

Oak Hill Church of England Primary School

*'Jesus said, 'I have come that you may
have life in all its fullness'
(John 10:10)*

FAITH – VALUES – ACTION



Newsletter Friday 20th October 2023

Budding Tennis Stars

What a wonderful morning the whole school had attending Beckford Tennis Club to play on some real tennis courts. They really showed off all the skills they have been learning over the last few weeks. Thank you to Mr Avars for organising.



Attendance

As parents and educators, we all want the best for our children, including their education. One crucial aspect of ensuring their academic success is regular attendance at school. In this article, I have tried to explore the significance of attendance in primary schools and provide valuable insights to help everyone understand why it matters.

1. Academic Achievement:

Regular attendance is directly linked to improved academic achievement. When children attend school consistently, they have more opportunities to engage in learning, participate in classroom activities, and develop a strong foundation in key subjects like English, mathematics, and science. Consistent attendance also helps children keep up with the curriculum, ensuring they don't miss important lessons or fall behind their peers.

2. Social and Emotional Development:

School is not just about academics; it also contributes to a child's social and emotional development. By attending school regularly, children have the chance to interact with their peers, develop friendships, and learn important social skills such as teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution. Missing school frequently can disrupt this process,

leading to feelings of isolation and difficulty in forming meaningful relationships.

3. Establishing Routine and Discipline:

Regular attendance in primary school helps children establish a sense of routine and discipline, which are essential life skills. By adhering to a consistent schedule, children learn the value of punctuality, responsibility, and commitment. These qualities will serve them well as they progress through their academic journey and later in their professional lives.

4. Building a Strong Work Ethic:

Attendance plays a crucial role in instilling a strong work ethic in children from an early age. When children attend school regularly, they develop a sense of accountability and understand the importance of showing up and putting in effort. This mindset translates into a diligent approach to their studies, leading to improved learning outcomes and future success.

5. Access to Additional Support:

Regular attendance in primary school ensures that children have access to the support and resources provided by the school. Teachers can identify areas where students may need additional help and provide necessary interventions. Missing school frequently can hinder this process, making it challenging for teachers to identify and address any learning gaps or difficulties.

Regular attendance in primary school is crucial for the academic, social, and emotional development of children. By attending school consistently, children have the best opportunity to excel academically, build important life skills, and develop a strong work ethic. As parents and teachers, it is our responsibility to prioritize and encourage regular attendance, ensuring that the children receive the best possible

education and set themselves up for a successful future.

The guidelines for attendance at primary schools aim to ensure high levels of school attendance and establish a structured school day. These guidelines are non-statutory but are designed to help schools and local authorities maintain consistent attendance rates. Research shows that students with the highest attendance throughout their school years tend to achieve better results in their GCSE and A Level exams. It is important for students to attend school regularly to maximize their learning opportunities, ensure their safety, and access extra-curricular activities. The overall attendance rate across all schools in England is 92.6%, with 23.4% of students experiencing persistent absence (missing 10% or more of possible sessions). Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school, with only a few exceptions for absences.

New guidance issued by the Government puts a renewed emphasis on attendance and compels schools to support anyone who is regarded as persistent absence; this can now lead to fines and potential social services involvement for lack of attendance.

Parents Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the two parents evenings this week. We really appreciate your time and effort. It is great to work in partnership so that all children can achieve to the best of their abilities.

Secondary School Applications

Just a reminder that the deadline for Secondary school applications is 31st October.

Healthy Snacks

Please can we remind all parents that morning break snacks should be a healthy snack, ideally fruit or veg. KS1 children all receive a piece of fruit or veg through the national scheme. We do not allow chocolate at this break. If you need any further advice on this, the NHS have some excellent ideas at the following webpage.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

FOOHS Future Events

Below are posters for two more amazing FOOHS events coming up. Thank you for all you do to support the school.



Holiday Vouchers

This October half term, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, as well as children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.**

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [Holiday FSM vouchers webpage](#).

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they will already have been included. To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

Using vouchers – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via email to childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk by the end of the holiday period.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

Online Safety

A free online safety guide on 14 ways to be kind online.

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice we can all make that helps others, put people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more, making the world a happier and more positive place. That's why we've created this guide to suggest a few simple 'acts of kindness online' that can benefit people's mental health,

support their wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.

In the guide, you'll find tips such as offering to help others, share positive posts and thinking before you comment.



Church Service in Alderton

Services are:

Please find attached my Reflection on this Sunday.

Services this Sunday are:

- 10.30am Alderton – HC CW
- 6.00pm Wormington – Choral Evensong

Half Termly Christian Value



Rowan Class

This week in Rowan Class the Reception children have had a focus on people who help us. We were very lucky to have a visit from Nurse Rosie who came to tell us about her job and how she helps people. The Reception children have begun to write words this week using the phonics sounds that they have already learnt. They have been working really hard on their pencil grip and sounding out words carefully.

Year 1 and 2 have been really enjoying their topic on Childhood. This week we have been looking at life in the 1950s and Mrs Milczarek kindly brought in her typewriter for the children to have a go on which was a lot of fun!

In Maths, Year 1 have been continuing to look at part whole models and have now started to match their fact families. Year 2 have also been looking at fact families and related facts.

In English, we have started a new fictional unit using the text Little Red Riding Hood. We have been using adjectives to describe Little Red and the forest and we tried to incorporate some alliteration to describe the flowers that she picked.

Elm Class

There are two areas of learning which would be most useful to explore and continue at home, if possible. This week we have been working on subtraction in Maths (Year 3 three-digit numbers; Year 4 four-digit numbers) and several have struggled to embed this area of learning. In English we have just begun some work based upon the book Skara Brae. This unit of work will culminate in the production of some persuasive writing in the form of a leaflet. Any opportunities you get to read similar leaflets in the real world or practice column subtraction would be most useful

All pupils enjoyed our last session with Liam - this time on the full-size tennis courts in Beckford. We will endeavour to return!

Finally, in RE, we have explored the concepts of sin and temptation - all linked to the Adam and Eve story within the book of Genesis.





Redwood Class

As we draw closer to our residential the children are definitely feeling very excited! This week we have explored the values and attributes each member of Redwood has and how those will be key to next week. We have been looking at how we can support and encourage each other and have the best possible time!

In English, the children have started a new writing unit called Cosmic. This week's writing has been based around a luxurious car dealership.

In Maths, lots of multiplication and division. Continuing to explore factors and multiples and using factors to help with multiplication and division for Year 6.

In Science, the children explored scientists who have contributed to our understanding of gravity and then, in History, they learned about religion in ancient China, particularly focusing on the Shang Dynasty.

We had a fantastic tennis lesson at the tennis courts on Tuesday. The children really enjoyed using the space and hopefully we will be able to visit again later in the year.

Thank you to those who attended parents evening. It was fantastic to share how the children are getting on.



Stars of the Week

Rowan Class:

Star of the Week - ETTY, for working hard in Maths and showing a love of learning

Value of the Week - Fergus, for persevering with your name writing

Elm Class:

Star of the Week - Miles for improved levels of concentration and work produced this week

Value of the Week - Penny for her conscientious attitude to all the work she undertakes

Redwood Class:

Star of the Week - Lottie for excellent History work on Religion in the Shang Dynasty

Value of the Week - Jake for challenging himself in English, trying to up-level his vocabulary

House Points

Dean 133
Ashdown 153
Sherwood 152

Diary Dates

Please be aware that these may be subject to change. Further dates to be added once we have confirmed some dates and times.

October

23rd Year 5/6 Residential to Georgeham – all week

27th Break up for half term

November

6th Term Starts

14th Book Fair

20th Individual and class photos

23rd Speed Stack Day

December

4th Assessment Week

12th Nativity Plan 2pm

13th Nativity Play 6pm

19th Carol Service 6pm in the church.

21st Break Up

22nd INSET Day