



5th October 2018

Dear Parents

Thank you to all those parents who were able to come to the Macmillan Coffee Morning. The event was well attended and made £100 for the charity. May I say a huge thank you to the PTA for organising it so efficiently.

Our Harvest Festival celebrations take place on Friday 12th October and there is a reminder of the details later in this newsletter. We look forward to welcoming you at either the church or school – or in some cases both!

May I remind parents that our parent consultation will take place on Wednesday 17th October – you should have had a letter about it last week. Appointment sheets will be going up at the end of the school day on Monday 8th October.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

September's Superstars are: Leah Vallis, Rhys Thomas, James Dunbar, Sophia-Rose Shamtally, Jessica Eadle, Laura Zegocinska, Lucas Burge, Joshua Bennett, Millie Read, Ashton Holloway, Ava Townsend and Joseph Keep. You should be very proud of your hard work – well done!



SUPERSTAR WRITERS' AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

September's Superstars are: Lisa-Marie Jones, Molly Routh, Megan Holberry, Sudharsan Gurung, Liam Jewell, Olivia Rivers, Summer Wilson, Joshua Jones, Hannah Tappin, Thomas Dale and Callum Whitehead. Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!

PARENTS' FORUM

Our next parents' forum is on Tuesday 9th October from 6.00 to 6.30 pm.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Thank you to those families who have returned their data collection sheets. We do have some that have not come back and we must remind you to do so ASAP or your child may not be able to go on school trips or take part in some school activities. If you have mislaid your child's data collection sheet, please call into the school office where we can print off another one for you. Thank you.



FOOTBALL

The football team have got off to a flying start this term with two victories from two games.

In our first game we travelled to St Margaret Clitheroe, who have always been strong opposition, and came away with a 3-1 victory with our players working together and putting in an amazing performance, particularly given that this was the first time the boys had all played together with the inclusion of several Year 5 boys this year.

Our second game was our first home game of this year where we took on Fox Hill. Fox Hill are also known as a good footballing side with several players playing at a high level. However, the Owlsmoor team worked hard and stuck together and went into a 2-0 lead early in the first half. We came back out in the second half and all of the boys worked hard and kept to their jobs eventually grabbing another two goals and finishing the game as 4-0 winners.

Our next game is a home game on Thursday 11th October against Jennets Park where we will be hoping to take our record to 3 games, 3 victories! Well done team!

OWLSMOOR SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Yesterday we held our school council elections. All classes from Year 2 to Year 6 voted for two school council representatives by secret ballot (one to be the main school councillor and one to be the vice school councillor).

As democracy is a key British value, we tried to base the process on our own voting system: children had a ballot paper, we used the council's official ballot box and polling booth, and the election was held on a Thursday!

Children who wanted to run for election made a poster and presented a speech to their class explaining:

- Why they would like to be a school council member
- What issues they think are important
- How they will work to represent the ideas of the class.

All candidates were made aware that they are expected to be able to attend a weekly meeting, as well as coming to present to governors in July. They may also occasionally be asked to complete a short piece of homework such as making a poster to promote a fundraising event.

We hope to announce the results of the election next week but would like to thank all those children who put themselves forward for consideration and to all those children who voted. We will report to the children on the turnout.

Mrs Layton-Matthews and Miss Edwards

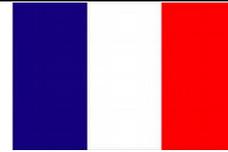
BOOK BAND BOOKS AMNESTY

For the last three years, we have spent nearly £1,000 replenishing the book band books. Please could you check under the bed, in your child's book bag, on your bookshelves at home, and anywhere else you can think of, for any school books so they can be returned to the correct book band box. Your child should borrow just one book at a time from the coloured band they are reading, as directed by their teacher, and replace and change when that book is finished.

Thank you for your help.



FRENCH DAY



On Friday 19th October we will be celebrating our love of foreign languages by having a French Day! All staff and pupils are asked to wear blue, white and red clothes to embrace the themed day. Each year group has chosen a number of language-enhancing activities which will be run as a carousel throughout the day. All students will also get the opportunity to visit our very own French café – Café Hibou – manned and funded by our very own PTA. I am extremely grateful to them for providing their time and funds for the café activity. Please let your class teacher know of any allergies by 12th October so we can ensure your child is catered for appropriately. In addition to this, the PTA has kindly purchased a set of French-English dictionaries and an array of bi-lingual resources to enhance the learning of French within school. The children will have the opportunity to sample some of these during the day.

Merci bien!
Madame Johnson

WATER BOTTLES/PLAYTIME SNACKS

A reminder that children are only allowed to have plain tap or bottled water in their water bottles, not flavoured water or squash. Children are only allowed to have fruit or vegetables (eg carrot sticks) at morning play.

JUDO

Judo sessions have already started but as numbers are quite low, Gary the Judo teacher is offering a free trial session next Monday 8th October. Thank you.



HARVEST FESTIVAL REMINDER

This year's Harvest Festival will be on Friday 12th October. There will be four services and parents are welcome to join us either at the church or in the school hall at any one of these services:

Years 1 and 2	9.15am	St. George's Church
Years 3 and 4	10.00am	St. George's Church
Years 5 and 6	11.00am	St. George's Church
Reception and Nursery	2.30pm	School Hall

This year we have decided to delay our donations until the spring term in line with a request from the Food Bank organisers.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these celebrations.

PARKING

A polite reminder about parking outside the school: please do not park across our neighbours' drives, and not on the curbs, so that pushchairs, etc. can get through. Thank you.

CAREERS WEEK 29th OCTOBER – 2nd NOVEMBER 2018

As a school, we would like to provide an opportunity for the children to think about their future and what career they might like to follow by providing daily drop-in workshops; a careers fair; employer visits; a focus on subject-relevant careers in lessons; and showing careers films. We have reached out to local companies and invited many to talk about their jobs, to challenge stereotypes, to discuss working hard and following aspirations to develop successful businesses.

We would like to extend the invitation to the adults in our school community. If you would be interested in attending our careers fair and sharing information about your own job role or business, please contact Mrs Leggett or Miss Hipkin.
Mrs Leggett and Miss Hipkin

FLU SPRAY

On Thursday 18th October, the NHS nurses will be coming in to administer the flu spray for children from Year R to Year 5.

The consent forms were sent home two weeks ago – please check your child's school bag and send the form back to the school office ASAP. If you have mislaid the consent form we have some spare in the office. If your child has already had the spray at the doctor's, please let the school office know.
Thank you

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

In order to protect children who have nut allergies, Owlsmoor is a nut-free school. Please ensure that you do not provide your child with nuts in their lunchbox, for example, peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our children safe.



This year the school council has decided that the children should come to school dressed in their pyjamas to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 16th November. We would like the children to bring in a £1 coin as a donation please. Thank you in advance.



THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Nursery

The children have settled fantastically into the Nursery and have enjoyed talking about themselves, their families and the things that interest them. We are all looking forward to the Harvest Festival which is taking place on Friday 12th October at 2.30pm in the school hall. All nursery children are welcome to attend. If your child doesn't usually come to the nursery on a Friday afternoon, and you would like them to attend, please bring them to the classroom for 2.00pm.

After half term, we will be learning about different celebrations including Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. If there is a particular celebration that you would like to share with the children, we would welcome you into the classroom; just speak to one of the Nursery team and we can arrange a time for you to come into school.

Parent consultations are taking place on 17th October for Nursery pupils. Can we remind parents that the Nursery will be closed that afternoon for the consultations. An appointment list will go up in the Nursery on Monday 8th October – please make sure you sign up for a visit.

The consultations will take place in the Dance Studio.

We value your input and are aware that the children also do a lot of learning at home. We would love to know when you see them doing something that makes you proud, such as putting on their coat or riding a bike for the first time.

You will find some WOW cards attached to this newsletter. These WOW cards are a chance for you to share with us things that your child achieves at home. If you see them doing something that makes you think WOW, then write it down and bring it in to share with us.

If any parents or grandparents are available during the day, and you would like to get involved in the setting, we are always looking for parent helpers. If this is something you'd be interested in, please come and speak to a member of the team.

A few reminders: please can you ensure that water bottles, jumpers and cardigans are clearly named. It will help us to ensure that the right items are returned to the correct owner.

Thank you.

Miss Edwards, Miss Sandy and Mrs Toal

Reception

The children have been learning about 'Harvest' during this half term and are really looking forward to performing their harvest songs for you at our Harvest Festival on Friday 12th October in the school hall at 2:30pm. Next week we will be making bread linked to our harvest story, 'The Little Red Hen', so if each child could bring in a 50p contribution, it would be gratefully received. May we remind you that the parent consultations are coming up on 17th October. The signing-up sheets will go up outside the classrooms early next week, so please make sure you sign up for a visit. Reception consultations will be in the Dance Studio. School will close at 1:00pm on that day.

We are constantly trying to keep our outside area up to date and resourced. If you have any spades, shovels, forks or buckets for our digging area that we could have, we would love them. Please bring them in to your class teacher. Thank you so much. We have also had Mr Cartwright in helping with our planting area and, together with the children, they have cleared out our planters ready for bulbs and herbs, so if you are able to bring in a packet of bulbs for us to plant with the children, we would be very thankful.

Finally, could we gently remind you that reading books and orange reading records need to be in school every day. On this point, please could you write a brief comment in your child's reading record every time you read together as this evidences that regular home reading is taking place. If you would like any help or advice as to things you can do to support your child's reading, please speak to the class teachers.

Thank you so much for all the tissue boxes we have received. If you have not yet managed to bring one in, there is still time. Thank you.

Mrs Layton-Matthews, Mrs Bryan and Ms Grant

Year 1



We have been busy learning our words and songs ready for the Harvest Festival and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. We do need some volunteers to help us walk the children to the church and back again. If you could help us, please speak to your class teacher. Thank you for your support with homework and reading so far this term. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that homework is sent home on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. Teddy, Rocket and Penguin words (high frequency and tricky words) will generally be tested once a week and once children can read each word by sight they will be given the next set of words. Children need to be able to recognise these words in all contexts and your child may be asked to repeat some words if they are not secure in reading them.

Most children have been enjoying their extra ten-minute play on a Friday for reading at least four times a week at home. Please remember to sign in your child's reading record when they have read. They do not necessarily need to read the school reading book every night and we do encourage them to read other texts, for example, newspapers, comics and library books. These can also be recorded in the reading diary. The new National Curriculum has a strong focus on application of knowledge. Children who are confident readers are expected to apply their knowledge of language to other areas of English – for example, writing in full sentences using correct punctuation and using high-level vocabulary that they have experienced in their reading books.

Recently there has been a lot of lost property and some of the items are not named, making it very difficult to return them to their owners! Please make sure all items – including water bottles, PE kits and book bags – are named.

A big thank you to all who have donated tissues – with winter approaching we can never have too many. Finally, we are collecting empty cereal boxes and kitchen and toilet roll tubes to make our rockets in art.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

The children have happily settled into Year 2 and are beginning to rise to the challenges that are being set for them. They have been working hard to learn their lines and songs for the Harvest Festival and look forward to performing for you at the church on Friday 12th October. We would like to remind you that all homework is due in by Tuesday. Please continue to read with your child as much as possible and make a note of this in their reading record. Can we also take this opportunity to remind you that we are a 'nut-free' school, so if you are sending in treats for your child's birthday, please ensure they do not contain nuts.

We are still looking for volunteer readers in class so if you have a DBS check and are willing to spare an afternoon reading with children, please contact the class teachers.

A big thank you to all who have donated tissues – with winter approaching we can never have too many.

Year 2 Team

Year 3

We are delighted to see how well the children have settled into their new classrooms and new routines. Thank you for your support with homework and reading so far this term. Most children are enjoying their 15 minutes of extra playtime for reading four times a week at home, so please sign your child's reading record every time you hear them read.

On Wednesday 10th October, the school will be celebrating World Healthy Mind Day. During the day, the children will have the chance to discuss how a healthy mind is as important as a healthy body and will take part in a number of activities when visiting different classrooms.

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will participate in activities including yoga and meditation, salsa dancing and making lavender bags.

On Friday



12th October, we will be holding our Harvest celebration at St.

George's Church and would like to invite you to attend. The Year 3/Year 4 celebration will start at 10:00 am. The children have been working hard to learn new songs and their own lines so it would be great if they could rehearse their lines with you at home as well. These have been glued into their reading records. It can be quite daunting to stand up and speak in front of so many people, so practising at home will build their confidence. Perhaps you could encourage them to use big voices to ensure they will be heard at the back of the church.

The children have been enjoying our topic about rainforests and, to enhance their learning, we will be visiting Kew Gardens on Friday 16th November. This exciting trip provides the children with an opportunity to experience some of the plants and climatic conditions they have been learning about. A separate letter with full details will be sent home with the children in due course.

A gentle reminder that parent consultations will take place on Wednesday 17th October so, once the appointment lists go up on classroom doors, please make sure you sign up to see your child's teacher. Each appointment is ten minutes long, so there is only time to discuss how your child has settled in and how they are getting on in key subject areas. If you wish to discuss any other issues, please talk to class teachers at the end of the day or arrange a separate appointment.

Finally, 'coughs and sneezes' season has begun and tissues are being used up rapidly. If you are able to kindly donate a box of tissues for the classroom, we would be extremely grateful.

Mrs Fish, Miss Barton and Mrs Walden

Year 4

A month has flown by – the children seem to have settled in quickly to their new classes and they are fully fledged Year 4s now. Most children are already settled into the routines, but we will just take this opportunity to remind everyone that English and Maths homework go out on a Thursday and are due in on a Tuesday. New spellings lists are glued into the back of reading records on Tuesday and need to be learnt ready for the test on Monday. Thank you for your support with this as we have had an overwhelming number of children handing everything in on time and completed to a high standard. Most children are enjoying their 15 minutes of extra playtime for reading four times a week at home, so please continue to sign your child's reading record every time you hear them read.

On Wednesday 10th October the school will be celebrating World Healthy Mind Day. During the day the children will have the chance to discuss how a healthy mind is as important as a healthy body and will take part in a number of activities when visiting different classrooms. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will participate in activities including yoga and meditation, salsa dancing and making lavender bags.

Our Harvest Festival is coming up on Friday 12th October. The children are working really hard to learn the songs and their speaking parts. If you are able to come and help us to walk the children up to the church, that would be a great help. Please let any of us know (you will not need a DBS check for this). You are welcome to come to support the children if you are able. It means a lot to them to have you see their hard work come to fruition. Donations are not being taken this term as the foodbank has requested we do so later in the year.

The children have been learning about Ancient Egypt in our topic work and have written interesting stories. The Egyptian artefacts museums are looking fantastic – thank you for your assistance with this.

A gentle reminder that parent consultations will take place on Wednesday 17th October so, once the appointment lists go up on classroom doors, please make sure you sign up to see your child's teacher. Each appointment is ten minutes long so there is only time to discuss how your child has settled in and how they are getting on in subject areas. If you wish to discuss any other issues, please go and talk to class teachers at the end of the day or arrange a separate appointment.

As the cold



weather begins to settle in (although there are still some



surprisingly sunny days) the runny noses and sneezes are beginning to appear in the classrooms. Thank you for your generosity if you have already donated a box of tissues, but the children insist on using them, so they are a constantly disappearing resource! If you could send in a box with your child, that would be appreciated.

Another reminder: we are already gaining large amounts of lost property and many of these items appear to be brand new! Please make sure all items of clothing and PE kit coming into school are clearly labelled, otherwise it is tricky to make sure they get back to the rightful owner.

Mrs Bowden, Mr Horton, Mrs Brown-Nicholson and Mrs Cashmore.

Year 5

The children are really enjoying learning all about the Ancient Greeks. We are all now becoming experts on life in Ancient Greece and have enjoyed learning about Greek Gods as part of our English homework.

We have been impressed by the number of children who have read at least four times a week for three weeks in a row! We would really like to see this number increase significantly over the coming weeks. Your continued support in this is appreciated.

Reminder: children's PE kits need to be in school every day and should contain a white t-shirt, a pair of blue shorts and a pair of trainers or plimsolls. During the winter months children are allowed to wear a navy jumper and blue tracksuit bottoms.

We look forward to seeing you at parent consultations, which Year 5 children are encouraged to attend.

Miss Poulter, Miss Hipkin and Miss Parkinson

Year 6

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings – we hope that you found them informative.

We will be celebrating our Harvest at St. George's Church on Friday 12th October. If you are able to accompany us to and from the church it would be greatly appreciated. We will reserve seats for you at the church if you are able to help. If you would like to make a donation to WaterAid, there will be a donation bucket at the church.

We are looking forward to our theatre visit on Thursday 11th October. The children are really excited about the prospect of seeing a performance inside a real theatre. We hope that the experience of seeing 'Private Peaceful' will help to add depth to their study of the novel next term.

Building on this, we will also be looking at the First World War as this year is the centenary of the end of the Great War. This will include reading poetry, recreating authentic recipes and looking at the significance of the poppy and Remembrance Day. We hope that the children will enjoy learning about such a significant moment in our history.

This half term the children have enjoyed learning about extreme forms of weather and geology. We have used our studies to help to create some exciting pieces of English work. We will continue to study this in topic next half term, focussing on how these forms of weather impact people and their lives.

For their half-term homework, we would like the children to complete some research about the First World War and create a mini-project. More details will be sent home with the children, in order for the project to be completed over half term.

As always, if you need to ask any questions or have any queries, please feel free to drop in and see us.

Year 6 Team

Yours sincerely

EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher



DIARY DATES: (new dates or information in bold)



Tuesday 9 th October	Parents' Forum 6.00 – 6.30 pm
Friday 12 th October	Harvest Festival Celebrations
Wednesday 17 th October	EARLY CLOSURE AT 1.00 PM Parent/Teacher consultation (more details to follow)
Thursday 18 th October	Flu Spray YR – Y5 – details to follow
Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th October	HALF TERM
Monday 29 th October	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 6 th November	Parents' Forum 9.00 – 9.30 am School Photographer (sibling photos)
Thursday 8 th and Friday 9 th November	Stepping Stones cake sale – details to follow
Friday 9 th November	Falcons' Class Assembly 9.00 am
Saturday 10 th November	PTA Fireworks Display – details to follow
Wednesday 14 th November	Emus' Class Assembly 9.00 am
Friday 16 th November	Kookaburras' Class Assembly 9.00 am
Thursday 22 nd November	Nuthatches' Class Assembly 9.00 am
Friday 23 rd November	Pelicans' Class Assembly 9.00 am
Friday 30 th November	Toucans' Class Assembly 9.00 am
Wednesday 5 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 7 th December	YR Nativity – timing tbc
Tuesday 11 th December	Parents' Forum 6.00 – 6.30 pm
Thursday 13th December	Y2 Christmas play – timing tbc
Friday 14 th December	Nursery nativity – timing tbc
Tuesday 18 th December	Y1 and Y6 Christmas Play – timing tbc
Friday 21 st December	Rudolph Rave 9.00 am FINISH 2.00 PM
Monday 7 th January 2019	Inset Day
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	Pupils return to school