

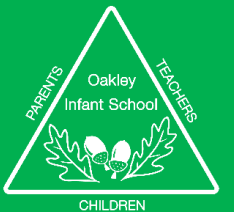
# Oakley Infant School



## Newsletter

Autumn Term: Issue 8

22 Oct 2024



Strive, thrive and achieve together



Dear Parents,

A Thank You to the volunteers who supervised the children at Movie Night last Thursday after school. Also a Thank You if you were able to make it to Open Afternoon last Friday especially if you scooped other children to complete the activities alongside your own child. It is always nice to see other adults in the school.

This Thursday the Library will NOT be open after school as Mrs Mears will be at the Hampshire Library doing a book exchange. There is a Reading Round Up included with this week's newsletter.

Parents' Evening will take place this afternoon after school and on Thursday evening. Please double check your appointment with the teacher if you are not sure of the time. Please enter via the Office where you will be able to walk to your child's classroom. Please wait outside the classroom and the teacher will invite you in when she is ready. In order to make sure the evening runs smoothly please make sure you are on time for your appointment. If you are late the appointment will need to be shorter so that it does not impact parents who are coming later in the evening.

On Sunday 3 November the village Firework Display will be taking place. Please use the QR code on the poster going out with this newsletter to secure your tickets. Please remember there is no parking at Newfound, so please walk to the venue.

A reminder that 25 October and 4 November are INSET days. The school finishes for half term on Thursday at the usual time of 3.15pm. Wraparound Care will be available as usual on Thursday. School returns again on Tuesday 5 November. I hope your children have a restful week, next term gets even busier!

**Niamh Hutchings**  
Headteacher

## INSET Days 2024-2025

25 Oct 2024

4 Nov 2024

14 Feb 2025

27 June 2025

## Article 28

**A right to an education.**



## Christmas Dates

In order to aid your planning the Christmas Play will take place on the following dates- 11 and 12 December. There will be 2 performances on both days at 10am and 2pm as follows-

11 Dec at 10am and 12 Dec at 2pm- Apple, Sycamore and Willow

11 Dec at 2pm and 12 Dec at 10am- Cherry, Maple and Hazel

The audience is for adults only, no other children should attend the performance, either babies, pre-school or children at another school, so that your child gets their own special moment and you can enjoy the performance. I am hoping that this forward notice will enable you to organise child care. Each child will be able to have 2 tickets which will be able to be taken either for the same performance or spread over both performances to aid childcare. There are generally more tickets available once everyone has taken their initial pair and we will tell you how to apply for those nearer the time. Unfortunately the hall is not big enough to allow unlimited people and I must comply with fire regulations.

## Christmas Fair- 22 Nov- 5.30-7.30pm

This year the Christmas Fair will take place on 22 November, in the evening. A form is being distributed today with booking slots for visiting Father Christmas during the evening. Please complete by 6 November.

The children will be invited to wear non-school uniform on 22 November in exchange for bottles and chocolates for the Christmas tombola.

## Dinner Menu

Education caterers will be changing the school dinner menu after half term. The new menu is attached to this newsletter. It will be on the website after half term. If your child has a special menu this has already been sent to you. Please make sure you have received it.

## Arbor

If you are struggling to access Arbor please come and speak to the office. Most of the outstanding issues will require the office to help you as there may be duplicates and issues if you have another child on the APP.

It is important you can access it as attendance at Friends events **will only be by using the APP** as well as payment for any school trips etc..

### Included with the Newsletter

Fireworks Poster- OCA

New menu

Christmas Fair

Reading Round Up

Spelling Letter for Year 1 and 2

## Attendance

During the recent Information Evenings I spoke at length about the importance of good attendance at school. It was a focus of the previous government and will continue to be a focus of the new one. I shared that there are aspects of our attendance data that falls below national data, that is something that never happens with regards to academic data i.e. the data that my staff and I have most influence over.

I shared that attendance of 90% is considered persistent absence and adds up to 20 days off school over a year, which is a high number of days off when you consider children only spend 190 days at school.

My main concern is lateness to school. Again during the information evening I shared that when children arrive late they have to enter a classroom where everyone is settled, it is generally quiet and it can be overwhelming for the child. No one wants to be the last into a room. They miss out on the initial social aspect of school day where children get to chat, they miss the dinner choices and they miss the settling in activities.

I also discussed the recurrence of the same illness over and over again during one school year. Generally children do not suffer from the same illnesses more than once or twice so any more than that and I will probably investigate.

A final point is that your children are very truthful so please do not ask your child to lie regarding a day off as they will always tell on you, the truth will always come out.

## Spellings

After half term Year 1 and 2 will start spelling homework, as outlined during the Information Evenings. It is a very structured approach with lots of opportunities to recap the spellings over the year. Mrs Moss has explained the process on the letter coming out to you today. Please take a read so that you are ready for after half term.

## PE Kit

Over the holidays please check your child's PE kit, making sure that trainers fit and that everything still has a name. Please make sure it is returned on Tuesday 5 November with the following-

- Shorts
- T-shirt
- Trainers
- Old tracksuit bottoms/leggings for outside use
- Old jumper for outside use
- Spare socks

These should all be in a draw string bag **NOT a rucksack**. Unfortunately a rucksack on a peg means no one can hang their coat up properly either side whereas a draw string bag drops below the coats, we have to work with what we have got!

## Harvey Bear

Now that all the children are attending Celebration Assembly the children keep asking about Harvey Bear, the reading bear. For new parents Harvey is the bear the children win, for a week, if their class has the highest combined reading total. If each child reads the minimum number of times in the week and their reading diary is signed they will count towards the class total. The more children who have read at least 4 times at home, the more likely they are to win the bear in Celebration Assembly.

We will be bringing Harvey back to assembly after half term so make sure you are reading at home at least 4 times and signing the diary.

We will start to track the diaries closely and I will make contact with parents of children who are not supporting their child reading regularly at home.

## Football Cards

Please do not allow your child to bring their football cards into school, we have noticed an increase in children bringing them in and it is causing some disruption and distraction in the classroom as well as some arguments.

Thank you.

## Year R Photos

The recent photo submitted to the Basingstoke Gazette can be bought from the school office. If you would like to order a copy please pop into the office to complete a short order form. The photos will cost £1 which can be payable in cash. Please order by 11 November.

## Donations for Christmas Shopping

As Friends start to prepare for the Christmas events they are looking for donations of gift items for the Christmas Shopping for the children. In particular they are in need of gifts suitable for the dads and grandads, although all gift items are welcomed.

## Wraparound Care

A reminder that parents are not to drive up the school drive to collect children after clubs. This is the same for Breakfast Club. Please do not use the school drive after 8am, please use the parking at the bottom of the drive which is usually empty at that time.

## School Nurse

The School Nurse will be holding a drop in session tomorrow morning in Room 2, the classroom between both Year 1 classes. If you would like to ask her anything please pop by. Last year we were able to refer children directly while the school nurse was on the premises, she was very helpful, rather than wait rather a long time for a referral so it is worth dropping by.

You are welcome to ask questions about your pre-school child as well.

## Health Advice Clinic in school

Come along and have a chat with a  
Community Nursery Nurse from the  
School Nurse Team on:

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 9am in  
Room 2 (classroom in between Sycamore  
and Maple Class).

They can provide advice and sign posting for:

- Toileting
- Eating
- Sleep
- Behaviour
- Healthy lifestyles

There is no need to book an appointment.  
Just turn up!

## Flu Vaccinations- a message from the team

Your child's annual Nasal Flu Vaccination is NOW DUE. The vaccine helps protect against flu, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness.

**Click the link below for the electronic form and information about the vaccine. Access to the form will close two working days prior to the session, 9am Thursday 14 November.**

School Code: SH116047

Session date: Monday 18 November 2024

Year Group: Year R - 2

Link to website: [Nasal Flu Vaccination Programme : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)

If you decide you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine against flu, please submit the form to record your decision. This will enable us to update your child's immunisation record.

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
<b>22 and 24 October</b>	Parents' Evening- appointments- please see the classteacher
<b>23 October</b>	School Nurse drop in clinic- Room 2
<b>25 October</b>	INSET Day
<b>28 Oct-1 Nov</b>	Half Term
<b>4 November</b>	INSET Day
<b>22 November</b>	Non-school uniform day in exchange for bottles and chocolates
<b>22 November</b>	Christmas Fair- no GOL or Celebration Assembly