



OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

Dates for the diary

28th Sept	Y2 Parental Engagement
29th Sept	Y3 Outdoor Learning
4th Oct	Parents' Evening
5th Oct	Y4 Outdoor Learning
6th Oct	Parents' Evening
7th Oct	2C Class Assembly
12th Oct	Y2 Outdoor Learning
13th Oct	Y3 Trip to Arrow Valley Park
20th Oct	Reception Parental Engagement
20th Oct	Y1 Outdoor Learning and Trip to Lodge Pool
21st Oct	2A Class Assembly
31st Oct	Training Day—School Closed
1st Nov	Nursery Parental Engagement
2nd Nov	Y2 Trip to Forge Mill
2nd Nov	Visitor for Nursery, Reception and Y3
3rd Nov	Y2 Trip to Forge Mill
3rd Nov	Open Day for new prospective Reception 2017 parents
10th Nov	Y1 Parental Engagement
11th Nov	2T Class Assembly
14th Nov	Open Day for new prospective Reception 2017

Welcome Back

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter of the new academic year. We wish to extend a warm welcome particularly to the new pupils, parents / carers and staff who have joined our school community this September. It's encouraging to see that our new Nursery and Reception children and those who have joined us from other schools are settling in quickly and are enjoying all that Oak Hill has to offer.

Oak Hill is a busy and thriving school and we pride ourselves on both the standard of education that we offer (both in and out of the classroom) and in the level of care that we provide. Every child is an individual whose strengths and interests will be nurtured and encouraged. Most crucially, it is important to us that children enjoy their education.

We also believe that the environment that the children work in is important and with this in mind a range of improvements have taken place over the summer; a programme that we intend to continue if funding can support this.

There is a wealth of opportunities available to your child and we encourage pupils to get involved in as much as possible. This is an exciting time in the educational journey for your child and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

The first two weeks of term have gone smoothly and the children have already impressed us with their positive and enthusiastic approach to the new school year.

We look forward to welcoming you into school over the course of the coming year.

Miss Kelly

We have attached a leaflet explaining the roles of our Senior Leadership Team and non-classed based teachers.



Online payments to school with ParentPay!



Thank you to all parents who have activated their accounts on our new ParentPay system. For those parents who have yet to activate their accounts, if you need support in doing this or clarification on how our new ParentPay system works please speak to your child's class teacher or the school office who are available to help.

The new menu choice system is working really well. As from 3rd October, parents will be able to choose Jacket Potato as a meal choice if they wish. Due to technical difficulties can we ask that parents who have already booked meals after this date to re book their choices.

For those parents who wish to pay for meals/trips at local paypoint outlets please find listed below some additional locations:

Lakeside Store, 5-7 Farm Road Redditch.

S & G General Store, 5-7 Dowlers Hill Crescent Redditch.

Asda Superstore, Jinnah Road Smallwood.

Polmarket, 11 Beoley Road West Redditch.

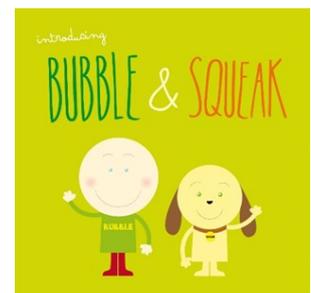
Lifestyle Express, 17 Flyford Close Lodge Park Redditch.

If parents wish to pay at a local paypoint, a barcode letter will be needed, please see the office if assistance is needed with this.



We are delighted at Oak Hill with the arrival of our new caterers, Aspens. The children over the last two weeks have enjoyed some really high quality tasty, delicious meals. With the new ParentPay booking system children are receiving their booked meal. Moving forward we ask that parents order their child's meal by Thursday at the latest for any time during the following week this will help the kitchen at Woodfield with their food ordering.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are still eligible for a free meal. Booking can be made for your child's meal via the ParentPay system with no charge being applied at the checkout. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 can enjoy the same meal which is now priced at £1.95 per day!



Dining Room Helpers

Lunchtime is such an important time of the day. It's a social occasion where children meet and enjoy each other's company whilst enjoying the lovely food on the new menu or sandwiches from home. In the dining hall we have introduced some rules to ensure safe, happy lunchtimes - it can be a very busy place! We expect to hear 'please' and 'thank you' and we encourage the children to keep their tables clean, whilst using quiet voices to chat. We have lots of new reward stickers for children when they take responsibility for cleaning their plates or trying something new. The lunchtime supervisors do a great job of helping all the children have a fun lunchtime and they have been joined by a new team of Year 4 children who have been appointed as Dining Hall Helpers and Buddies. The children had to apply to Mrs Court for the job, stating why they could be trusted with such a responsible role. They have special uniforms and are thoroughly enjoying their grown up role supporting the children and adults alike. It is great to see children from all year groups working together, socialising and developing friendships.



Reminders:

Our school operates a 'tie hair back' policy for pupils whose hair falls below shoulder length. We ask that you only wear small hair accessories.

For safety reasons, children who have pierced ears should only wear small stud earrings. County Health & Safety Guidelines state that earrings should be removed or covered during PE and swimming sessions. As this procedure will be difficult for many young children, we recommend that earrings be left at home on identified days.

Water Bottles

Children learn better when they are hydrated so please make sure your child's water bottle is in school every day and is clearly labelled. Plain water only in bottles please.

P.E. Kits

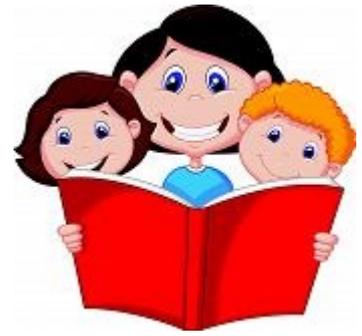
Please note, our PE uniform is a white t-shirt, purple shorts and a plain tracksuit (black/grey/navy blue / purple) for out door P.E.. Children require pumps too although in KS2 trainers may be worn instead of pumps. Please make sure all kit is labelled with your child's name as this helps ensure any items that become lost are easily returned.

Communication books

Please use these to send any messages to your child's teacher who will look at them each day.

Three Times Readers

Make sure you read at least three times a week at home and record this in your reading diary. You could read your home reader book, school library book or your own book/magazine from home. This regular reading will help the children build on the skills they are learning in school and will also help to develop their vocabulary and understanding of language.



The diaries are checked every Friday in school and those children who have read three times are rewarded with certificates and stickers. Every half term, all the children who have consistently read three times a week will receive a special certificate and be entered into a draw to win a brand new book!

September Assembly Themes

- Responsibility
- Kindness
- Honesty
- Current affairs, e.g. Paralympics



September Festivals and Awareness Days

Throughout the school year at Oak Hill, we learn about a range of festivals and awareness days.

During September, the whole school will focus on:

- Harvest
- Eid al-Adha



New School Library

Over the summer holidays our school library has been transformed! We now have a brand new library, complete with a comfy sofa seating area and brand new tables and chairs for the children to work at. We are currently in the process of introducing the children to this new space, teaching them how a library is organised and developing a loaning system. We will also be purchasing new books for the children to borrow. Watch this space for more information!



Healthy Eating

Thank you to everyone who filled in the questionnaire regarding healthier snacks at Oak Hill. We are currently analysing the feedback and we will keep you informed of the outcome. The winner of the healthy hamper will also be announced in October. In the meantime, we have appointed



healthy snack monitors in each classroom who record snacks brought in and who encourages healthy snacks. Our new caterers are providing delicious meals too and the children seem to be enjoying the new range of food.

Parents' Evening



Tuesday 4th October 3.40—5.40 pm

Thursday 6th October 4.00—7.00 pm

Parents' Evening this term is an opportunity for our teachers to give you immediate feedback on how well your child has settled into their new class, review the targets that were set in their annual report and set new targets and offer suggestions on ways to support at home.

We allow for 1 meeting for each child that is for 10 minutes (bells ring every 10 minutes to indicate start/finish).

Parents will be able to sign up for an appointment from **Tuesday 20th October.** Sign-up sheets will be displayed outside classrooms except for Years 3 & 4. Year 3 sheets will be on the hall windows and Year 4 sheets will be on the windows by the Year 4 entrance. If you are unable to come in to sign up, then please pop a note in your child's communication book stating which day you would like and we will make you an appointment.

Curriculum

We have just adopted a new curriculum approach which will support the Government's relatively new curriculum which focuses on developing a greater depth of understanding of key objectives. This will compliment our drama based topics that have proved to be so popular and effective.

A detailed explanation and our new assessment system will be published this week.



Polite Reminder: Health & safety

Trim Trail and Outdoor Gym Equipment

Please be aware that no children are allowed to play on the outdoor play equipment before and after school. Children are only

allowed on the equipment during school hours when supervised by a member of school staff. Thank you with your support in this matter.



Composer of the Month

We have selected the composer **Benjamin Britten** (1913–1976), an English composer, conductor and pianist, to focus on this month.

We will be listening to 'The Young Persons Guide To The Orchestra' and learning all about the different section of an orchestra (Woodwind, Brass, String and Percussion) and the different instruments within each section.



Parental Engagement

Children's learning is a partnership between home and school. Each term, you are invited to spend time in school with your child engaging with their learning. It is hoped that you will gain skills from these sessions which will help you to further support your child at home. As this is a time for you to spend quality time with your child, unfortunately it is not suitable for younger children to attend.

Parental Engagement sessions this month are:

Year 2 Wednesday 28th September

Behaviour

Well done to all our fabulous children who have started the year with an excellent attitude to their learning. We have high expectations of the pupils and we want our pupils to display a thirst for knowledge and develop their values of respect and responsibility. This creates a positive climate for learning so that the children can make the most progress possible.

Our School Rules are:

- We follow instructions first time.
- We treat others kindly.
- We listen when someone is speaking.
- We take care of things inside and out.
- We always walk around school.

Zone Boards (Gold, Silver, Green, Yellow and Red)

GREEN IS GOOD! Being in Green means we have followed the school rules. When children go up the zone board, they receive lots of praise and a reward. When they go down the zone board, they receive an appropriate sanction for breaking rules.

We know that most children follow the rules all the time and their reward comes on a Friday afternoon - **Friday Challenge!** A range of curriculum subjects are taught in mixed groups within each year group, with a focus on team building, creativity and problem solving. Each class have had an input into the kind of activities they would like to take part in. Groups will be led by one of the teachers or teaching assistants. Friday Challenge is fun and exciting, but it also develop skills like communication, sharing and resilience when faced with a challenge. This half term, some of the activities on offer are book making, dance, cookery and mural painting.

If you have any questions about our behaviour management system, please speak with your child's class teach in the first instance. If you would like further information, Mrs Court is the staff member with overall responsibility of this area of school development.