



Oakfield Primary Academy Newsletter

Planting Seeds, Promoting Growth

Friday 17th October

www.oakfieldprimaryacademy.co.uk

Sbooktacular Day

We are holding our Sbooktacular Day on Friday 24th October to celebrate reading for pleasure. Each class will read and explore a 'spooky' age appropriate text. Children are invited to come into school wearing a costume if they wish to do so. If not, please send your child into school wearing school uniform.

The PTA will be holding a stall from 15:10 – 15:45 selling some healthy treats with a spooky theme. Please come and support by purchasing a treat. Change is preferable as the card machine is currently out of order.

Thank-you for your support 😊

Diwali & Bandi Chhor Divas

On Monday, the children all listened to an assembly about why Hindus and Sikhs celebrate Diwali or Bandi Chhor Divas. It was a special assembly which spoke about the celebration of light, why the festivals are celebrated and how some of our staff and children intend to celebrate on Monday and Tuesday next week.

Happy Diwali and Happy Bandi Chhor Divas to all those celebrating next week. We hope your day is filled with love and light.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our stars of the week! We are so proud of you :)

Year 1 – Zoe & Zayn

Year 2 – Alice & Aleenah

Year 3 – Hughie & Nikodem

Year 4 – Albert & Liliana

Year 5 – Humayra & Kacper

Year 6 – Shravani & Sarah

Dates for the Diary

23rd October – Y2 Harvest Assembly to Parents – 09:00 – 10:00

24th October – Sbooktacular Day (fancy dress optional)

24th October – PTA Event: Spooky Tuck shop

27th – 31st October – Half Term

3rd November – INSET Day

5th November – Reception & KS1 Phonics Workshop – 14:30

6th November – Y5 Swimming continues

10th November – Anti-Bullying Week

11th November – Y3 Inspire Workshop – 09:00 – 10:00

13th November – Y1 Inspire Workshop – 09:00 – 10:00

14th November – Children in Need (non-uniform)

19th November – Y1 Trip – St John's Museum

19th November – Y5 Inspire Workshop – 09:00 – 10:00

20th November – Y6 Trip – Beaumanor Hall

21st November – PTA Event: Flip & Dippy

26th November – iRock Assembly – 14:30

Rugby Food Bank

Thank-you to all Parents who have donated an item or two for the Rugby Food Bank. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our families and we look forward to donating these items to the food bank. They will be coming into school on Monday and delivering a whole school assembly to our children about the work they do and why it is so important.

It is not too late to donate, if you have some last minute items, please donate them by Monday 20th October – 09:00 and leave them at the school office. Thank-you once again.

Attendance

Attendance matters. Historically, we are noticing that many of our families are choosing for their children to not attend school in the last week of half term due to going on holiday. We are monitoring this closely and will be holding meetings with Parents if their child's attendance is falling as well as identifying patterns of poor attendance.

Please ensure that your child attends school every day next week.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
- First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.