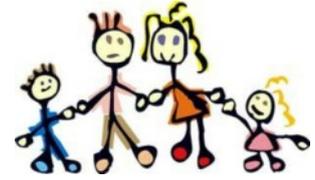




love for learning * learning for life *

Outwoods Primary School Newsletter



14th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the latest newsletter. We have only been back a week after the Christmas break and already the children have all been very busy indeed. On Friday during a walk around the classes I was delighted to see how much hard work and effort the children were putting in to their work and they were eager to tell me about the exciting new topics. Well done everybody! It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm with which our children are engaging and matching the hard work and preparation of our staff.

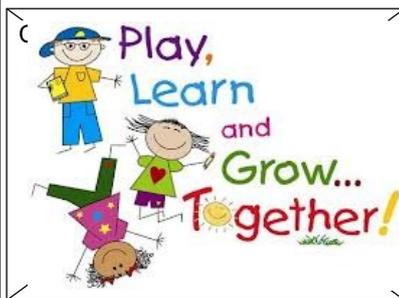
As we move on into a very busy term, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year? I hope to see you in and around the school in the forthcoming weeks. Attached to this newsletter is a long list of events and dates for this term, it will be regularly updated as the term progresses.

As always, thank you for your support of the school and should you have any questions or concerns about your child, do not hesitate in contacting me.

Mrs. Dandy

Protective Behaviours

This half term, each class will be taking part in the Life Skills course known as 'Protective Behaviours'. The scheme is a personal safety awareness programme which helps children and adults to recognise any situation where they feel worried or unsafe, such as feeling stressed, bullied or threatened and explores practical ways to keep safe. The



Protective Behaviours scheme also looks at identifying support networks for times when we need someone to listen and help. We have run this scheme in school for a number of years and most parents/carers are aware of it, all new parents should

receive an information booklet. If you would like to know more, or would like to look at the resources or ask any questions, please feel free to talk to your child's class teacher or call in to see either myself or Mrs Taylor.

Atherstone Ball Game

Please note that the school will be closing after lunch at 1.15pm on Tuesday 5th March due to the Atherstone Ball Game. If you cannot collect your child or make arrangements for them to be collected, don't worry. They can remain in school with staff. Just let us know so we can make sure we account for everybody.



Bake Sale



There will be a 'bake sale' after school on Friday 18th January in aid of the 'Brake' charity which is a charity close to our hearts here at Outwoods. Luke (one of our former pupils) will be selling home made cakes in the upper school playground at 3pm. If the weather is wet it will be in upper school hall.



Dates For Your Diary - please note dates are often added to these lists so please look out for updates

Details for key events will follow

- Thursday 17th January 3pm - Year 6 class share time
- Tuesday 22nd January - Young Voices
- Thursday 24th January 3pm - Year 5 class share time
- Thursday 31st January 2:30pm - 4C (Chimps) class assembly
- Thursday 31st January 3pm - Year 4 class share time
- Friday 1st February - Show and Tell assembly
- Week beginning Monday 4th February - Safer Internet Week
- Wednesday 6th February 3pm - Year 3 Class Share
- Wednesday 6th February 5:30pm - Parents Meeting for Sherwood Forest Trip
- Thursday 7th February 2:30PM - 4B (Bumblebees) class assembly
- Wednesday 13th February 3pm - Year 2 class share time
- Wednesday 13th February 4:30 & 6:30 Valentine's Disco
- Thursday 14th February 2:30pm - 2L (Lions) class assembly (lower hall)
- Thursday 14th February 2:30pm - 5H (Hedgehogs) class assembly (upper hall)
- Thursday 14th February 3pm - Year 1 class share time
- Friday 15th February - School closes for the half term break
- Monday 25th February - School closed to pupils for training day
- Tuesday 26th February - Children back after half term
- Wednesday 27th February 3pm - Reception class share time
- Thursday 28th February 3pm - Year 6 class share time
- Tuesday 5th March - 1:15pm - School closes early for Atherstone Ball Game
- Wednesday 6th March 3pm - Year 4 class share time
- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day
- Thursday 7th March - Year 6 trip (details to follow)
- Thursday 7th March 3pm - Year 5 class share time
- Friday 8th March - Show and Tell assembly
- Friday 8th March - Year 5 trip (details to follow)
- Wednesday 13th March 3pm - Year 3 class share time
- Thursday 14th March 2:30pm - 1M (Meerkats) Class assembly
- Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day
- Wednesday 20th March 3pm - Year 2 class share
- Thursday 21st March 2:30pm - 3M (Magpies) Class assembly
- Thursday 21st March 3pm - Year 1 Class share time
- Wednesday 27th March - Parents Evening (afternoon appointments also available)
- Thursday 28th March 2:30pm - 1A (Ants) class assembly
- Thursday 28th March 3pm - Reception class share time
- Thursday 4th April 2:30pm - 3C (Caterpillars) class assembly
- Friday 5th April - Show and Tell assembly
- Wednesday 10th April - Easter Service
- Wednesday 10th April 6pm - Easter Bingo
- Thursday 11th April 2:30pm - 5B (Badgers) Class assembly
- Friday 12th April - School closes for Easter - Attendance assembly 9am
- Monday 29th April - Back to school
- Friday 24th May - Break up for Spring half term



NEXT TERM

Y6 SATS week and Sherwood Forest residential both begin on May 13th.

Support your child's learning -Discovery Espresso

The school has subscribed to a great resource called Espresso - there are hundreds of great activities for all ages. Go to the website www.discoveryeducation.co.uk click on 'login' and select "Espresso" enter the username student29608 and password espre550 . You can choose from Foundation (Early Years) or KS1 or KS2 and look at all the videos, activities and games on offer. This year as a school we are having a huge 'push' on spelling and on Espresso there is a good selection of spelling and phonics activities. The children use the resource in school and it is great for supporting learning across the curriculum. If you need any support to access it, just ask!



Attendance

As you know, we are always promoting good attendance at school. Regular attendance is important to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for all children. This month we are holding our very own "attendance draw" and each day a randomly selected child will earn a special prize. So far the winners have been Harvey C, Johanna, Nancy and Ashleigh. Next week another group of children will be given 'spot prizes'. Well done everybody!



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Celebration assembly takes place every Friday morning at 9:10. We give gold ribbons to children as special awards for their achievements each week and celebrate birthdays. You are very welcome to join us. Each month there will be a special 'show and tell' assembly where children can share awards they have achieved out of school or share activities they have taken part in. Lego models are also popular! This term's 'Show and Tell' assemblies are on February 1st, March 8th and April 5th.



Health and Safety Reminder..

Our school grounds are 'Smoke Free' zones. This means that SMOKING, including 'vaping' and 'e-cigarettes' are NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON SCHOOL PREMISES BY LAW. If you do smoke or 'vape' could you please not do so on school grounds? Also -please be considerate not to smoke right outside the gates. It is not healthy for children to walk through plumes of smoke to get into school. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.



A Message from the School Nursing Team

Vision & Chathealth

Children may not always know that they have a vision problem. It is therefore recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out at least once every two years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight. These tests can be done at a high street opticians and are free for all children under 16 years old (and those under 19 years old in full-time education). You can speak to your child's Optician if you have any concerns about your their vision.

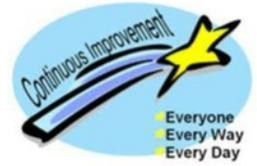


The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

Chat Health

Parents/carers can now text a school nurse from their mobile phone. ChatHealth, the school nurse messaging service, is confidential and available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. You can message for advice about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health and well-being. **Text number:- 07520 619376**

Our Priority Areas



Parents and visitors to the school are often asking me what key areas we are working on as a school and how we decide on them on a year by year basis. Parents also wish to support us in our key areas and help their children as much as possible to meet any targets that have been set. We are constantly working together as a team to improve on every aspect of our work, however, every year we have key priority areas. This year our key areas are:-

- Pupil well-being - To prioritise and focus on the health and well-being of our entire school community.
- Spelling - to raise achievement in spelling in all year groups.
- Handwriting and presentation - to improve standards of handwriting and presentation across the school.
- Maths - to improve progress in maths Key stage 1 and 2
- Training - to ensure that all training has a direct positive impact on children

There are other areas we are also working on which are led by individual staff members and subject leaders who have a subject 'action plan'. All of this is fed into our whole school evaluation.

School improvement - is what we all strive for every day at Outwoods.

Each year we put together a development plan which we call our Learning Improvement Plan (LIP) which has several development areas for the next academic year. We choose our main areas by looking closely at our school and reviewing every aspect of our work. Reviews include external evaluations of our work by OFSTED and the Local Authority, alongside our own monitoring of lessons and children's work through a detailed self-evaluation process. We also look closely at our data, the staff and their needs, we do lesson observations, compare our books with other schools (this is called moderation), and hold pupil progress meetings where we look at every individual child. As well as this we do pupil, parents and staff questionnaires. We decide on our targets with staff and Governors through our various Full Governing Body and Committee meetings. The targets often also reflect the national headlines and priorities for education. Ongoing self-evaluation may lead to the plan being amended during the year. We like to keep our Learning Improvement Plan as brief and to the point as possible in order that the key areas of development are always clear and understood by all.

Our training plan for the year reflects our school improvement priorities. Staff training is vitally important for school improvement and to ensure that staff are kept up to date with new developments in the curriculum and in education as a whole. We also need to ensure that all staff are trained in Safeguarding and Health and Safety. At Outwoods we try to ensure that all the essential whole school training can be covered on our inset days, however we do need to send staff out on courses at times to ensure that we are constantly keeping staff up to date and at their best. Well trained and developed staff become outstanding teachers which results in outstanding progress and achievement for our children.

Should you wish to ask any questions about our Learning Improvement Plan, or if you would like to support your child in any aspects of our work, you can contact me or your child's class teacher. We will shortly be launching a new school website where there will be resources and activities you can do with your child to support our priority areas and there are also a wide range of activities on the online resource base we use 'DISCOVERY ESPRESSO' (details earlier in this newsletter).