher Year 4
Friday 15th September	Meet the Teacher Year 2
Monday 18th September	Meet the Teacher Year 6
Wednesday 20th September	Meet the Teacher Year 1
Thursday 21st September	School Council Elections
Tuesday 26th September	European Day of Languages
Wednesday 27th September	Millar's Ark Farm to visit Year 1
Tuesday 3rd October	Cardwell Photographer to do Individual
Thursday 5th October	Harvest Festival (more details to follow)
Friday 6th October	PTA – Comedy Night
Thursday 12th October	Year 3 to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 18th October	Parent Consultations (more details to follow)
Friday 20th October	School Ends at 3:15pm for Half Term
Monday 30th October	Children Return
Tuesday 31st October	Cardwell to do Siblings & Absentees from October 3rd
Friday 3rd November	Flu Spray for Reception to Year 6 (more details to follow)
Saturday 11th November	PTA – Fireworks
Tuesday 14th November	Height and Weight Measurements for Year 6
Friday 17th November	Child in Need (more details to follow)
Wednesday 22nd November	Nuthatches Class Assembly
Wednesday 22nd November	Family Forum 18:00 – 20:00 All welcome ☺
Friday 24th November	Ostriches Class Assembly
Friday 15th December	School Finishes at 2pm for Christmas Holidays

REMAINING INSET DAYS - 2023 - 2024

Tuesday 2nd January
Monday 3rd June
Monday 22nd July
Tuesday 23rd July



We're LIVE!



Follow us on X (Twitter) to keep up to date with what we do at
Owlsmoor Primary School!

@OwlsmoorPrimary

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 – 2024

Autumn Term 2023

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) - Friday 1st September 2023

Pupils Start on Monday 4th September 2023

October Half Term - Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023

Pupils start on Monday 30th October 2023

Autumn Term ends on - Friday 15th December 2023 at 2.00pm

(Christmas holiday: Monday 18th December 2023 to Monday 1st January 2024)

Spring Term 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) - Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Pupils start on Wednesday 3rd January 2024

February Half Term – Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Pupils start on Monday 19th February 2024

Spring Term ends on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 2.00pm

(Good Friday: 29th March 2024, Easter Monday 1st April 2024)

Summer Term 2024

Pupils start on Monday 15th April 2024

Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 6th May 2024

May Half Term - Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 3rd June 2024

Pupils start on Tuesday 4th June 2024

Summer Term ends on Friday 19th July 2024 at 2.00pm

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July 2024

OUR SCHOOL MILK SCHEME

Our school provides a milk scheme that is available to all of our pupils, and is free to those pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals by meeting the criteria as laid out below. For those children, we also offer free school trips and so, it is well worth registering. It is also free to all pupils under 5 years of age. We have decided that the best time of day to offer the children milk would be at morning break. If you would like your child to receive milk at morning break and they are not entitled to free milk, please register and place your order with Cool Milk. (<http://www.coolmilk.com/>)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS/PUPIL PREMIUM

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child might also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

You can register your child directly through the Bracknell Forest Council website

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/school-meals/how-do-i-apply-free-school-meals>

Children who are or who have been in receipt of free school meals in the last 6 years are classed as pupil premium children under the government scheme.

For every child registered under Pupil Premium, the school will receive £1320 from the Government, This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium' and is designed to close the gap between pupils from disadvantaged families and their peers.

Pupil Premium will help to provide:

- Additional teachers to ensure smaller classes
- Additional teaching assistants and nursery nurses to ensure smaller classes and intervention groups
- Improved computing provision to sustain pupil achievement and further enhance teaching
- Funding for free school trips

As you can see, this additional funding can really make a substantial difference. Do you qualify?



The poster features a black background with orange and green text and graphics. At the top left is a green spiderweb with a spider. At the top right is a full moon with a wolf silhouette. The text 'in2sport in2care' is at the top center. The main title 'SPOOKY CAMP WEEK!' is in large, orange, dripping letters. Below it are three jack-o'-lanterns and a green, one-eyed monster. The dates 'MONDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 27TH' and 'OCTOBER 2023' are in orange, dripping letters. Two circular photos show a girl with face paint and a boy playing a game. The times and prices are listed in green, dripping letters: '8AM-5PM £31' and '9AM-3PM £25'. The location 'Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst, GU47 0TA' and the booking website 'To book head to: in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk' are at the bottom in orange and green.

in2sport in2care

SPOOKY CAMP WEEK!

MONDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 27TH
OCTOBER 2023

8AM-5PM £31
9AM-3PM £25

Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst, GU47 0TA
To book head to: in2sport.magicbooking.co.uk

