



February 2018 Newsletter

Welcome back to the start of the spring term. We are looking forward to our new role as Headteachers of The Oval School.

We are immensely proud of the children and staff and know that, together, we can continue to achieve success by ensuring our school values are at the heart of everything we do.

There will be lots of opportunities for parents to attend events in school including E-safety workshops taking place during February and March which we hope you will find very beneficial - a separate letter will be on its way soon to you.



Miss J Harris and Mrs D Williams

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHERS' NEWS

Nursery And Reception - Mrs Chadda

A huge well done to all the children and staff in early years who have impressed our visitors from other schools with their problem-solving skills in mathematics. Pupils in nursery and reception are developing their understanding of linking concrete experiences with visual and symbolic representations. They are learning to work systematically to solve problems. This is a very important step before they learn more formal recordings. Pupils are working independently and making their number stories using objects from real life.

In nursery, the pupils have enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a chicken and observed eggs hatching, watched chicks growing and changing over a 2-week period. They have linked their art work, maths and literacy to this topic and produced very impressive work.

Thank you to all parents in early years who have been attending the parent workshops. Please look out for the next maths parent sessions for early years and we look forward to seeing you all at the sessions.

Years 1 And 2 - Mrs Poulson

Well what a busy start to the term we have had already! Year 1 have been enjoying their 'pets' topic and have produced some super written work and were particularly excited to find out about their teachers' pets at the start of the topic. We are also well underway with our new phonics scheme and the pupils have been really well engaged in lessons learning lots of new graphemes for sounds they already know - please ask them about this and also look out for information coming soon about a phonics workshop next half-term.

Year 2 pupils have been learning about castles in their topic work and it was lovely to see the artefacts they have been making in class and some of the fantastic castles they made at home as part of their weekly challenge. Well done year 2! Weekly sessions will be starting next half-term where year 2 parents will be invited into class to read with their child and you will find more information about this in the weekly 'good work newsletter'. More details to follow soon too regarding an informal session next half-term to let you know about the year 2 national curriculum assessments (known as SATs).

Years 3 And 4 - Mrs Williams

The pupils in years 3 and 4 have been working so hard since coming back from the Christmas break. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils coming to school ready to learn each day. Pupils are continuing to read their books and complete accelerated reader tests regularly so please ensure someone hears your child read for at least 10 minutes each day and then asks them some questions about what they have read. This daily practise helps children to understand what is happening in the book and it improves their reading fluency.

It has been lovely to celebrate the pupils' achievements in our celebration assembly each Thursday. So many children are being rewarded for their hard work and perseverance in lessons which helps them to achieve so much more each day. Amazingly, more children are also receiving handwriting pens due to following the handwriting policy and ensuring their letters are a consistent size and shape - very well done!

Year 3 have just finished a great topic about superheroes and are now learning all about how magnets work in their science lessons while year 4 are finding out about the Buddhist religion in their RE topic and will also be taking part in a fire safety workshop after half-term with firefighters from our local fire station.

Finally, please look out for E-safety workshops when we look forward to seeing lots of parents and carers attend - a big thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

Years 5 And 6 - Mrs Mason

Thank you to all the pupils in years 5 and 6 for their wonderful welcome back! I've really liked looking at the fantastic work that the children have completed so far this year and the standards of work and presentation in their books are very high. Thank you also to Mrs Roberts for covering my maternity leave and I know she has really enjoyed getting to know so many of the families.

Year 6 are in the middle of a very engaging topic about World War Two and are looking forward to their trip to Cannock Chase Museum. If you have any family artefacts from the war, or any family stories to tell, we'd love to see and hear about them in school.

Each Monday morning the year 5 pupils work with a gymnastics coach - what a great way to start the week! The pupils really enjoy this session and are progressing well with their skills. After half-term, the year 5 pupils will be visiting Safeside which is a very popular trip and also teaches valuable lessons about staying safe when out in the public.

Finally, please look out for information coming home soon about our E-safety workshops when we look forward to seeing lots of parents / carers join us.

STAFF NEWS

Join school in a big welcome back to Mrs Mason who is our Assistant Headteacher for years 5 and 6 as she returns from maternity leave.



UP TO DATE CONTACT DETAILS/MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please can you ensure the school is updated with any changes to contact details or medical information. Thank you.

RIGHTS RESPECTING RANGERS

As a school we also take safeguarding of children very seriously and we now have our own Children's Safeguarding Board. We were very pleased to have so many children apply for the positions and it was a tough decision to select.

During the first meeting they named themselves 'The Rights Respecting Rangers' and voted themselves into different roles. You will be hearing much more from this group as they start to deliver their messages across school.

The wonderful poster that accompanies this newsletter has been produced by Josh Smith (class 4.1) in his own time at home. A big thank you and well done to Josh who is one of The Oval's Rights Respecting Rangers.

The Oval's Rights Respecting Rangers invite pupils to bring into school photographs to show how they develop their talents and abilities at home. For example, clubs they might attend or hobbies they may do.

Finally, from The Oval's RRR, a big thank you to pupils for their wonderful entries for the logo competition. Here they are judging them. A big well done to everyone.



UNICEF ARTICLE 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities.

We would like children to bring in certificates and photos about their own special talents from home and pass on to the Rights Respecting Rangers to share.



ATTENDANCE NEWS

The Oval School are working in partnership with parents to improve school attendance. **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.**

There is a clear link with poor attendance and punctuality and lower academic achievement. It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.

The Oval School's attendance target is to achieve greater than 96% attendance.

| ATTENDANCE KEY |
|---|
| 100% - Attendance Super Star |
| 97%-99% - Well Done, This is Excellent! |
| 93%-96.9% - Be Careful |
| 90%-92.9% - Improvement Needed! |
| Less than 90% - You are now a Persistent Absentee |

How does your child compare?

| Attendance during one school year | equals this number of days absent | which is approximately this many weeks absent | which means this number of lessons missed |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 95% | 9 days | 2 weeks | 50 lessons |
| 90% | 19 days | 4 weeks | 100 lessons |
| 85% | 29 days | 6 weeks | 150 lessons |
| 80% | 38 days | 8 weeks | 200 lessons |

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

As you may be aware, the law treats some persistent lateness in the same way as irregular attendance and parents may be prosecuted by the Local Authority if late arrival is not resolved.

| Minutes late per day during the school year | Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year |
|---|--|
| 5 mins | 3.4 days |
| 10 mins | 6.9 days |
| 15 mins | 10.3 days |
| 20 mins | 13.8 days |
| 30 mins | 20.7 days |

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

If your child is going to be absent from school, parents must contact the school following our Absence procedure on the **first day**.

LITTLE HISTORY COMPETITION

On Wednesday 17 January, Miss O'Grady took a group of boys in Year 5 and 6 to King Edwards Camp Hill School to take part in a history competition. There was a range of different rounds in the competition to test the pupils' knowledge of the history of Britain and the wider world. All pupils represented the school beautifully during the visit.



YEAR 5 HANUKKAH ASSEMBLY

On Friday 5 December 2017, Year 5 performed a fantastic Hanukkah assembly to parents and Year 6. They acted out a play, sang a traditional Hanukkah song and shared facts about the festival with the audience. All pupils practised their lines at home and spoke audibly and clearly on the day. Well done Year 5. Your teachers are very proud of you.

DRIVING AND PARKING IN THE LOCAL AREA

Driving is unpredictable and if something unexpected happens on the road ahead - such as a child stepping out from between parked cars - it is a driver's speed that will determine whether they can stop in time. That's why we believe that 'Slower is Safer' - in Birmingham, 20mph speed limits have been implemented in three areas of the city: City Centre, Central East and Central South.

The best way to improve road safety around the school gate and help improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our school community is to cut down on car journeys. We encourage children, parents and staff to walk, cycle and use public transport to get to school. And remember to wear bright clothing during winter and its darker mornings and nights.

If you do have to use your car for travelling to and from school then we ask you to be mindful not only of your speed and awareness but also considerate parking in the local area by not blocking driveways and runway crossings. Please also remember that there is no parking available on school site.

IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

School has been made aware of an incident that took place recently outside school where a car was being reversed and it very nearly hit a young child. This is totally unacceptable and a serious health and safety risk. Please please please be mindful when you are driving or parking your car in the vicinity of a school - nobody was hurt on this occasion so let's keep it like that by being cautious and sensible. Thank you.

NURSERY INTAKE - SEPTEMBER 2018

If you have a child who is born between the dates of 1 September 2014 - 31 August 2015 and would like to register them for a nursery place to start this September please complete an application form which is available from the school office. This must be returned to school together with the child's FULL birth certificate - this is the one that states both the mother's and father's names. Thank you.

RECEPTION INTAKE - SEPTEMBER 2018

The final closing date for applications for reception 2018 school places has now passed.

If you have not made your online application for your child's school place then please contact the local authority urgently on 0121-303 1888.

POLLING DAY

Please note that school is CLOSED to all pupils on polling day which is Thursday 3 May 2018.

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Please note that the next parent consultation meetings will be taking place throughout the week Monday 26 February - Friday 2 March 2018. A separate letter detailing all classes and their days will follow soon.

SPRING TERM SCHOOL TRIPS

13 and 14 February: year 6 to visit the Museum Of Cannock Chase
5 March: year 5 to visit Safeside
7 March: year 1 to visit a Gurdwara
12 March: year 2 to visit Coventry Transport Museum
14 March: year 3 to visit a Synagogue
23, 24 and 25 April: reception to visit Twycross Zoo
1 and 8 May: year 4 to visit Lunt Fort

UNIFORM

All of our school uniform range is now available at Mansuri Schoolwear in the Poolway Shopping Centre.

Uniform is still available to buy from school online with your ParentPay account.



FLU ADVICE

Please note the following advice as provided by the Health Protection Agency:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water and dry thoroughly
- Avoid touching surfaces/handles and then touching your face
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing/coughing and dispose of in a bin - 'CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT'
- For further information and advice visit www.nhs.uk or www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk



CASHLESS

As you will be aware you can now pay for school meals, trips and uniform online via ParentPay. Please make every effort to pay online as we are working towards being a cashless school.

You will have received a letter with log on and password details to register online, if not please contact the school office to request a copy.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM 2017

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday 20 th October 2017 at end of day | End of Term |
| Monday 30 th October 2017 | School open to pupils and staff |
| Thursday 21 st December 2017 at end of day | End of Term - Pupils break up for Christmas |
| Friday 22 nd December 2017 | School closed to pupils - Teacher Day |

SPRING TERM 2018

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Monday 8 th January 2018 | School open to pupils and staff |
| Friday 16 th February 2018 at end of day | End of Term |
| Monday 26 th February 2018 | School open to pupils and staff |
| Thursday 29 th March 2018 at end of day | End of Term |
| Monday 16 th April 2018 | School open to pupils and staff |

SUMMER TERM 2018

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday 7 th May 2018 | School closed to all - May bank holiday |
| Tuesday 8 th May 2018 | School open to pupils and staff |
| Friday 25 th May 2018 at the end of day | End of term |
| Monday 4 th June 2018 | School open to pupils and staff |
| Friday 20 th July 2018 at the end of day | End of term |



How to Stay Safe In and Outside of School

Key Points:

- Always be sensible



- Follow all instructions given by Teachers or your Parents



- Talk to a teacher or the Oval Rights Respecting Rangers, if you are feeling insecure or have any improvements for the board in the future. We can arrange a time to speak to you. We are:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Josh Smith 4.1 | Domonic Leek 4.2 |
| Sienna Maynard 5.1 | Hamza Mohmood 5.1 |
| Joseph Drake 5.3 | Macie Bates 6.1 |
| Ahlam Aabdsamed 6.2 | Poppy Bourke 6.2 |
| Zakariya Khan 6.3 | Alexandra 6.4 |



We try to ensure that all children have access to the Unicef Rights