



11th January 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year holiday and a warm welcome to the new families in the school. I would also like to welcome Miss Holness, who has joined us as a year 2 teacher. May I remind everyone that the newsletter goes out on the first Friday of each month and that it is available on our school website and on our Facebook page.

This term we have a focus on science and reading, with Science Week taking place from Monday 11th February and Book Week taking place from Monday 4th March. We also have a number of class assemblies and productions taking place over the course of the term, so please take time to read the list of dates included at the back of the newsletter.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE TWO

December's Superstars are: Jack Ross, Szonja Brandhuber, Kaden Lay-Murphy, Lucie Adamson, Rojina Rai, Riley Carter, Toby Phillips, Leon Whitbread, Jessica Heginbotham, Val Survilo, Alex Edwards and Imanee Manning.

You should be very proud of your hard work – well done!



SUPERSTAR WRITER AWARD FOR KEY STAGE TWO

December's Superstars are: James Wilkinson, Akua Adu-Gyamfi, Yasmin Chhokar, Aimee Hellewell, Emily Legg, Scarlet King, Roman Dunn, George Davis, Mia Hawkins, Connie Gaskill and Sophie Fournier.

Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!

PARENTS' FORUM

Our next parents' forum is on Tuesday 15th January from 9am–9.30am.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

As you may remember, this year we did not hold a collection for food at the Harvest Festival due to the lack of storage space the Food Bank have with the high volume of items they receive in October. However, as a school we felt it was still important to support our local Food Bank and so a collection will take place later this half term. More information will follow in the next newsletter which will include a date and a list of items they are short of.

Miss Horner



SCIENCE WEEK

This year, Science Week will be celebrated during the week beginning Monday 11th February and the theme this year is 'Journeys'. Children in all year groups will take part in a range of exciting investigations and experiments. We would also like to invite guest speakers to talk to the children about the wonderful world of science so if you, or somebody you know, might be available to come and talk to groups of children, please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mrs Fish.

Once again, we will be having chicken eggs to incubate outside the main office; they will be arriving during the week beginning Monday 4th February so please pop in to see them if you have time.

INTERNET SAFETY

We have recently added a number of links to our school website for parents and children which provide helpful information on how to keep children safe online. These can be accessed by going to the school website – selecting the 'About Us' tab at the top - selecting 'Parent Information' – selecting 'Internet Safety'. These links include:

'Digiducks Big Decision' - a book aimed at our younger pupils to encourage safe and positive online behaviour.

CBBC - Internet safety tips from CBBC.

Net Smartz Kids – Video clips, activities and games on internet safety for children.

Newsround - Quiz on internet safety

'Think You Know' – This website is brought to you by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) centre. There's a lot of information here for both children and adults – parents even have their own area of the site!

'Safety Land' - Safety land is normally a very nice place to live, but a nasty character is sending yucky emails and messages. Captain Broadband needs your help to find the nasty character. You need to navigate around Safety land answering questions. When you have answered them all correctly, the nasty character will be taken to jail and you'll become a certified hero, just like Captain Broadband.

Although we teach children about internet safety at school, it is still important for this to be reinforced at home. It is also important for parents to be aware of some of the issues around internet safety too, so that you can protect your child(ren) effectively. We do hope you will take time to look at these links with your child(ren) if possible.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS – FREE WEBITE & APP

We have recently subscribed to a times table programme called 'Times Table Rockstars', which is a website where children can practise their times table in a fun, engaging and rewarding way. Regular practice using this website will be really helpful to the children's learning of the times table and division facts, which is so important to their progress and attainment in mathematics and is a central part of the curriculum. The website can be accessed online both at school and at home - the URL is <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>. Once you are on the website, you will be asked to log in. Start typing in "Owlsmoor Primary School" and click on the school's name when it appears. Then put in your child's username and password to log in - each child will have been given their log in details by their teacher, and they are posted into your child's reading record. There is also a free app that can be downloaded on both Apple and Android tablets and smart phones. Please encourage your child to log in and practise their times tables as often as possible. There will be a short demonstration/ training session on how 'Times Table Rockstars works' for parents and carers at 3.30- 4pm on Thursday 14th February in the school hall. We would love to see lots of you there!

THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Puffin Class (Nursery)

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas holiday and are looking forward to the new year and exciting new term ahead. A warm welcome goes out to our new parents whose children have started this term in Nursery.

Our topics this half term will be; 'Winter', 'Traditional Tales', 'Dinosaurs', 'Chinese New Year' and 'Exploration and Discovery'. At the end of this half term we will be having Science Week with the rest of the school; during this time we will be exploring growth and life cycles.

Throughout the term we will be spending time outside exploring the outdoor area. To help keep school shoes looking smart, please supply a pair of named wellies as the ground is very wet and muddy at present. We have a welly rack outside for storing wellies so that they do not need to be brought in every day. The children use our outside area throughout the year so your child needs to have a warm coat available everyday. Please remember to name all items of school clothing to make them easier to return to their owner.

We are also going to be starting 'Mystery Reader' this term. This is when we ask parents, grandparents or family members to bring a book of their choice to come and read to the children at the end of a session. The idea is that the children don't know who is coming to read to them, so please don't tell them if you are coming to read! We hope that this activity will help to promote a love of reading in the children. There will be a sign-up sheet for this on the nursery door.

Any boxes of tissues to help with winter colds are very much appreciated.

A kind reminder, please could you ensure your child doesn't play on or with the outdoor equipment before and after school.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank parents and children for our lovely Christmas presents. We were overwhelmed by all of your generous gifts.

Lastly we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2019.

Miss Edwards, Miss Sandy and Mrs Toal

Reception

Happy New Year and welcome back after what we hope was a relaxing break. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind contributions to the class Christmas parties and the very generous gifts we received from the children for Christmas. They were very much appreciated.



This half term our topics are 'Winter', 'Traditional and Modern day tales' and 'Science week'. We will be going on a winter walk to see how winter has changed our school environment, and will be learning about the Jack Frost poem. If you have any relevant books or artefacts linked to our topics that you would like to share with the class, we would love to see them.

As always, we will be focusing on reading. We are already closely monitoring the reading diaries. There are many children who are reading regularly but not having their diaries updated by their parents, as well as a few children who are not reading very much at home at all. Please ensure that every time you listen to your child read you update their reading diary by dating, signing and including a very brief comment.

Finally, as we are entering a period of colder weather, could you please remember to name all items of clothing as this makes it easier to return lost clothing to its owners. We also ask for each child to bring in a box of tissues for this term to be shared in class to try and prevent nasty colds from spreading. Thank you so much.

The staff have worked really hard on developing the outside area – please can we remind you to stop your child(ren) from going on or using any of the outside areas or toys before and after school. We are also looking for a few items that would be gratefully received: toy cars, small world people or animals and water /bath toys. Please bring them into your child's classroom. Thank you so much.

Mrs Layton- Matthews, Miss Grant and Mrs Bryan

Year 1

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts you sent in – we all felt thoroughly spoilt and we have enjoyed hearing about all the things the children experienced over the Christmas holidays.

We have an exciting term planned with our topic being 'Fighting Fit'. During this half term we will be learning about our amazing bodies and how to keep them healthy. We will also be looking at significant individuals linked to health, for example Florence Nightingale and Louis Braille. We would be grateful for any unwanted toy hospital/doctor sets or clean bandages for our role play areas, which will be connected to our topics. Please let us know if you are a healthcare or sports professional and would be happy to come in and talk to the children about your job.

Please double check that all belongings including coats, school uniform and P.E. kits are labelled clearly to ensure a prompt return of lost property as we already have a collection of un-named items of clothing.

It is important that the children are becoming more independent so please help your child come into class by themselves in the mornings and say goodbye at the door. We are trying to encourage the children not to go to the toilet during learning time so we would prefer children to use the toilet before school and during break times. Please let us know if you feel that your child may need to go more frequently.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to our PTA, who have funded many of our new indoor and outdoor resources. These resources play an important role helping many children access the curriculum in a fun and practical way.

Year 1 team

Year 2

We hope you all had a very festive holiday season and a good break; the children have really enjoyed sharing their holiday news.

This term we will be learning about the uses of everyday materials in science and look forward to comparing Queen Elizabeth II to Queen Victoria in our history lessons. If you have any resources at home that you do not mind sharing, please send them to your class teacher.

Penguins will be holding their class assembly on Friday 25th January. So please look out for words to learn and items needed in your child's reading record.



Thank you for reading over the Christmas holidays. Please can we remind you that children need to read at home 4 times a week and that this information should be recorded in their reading records so that we know which children can have extra play. The children will continue to take home library books and will be bringing home additional homework to prepare for their SATs as the term progresses.

Please double check at home that all belongings including hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers and P.E. kits are labelled clearly to ensure a prompt return of lost property. Since the weather is considerably colder, it is advisable for children to have warm weather PE kit this term.

Thank you for your support which is invaluable in our shared learning journey.

Year 2 Team

Year 3

Welcome back after what we hope was a fantastic Christmas break. We would all like to express our sincere thanks for the wonderful cards and gifts we received before the holiday.

Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. 😊

The children have settled back quickly into school routines and are looking forward to our new topic, 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. We have also introduced our new science topic, 'Rocks and Soils'. If the children have any books or interesting items linked to either of these topics, they are welcome to bring them in to show us. Linked to our science topic, we will be making and 'exploding' volcanoes during Science Week (week beginning 11th February). Therefore, we would be very grateful for donations of old newspapers and empty plastic bottles. One litre squash and water bottles would be ideal.

With the spring term already upon us, please could we remind you of the importance of regular reading as well as times tables and spelling practice. Times tables and spellings should be practised daily and reading should take place at least four times a week. Your support really can make an enormous difference and those children whose reading records are signed four times a week will continue to enjoy a weekly treat.

Please could we ask you to ensure a full PE kit is in school during the week, including a warm tracksuit top for colder weather. There are a number of children who regularly have incomplete PE kits in school. On that note, please could you also check that all PE kits, items of school uniform, coats, lunch bags and water bottles are labelled so that any lost items can quickly be returned to the right person.

Finally, with coughs and sneezes still around, we would be very grateful for donations of tissues for the classrooms.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Fish, Miss Barton and Mrs Walden

Year 4

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful time over the Christmas period and spent lots of quality time together.

All of the staff would like to say thank you for the generous gifts we received – many of which have left us feeling round and jolly ourselves as we go into the New Year.

This is the term when Year 4 go swimming so children will need to have a swimming kit prepared for Thursday 17th January which needs to include a one-piece swimsuit and a swimming cap. Lessons will be on Thursday every week until the last week of term. The swimming teachers at the pool are fantastic every year and the children make massive leaps in their ability over the term.

Please could we remind you of the importance of regular reading and spelling practice.

Spellings should be practised daily and reading should take place at least four times a week.

Please ask your children questions about what they have read to ensure they understand. Your support really does make an enormous difference in helping the children to make continuous progress.

The Year 4 Team.



Year 5

Happy New Year and a big thank you for all the Christmas gifts and cards we received – they were much appreciated.

As you will be aware from the song lyrics and lines, we will be starting to rehearse our year group production in the coming weeks. We will be sending out a list of required costumes early next week so that you have plenty of time to gather what is needed.

The spring term will be full of new and exciting learning as the children take on our new topic in history – the Vikings. We will also be looking at 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. As always, could you make sure that your child has a full PE kit in school including jogging bottoms, a suitable jumper and trainers. Our PE days are currently Monday and Wednesday, but it is advisable for kits to be in all week as these are subject to change.

Also, please continue to make sure that the children are reading four times a week and learning the spellings that we are sending home. A signature next to each reading/spelling session would enable us to see who is doing this.

Miss Poulter, Miss Hipkin and Miss Parkinson

Year 6

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and thank you again for all of our presents – they were truly appreciated.

Our topic this term is "Kings and Queens" and we will be learning about significant monarchs, culminating with the Victorians, over the course of the term. We know this topic will stimulate a lot of interest amongst the children as we will be looking at Shakespeare and his play: Macbeth. Kites have their class assembly on Wednesday 23rd January at 9am – it would be lovely to see parents and carers in the audience.

Just to remind you that outdoor games take place on a Tuesday morning with Mr. Methven and Wednesday with their class teacher. Could you please make sure your child has their outdoor P.E. kit in school ready for this session every week, as there are a number of children who regularly forget their P.E. kit. Please also make sure their kit is suitable for the cold weather conditions.

As always, we continue to encourage the children to read at least 4 times a week and practise their times tables. Please could you encourage your children to do this, as well as choose books that are appropriate for their age and their ability.

Year 6 team

Yours sincerely

EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher

DIARY DATES: (new dates or information in bold)



Tuesday 15th January
Wednesday 23rd January
Friday 25th January
Friday 1st February
Wednesday 6th February
Friday 8th February
W/C Monday 11th February
Thursday 14th February

Parents' Forum 9am-9.30am
Kites' Class Assembly 9am
Penguins' Class Assembly 9am
Chaffinches' Class Assembly 9am
Flamingos' Class Assembly 9am
Year 5 Production 9.15am
Science Week
'Times Table Rockstars' parent information session (school hall) 3.30-4.00pm

Monday 18th Feb – Friday 22nd Feb

Half term

Monday 25th Feb
W/C Monday 4th March
Thursday 7th March
Thursday 14th March
Wednesday 20th March
Friday 22nd March
Wednesday 27th March
Thursday 28th March
Wednesday 3rd April
Friday 5th April

Back to school
Book Week
World Book Day (dress-up day)
Toucans' Class Assembly 9am
EYFS Spring Celebration 9.15am
Eagles' Class Assembly
Parakeets' Class Assembly
Woodpeckers' Class Assembly
Parent Consultations (early closure at 1pm)
Year 3 Play 9.15am
Term Ends 2pm

Monday 8th April – Friday 19th April

Easter Holidays

Monday 22nd April
Tuesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday
Back to school