



1st February 2019

Dear Parents

Firstly, let me apologise for any inconvenience caused by having to close the school today at short notice. Some of the staff have to travel quite a distance to get to Owlsmoor and were unable to make it in, therefore opening today would not have been safe due to reduced staffing levels. Thankfully, the snow does not seem to be lingering, so we will (weather permitting) be open again on Monday. Apologies also to Chaffinches' parents, we will be rescheduling their class assembly and will send you out a new date next week.

We are looking forward to our annual delivery of 'Living Eggs', on Monday, and I know that the children will be excited to see the chicks hatch. They will be with us until half term and you are welcome to pop in to see them - they will be located near the school office.

We are also looking forward to our Science Week, which will take place the week before half term. I am sure that the children will enjoy all the different activities and experiments that this involves. In particular, I am sure they will enjoy the return of the 'Mad Science' assembly!

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA, who have funded both the science assembly and the Living Eggs.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE TWO

January's Superstars are: Maicey Kinch, Charlie Lewis, James Wilkinson, Samuel Meyrick, Lily-Marie Harrington-Brown, Keira Hope, Preston Horsgood, Lilly Keen, Cleopatra Bajan, Lilian Johnson, Levi Newell and Katy Lewis.

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



SUPER STAR WRITERS' AWARD FOR KEY STAGE TWO

January's Superstars are: Phoebe McDade, Alice Smith, Amelia O'Leary, Harry Martin, Sophia Gilchrist-Thompson, Taan Sangha, Hunter Aitken-Smith, Nameer

Bor, Keira Savastano, Joseph Keep and Abbey Bampton.

Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!

PARENTS' FORUM

Our next parents' forum is on Tuesday 5th February from 6.00 – 6.30pm.

LOST PROPERTY

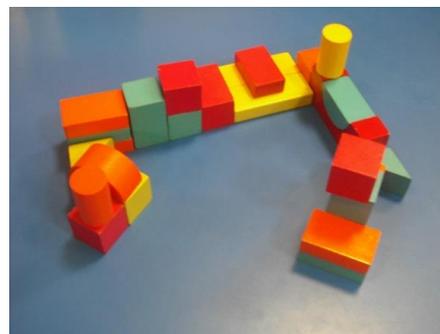
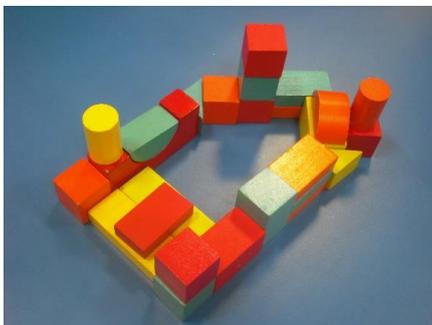
Once again we have accumulated a massive amount of lost property. The lost property can be found in the cupboard which is near the school library – please feel free to come and have a look to see if any of your children’s lost clothing is in there. In order to try and reduce the amount of unclaimed items, please make sure that all clothing is named and then we can return it to its rightful owner. Thank you.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

Times Table Rock Stars has created a wonderful buzz around the school, with children (and staff!) keen to beat their best times and become a ‘Times Table Rock Star’. Some of the children are also well on their way to becoming a ‘Rock Legend’ or even a ‘Rock Hero’. The children should all now have their login details – if your child does not have theirs, then please contact their class teacher. As mentioned on the last newsletter, there will be a short Parent Workshop on Thursday 14th February 3.30-4.00pm in the school hall, which will give parents more information on how ‘Times Table Rockstars’ works and how it can be used. We would love to see as many of you there as possible. Miss Poulter and Miss Grant.

YEAR 6 DT CHALLENGE

This week, we hosted the annual DT Challenge. This involved children from different schools competing to build a structure from memory, ensuring costings are kept as low as possible and correct materials were used. I am pleased to announce our two teams came second and fourth! We are extremely proud of all 12 children who represented our school – Luke Edwards, Connie Gaskill, Alesha Mistry, Becky Castledine, Ewen Fun, Callum Whitehead, Lilian Johnson, Haygan Godwin, Dan Manby, Josie brown, Keira Savastano and Ashton Holloway. Well done! Mrs Leggett



NEW AGE KURLING SUCCESS!

Owlsmoor entered a team of KS2 children to compete in the annual New Age Kurling competition held at Garth Hill College. Despite the children not having any experience of the sport, they managed to finish in 3rd place and brought back bronze medals. The children showed really good teamwork and I was very impressed with how they supported each other and gave each other advice about where to play the next shot. Well done Owlsmoor!

Mr Dolby

BRACKNELL FOODBANK DONATIONS

Just a reminder that we will be collecting donations for the Bracknell Foodbank the week beginning Monday 4th Feb. A separate letter has been sent out with details on the items they would like to receive



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.

BOOK WEEK

Book Week will take place during the week commencing 4th March. During this week, we will celebrate the joy of books and reading – the teachers have already been busy planning exciting activities for the children to do.

On World Book Day, Thursday 7th March, children are invited to dress up as a book character, author, poet or illustrator with the chance to win a £5 book voucher. Please note that due to swimming sessions taking place on Thursdays, year 4 will have their dress-up day on Friday 8th March rather than on Thursday 7th.

On the final day of Book Week (Friday 8th March), the gates will be open from 2.30pm for a family member to come to the classroom and read with their child or a group of children and see what they have achieved during this week. If you have more than one child in the school, we suggest you go to the youngest sibling first.

We look forward to seeing you!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We have booked the Scholastic Book Fair for the week beginning Monday 25th March. This will be a chance for you to buy books for your children. Both fiction and non-fiction are available for all ages across the school, and some small stationery items will also be available to buy. Come and meet us in the Dance Studio after school and take a look at the books available. It will finish on the Thursday, so make sure you do not miss out!

CLUBS

This is a polite reminder that if your child has signed up to one of the extra curricular clubs that take place after school, then they have committed to attend the club every week. If your child is unable to attend a session for any reason, please ensure that the school is informed of this so that we do not need to chase up where the child is. Please can we also request that this message is delivered from the parent (e.g. a note or a phone call to the office) not through the child. Please note that many of our clubs are oversubscribed, and missing sessions may result in the place being offered to another child on the waiting list.

LUNCHTIME CONTROLLER VACANCIES

The school is looking to recruit some lunchtime controllers (dinner ladies/men). The working pattern is Monday-Friday 11:45-1:15pm (term time). If you are interested please call into the school office for an application form.

PARKING IN THE SCHOOL CAR PARK

Just a polite reminder NOT to park in the school car park between 8-9am and 3-4pm unless you are dropping off for the Breakfast Club and After School Club.



SCHOOL TRAFFIC

We have had many complaints from local residents and school parents that people are exceeding the 20mph limit around the school and that parents are increasingly stopping/parking on the zig zag and triangular white lines causing congestion. Please do not park or stop on any of the road markings outside the school, they are specifically placed to aid traffic flow and for the safety of your children. If you have any concerns around any dangerous parking you encounter, then please contact the police on 101. Thank you.

THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Puffins – Nursery

Over the last month, the children have enjoyed learning all about winter and the traditional tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We are currently learning about dinosaurs as this has been a real interest of the children. Next, we will be focussing on the topic of Chinese New Year, followed by science week to end this half term.

We are excited to announce that we will have 10 eggs in an incubator outside the office. The children are looking forward to visiting the eggs, especially when they hatch, when we will have the opportunity to hold the chicks. During this time we will be learning about the life cycle of a chicken, and taking part in a range of fun experiments.

Thank you to all of the parents who have already been our 'mystery reader', and to those who have signed up. As these sessions have been a success, with the children really excited to see who has come to read to them, we will be continuing the 'mystery reader' sessions after half term. During these sessions we ask that parents, grandparents, or family members 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 you are coming! A new sign-up sheet will be posted on the classroom door after half term.

All reception and nursery classes will have their spring celebration on Wednesday 20th March. More details will follow after the half term break.

As always, we would be very grateful to any parents or grandparents who would like to come and help in Puffins. This may involve art activities, reading with the children or helping to make resources. If this is something you are interested in, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Nursery team.

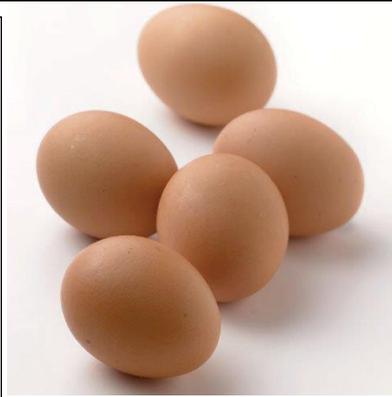
Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Edwards, Miss Sandy and Mrs Toal

Reception

The children have loved their topic on 'Winter' this half term, They have also enjoyed our work based on the traditional tale of 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears', as well as the modern day tale of 'Goldilocks and Just One Bear'. We will finish this half term off with science week, which will begin with a big science show. We will then be doing lots of exciting experiments in class.

We are very excited to announce that we will have 10 little eggs in an incubator in the school office from 4th February. The children are very excited about visiting the eggs and chicks and will be waiting for all of them to hatch so that we can hold them! This will link into our writing of 'The Lifecycle of a Chicken.'



Our topics for next half term will be 'Dinosaurs', 'Spring' and 'Easter Celebrations'. If you have any items that would help us with teaching about these, e.g. photos, books or any artefacts for us to look at, please send them in clearly labelled with your child's name and class. On the weather front, please ensure during this cold spell that your children have clearly labelled gloves, hats, scarves, coats and wellington boots.

For reading in half term, please encourage your child to go back to Teddy 1 words and begin to revise and learn all of these words again. Check which ones they could not recall and highlight those ones that need some more practise. In maths, we have been learning about capacity and weighing; shopping and baking would be good activities to do at home to revise the skills they have been learning in class, as well as being fun! Thank you.

Mrs Layton-Matthews, Mrs Bryan and Miss Grant

Year 1

Science week is the last week of half term and we plan to make some bug hotels. We will be collecting empty 2L fizzy drink bottles, sticks and bamboo pieces. These sticks need to be the length of a drinks bottle – so if you have any bamboo off-cuts or go on a walk to the park, send in any sticks you have collected. Please send any of these materials in by Monday 11th February.

After half term, our topic will be 'France'. During this, the children will develop their geography knowledge and non-fiction writing skills and we will focus on Paris and its famous landmarks. We will also have a French day at the end of term, which will include food tasting and playing French games – details to follow nearer the time.

During phonics lessons, we sometimes play online games from the website www.phonicsplay.co.uk. There are lots of free reading and phonics games there that the children enjoy playing. If your child has access to a tablet or computer, please encourage them to have a go at these games as this will help to reinforce what we are learning in class.

A quick reminder that homework is due in on Wednesdays and the children are expected to read at least 4 times per week at home. Extra play is on a Friday afternoon for those that do this. If the children want to read home books as well as their school reading books, please write this in their reading record books so that we can reward them for all the reading that they do.

It's coughs and colds season again and we seem to be getting through lots of boxes of tissues so any donations would be greatly received. Thanks.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

The children are settling in well to the spring term but still have a lot of ground to cover to make sure they achieve their very best, so please make sure they are reading regularly four times a week and keep an eye out for the additional homework we will be sending this term. We have been teaching the children a wider range of punctuation this term including commas, inverted commas, question marks and exclamation marks and it would benefit their learning in this area to discuss the use of this punctuation in their reading books. Please continue to learn weekly spellings and the 'common exception word list' that we sent home at the beginning of the year. The children need to be able to spell these words correctly in their independent writing to be at the year 2 expected standard. If you need a new copy of this, please ask your child's teacher. The children are really looking forward to science week, which begins on Monday 11th February. We will be carrying out some interesting experiments on materials and would be grateful for junk modelling/recycling materials to make a small boat for the children to test. Next half term we will be studying the geography of the British Isles so if you have visited somewhere exciting this year within Britain, please send in photographs for our class discussions.

Year 2 team

Year 3

We are looking forward to the arrival of the eggs next week, and we can't wait to see them hatch into chicks. All of the children will have the opportunity to go and see the chicks during school time but you are also invited to visit them, just inside the main reception area, if you have the time.

During this half term, the children have continued to enjoy our topic of 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. We will shortly be making clay pots in the style of those made during the Bell Beaker culture, popular in Britain between 2,800 BC and 1,800BC.

The children have also been amazing 'scientists', exploring the properties of rocks and finding out how different types of rocks are formed. Over the next couple of weeks, we will learn about volcanoes and explode their own volcano during science week, starting Monday 11th February.

Please can we remind you that all children will need to bring in a small plastic bottle for their volcano. We will also be attempting to make our own fossils and taking a 'Journey to the centre of the Earth'. There will be an exciting assembly to start the week, presented by the company 'Mad Science', when the children will experience dry ice amongst other things.

Before half term, we will be holding auditions for our Year 3 play, 'Pirates versus Mermaids'. All children with lines to learn, either as actors or narrators, will have the lines sent home just before half term so they can start to learn them as soon as possible. Please would you help them to practise delivering their lines slowly, using a loud voice as this helps build their confidence for the performance.

Finally, if there is anybody else who would like to help out in classes, either as a one off, or on a more regular basis, please speak to one of the class teachers.

Mrs. Fish, Miss Barton, Mrs Walden

Year 4

As the weather is now so cold, please ensure that your child remembers to bring their named coat into school. If they have hats, gloves and scarves too, please make sure that these are named so that they can be returned to their owners rather than end up in lost property. Science week is coming up on the 11th February. The topic this year is 'Journeys' and we have lots of exciting investigations planned.

Swimming lessons are going swimmingly and the children are advancing their skills steadily. Lessons will continue on Thursdays after half term so please continue to remember a swimming towel, costume and hat each Thursday. Thank you once again to the parents that have been attending to support the children on the bus journey and helping them change once we arrive.

Just to remind you that PE is on a Wednesday and so the children will need to make sure their PE kit is in school every Wednesday.



There seems to have been a rise in the number of toys coming into school. Please remind your child that toys are not allowed at school. If they bring any playthings into school for use after school finishes, they should be left in lockers and not brought into the classroom. In particular, we would be grateful if 'slime' could be left at home!

Next half term we will be covering 'Time' in maths. Please practise telling the time with your child over the half term holiday, making sure they are familiar with analogue and digital clocks.

Year 4 Team

Year 5

Firstly, thank you for all of your support towards our year group production. Whether it has involved helping your children learn their lines, sing songs or supply costumes - we appreciate all of your hard work. We hope that you will all come along to watch on Friday 8th February at 9.15am.

We continue to work hard on our Viking topic and will find out more fascinating facts next term, as well as learning about the local area. Our 'How to Train Your Dragon' topic, in English, has been a huge success; the children have produced some amazing pieces of work, which they look forward to sharing with you at Parents' Evening next term.

We will be sending out information before the end of this half term on Bikeability, which will take place in May. Please make sure that you read the information carefully should your child wish to take part. There is a limited number of spaces and therefore this will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This activity will cost £10 as an external company is providing this.

Further information will be detailed in a separate letter.

Just a reminder that the children should be reading at least 4 times a week and that reading records should be signed each time they have read. If you can, it would be beneficial to question your child about what they have read to develop their comprehension and understanding. To help you with this, we have put a selection of questions to use with the children into their reading records. In addition, children should be completing the 'Look, Cover, Write and Check' sheets in order to learn their spellings.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a restful half-term break.

Miss Parkinson, Miss Poulter and Miss Hipkin

Year 6

Can you believe it is nearly half term already? We have got lots to do between now and May! With this in mind, we are taking a slightly more rigorous approach towards the completion of homework, regular reading (records signed by an adult) and the practising of spellings and times tables. We are really pleased that so many children have taken up the spaces in booster sessions after school; please continue to encourage them to attend every single week.

Next week we have assessment week, where the children will experience SATs papers similar to those they will experience in May. We will be using this assessment data to guide their future learning opportunities in school.

As well as the assessments next week, we are commencing our DT project, which is creating a cushion. We have sent a letter home asking for donations of fabric for these to be created – many thanks for your support with this.

Science week is nearly upon us and we are looking forward to learning about 'Journeys' during the week leading up to half term.

Many thanks, Year 6 team

I hope that the children have a good last two weeks of the half term, and that you all enjoy the half term break when it arrives.

Yours sincerely

EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher



DIARY DATES: (new dates or information in bold)



Monday 4th February
W/C Monday 4th Feb

Wednesday 6th February
Friday 8th February
W/C Monday 11th February
Thursday 14th February

Monday 18th Feb – Friday 22nd Feb

Monday 25th Feb
W/C Monday 4th March
Thursday 7th March
Friday 8th March

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

Monday 8th April – Friday 19th April

Monday 22nd April
Tuesday 23rd April

Living Eggs arrive
Foodbank Donations very welcome
Parents' Forum 6.00 – 6.30 pm
Flamingos' Class Assembly 9 am
Year 5 Production 9.15 am
Science Week
'Times Table Rockstars' parent information session (school hall) 3.30-4.00 pm

Half term

Back to school
Book Week
World Book Day (dress-up day, except year 4)
Dress-up day for year 4
'Open' classrooms for book week- 2.30 pm
Toucans' Class Assembly 9 am
EYFS Spring Celebration 9.15 am
Eagles' Class Assembly
Scholastic Book Fair (Mon-Thurs 3.10 pm)
Parakeets' Class Assembly
Woodpeckers' Class Assembly
Parent Consultations (early closure at 1 pm)
Year 3 Play 9.15 am
Term Ends 2 pm

Easter Holidays

Bank Holiday
Back to school

