



OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

Happy New Year!

We would like to welcome you all back after the Christmas break and wish you all a Happy New Year.



We had a fabulous end to last term with the children performing brilliantly in so many Christmas performances. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 all excelled themselves in super Christmas plays. Year 2 and Year 4 children filled The Bridge Church along with their parents, carers and other family members to participate in our Carol Concert. It was a lovely service enjoyed by all.

We ended the term with a Pantomime in school. The children really enjoyed this and you could hear the laughter and screams of excitement throughout school!

Staff would like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for the cards and gifts they received.

We are now looking forward to another term filled with even more exciting learning and enrichment activities.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Leading Parent Partnership Award



We are very pleased to announce that we passed our external reassessment for **The Leading Parent Partnership Award** and received a report which validates all the hard work everyone in our school community does to make our 'Parent Partnership' so fantastic.

The LPPA Award is a nationally recognised Quality Mark for schools committed to investing in parents for the achievement of pupils.

In particular, there was strong evidence to show:

- Parental Engagement is firmly embedded in the school's strategic planning process at all levels.
- A strong focus on the areas identified for development in the previous reassessment report and positive outcomes as a result.
- A range of learning and enrichment opportunities for parents, including signposting to other learning providers.
- Comprehensive curriculum information is provided for parents through curriculum maps.
- Consultation with parents is given a high priority and changes are made as a result of this. The Parent Forum plays an important role as a conduit for consultation.
- Families are well-supported at both Induction and Transition, particularly families of EAL and SEND children.
- School policies and other documentation are written in clear, accessible language and translations are provided as necessary.
- The LPPA continues to develop in a reflective way, focusing on what works best to improve outcomes for children.

The assessor stated that, 'The school has shown significant development since the last LPPA reassessment and there are no significant areas for development.'

Dates for the diary - Please look on the back page for dates for this term.

Gaming

We are having an increasing number of children talking about playing games with 12/16/18 ratings such as GTA and Call of Duty - both have a rating of 18, and Star Wars Battlefront which has a rating of 16. The ratings indicate the age that these games can be purchased and played by e.g. a game rated 18 is designed exclusively for adult use only. We have also had an incident of potential grooming via the online gaming platform Roblox reported by a parent –we have previously sent out advice regarding Roblox in a separate letter- this is still available in the Letters section on our website. There is also a significant increase in the number of children using on line gaming platforms e.g. Xbox Live and we encourage parents to regularly check who children are interacting with. The Safeguarding tab on our website has an E-safety section with advice and links to websites that can support parents to effectively monitor children's on line activities.

The Games Rating Authority (GRA) <http://gamesratingauthority.org> is the games rating arm of the Video Standards Council and licences the release of games rated PEGI 12, 16 and 18 in the UK. Their website is a useful source of information - it can't tell you how good, bad or indifferent a game might be, but it will supply detailed content information (the amount and type of violence, bad language, sex, etc, in a game), so that you can be absolutely certain you are making the correct purchasing decision. The website also has a section which offers support and guidance for setting up parental controls on different consoles.

As part of our safeguarding responsibility, staff have a duty of care to report any concerns. If we receive repeated reports of parents allowing children access to inappropriate games, then these concerns could be escalated to Children's Services.

Healthy Snacks policy

Thank you to everyone who supported the school with the consultation process of our Healthy Snacks Policy. Our Healthy Snacks Policy is now ready for you all to receive a copy. This will be emailed to parents this week. Our policy states that we encourage healthy snacks at break time although we will respect the right of parents to send the snack of their choice for their individual child; but we will be encouraging healthy choices.



School Council

The School Council is due to meet on Friday 13th January. We plan to analyse the feedback and information from the questionnaire that we sent out to all of the classes. We also plan to discuss the pending proposal that the children have been working on. As soon as we have finalised the details and put the proposal forward, we will be able to let you all know if it has been successful and reveal more information about it. The children are taking our plan very seriously and some of them have stopped me around school to ask me when we are meeting.



A big 'Thank you' to everyone for your support with our Christmas Jumper day. It was a huge success and the children all looked fabulous, as we knew they would. We also managed to raise £377.55 for Save the Children. A great achievement to do so close to Christmas. I'm sure the money went a long way to help children enjoy a happier Christmas. Thanks again.

Miss Wyatt

Free School Meals

Reception parents will find a 'Free School Meal' form in their child's book bag yesterday.

When a pupil is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra money for that pupil which has to be spent only on the education of free school meal pupils. Oak Hill will receive £1,320 for every first school aged pupil registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years. This can have a huge positive impact on the learning of these children. This extra money is called the Pupil Premium Grant and its purpose is to ensure that children from low income families are not at a financial disadvantage during their education as a result of home circumstances.

We can use the extra funding in any way we choose to improve the quality of the education that we provide for your child. This could include for additional adults or teaching assistant, after school clubs or trips.

Please be assured, that all children attending school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, will still receive free meals daily regardless of whether or not you have been able to fill in the form. Although the forms have only been sent out to Reception, if you feel you may be eligible please speak to either the office or your child's class teacher for a form.

Please read the form and the criteria on the back carefully and if you are eligible please sign and return to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

January Assembly Themes

- Motivation
- Perseverance
- Charity
- Attitudes
- Helping others to achieve their goals



January Festivals and Awareness Days

- Epiphany
- Orthodox Christmas Day
- Burns Night
- Chinese New Year



Safeguarding

The community social work team have set up multi-agency consultation meetings where we may discuss concerns regarding any child in the school. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Mrs Harris, Mrs Court or Miss Kelly.

Attendance Awards

Attendance Awards will be announced in this week's Gold Book assembly so we won't tell you all before then as it will spoil the surprise!



ParentPay

If you haven't already, please sign up for ParentPay. If you require any help with this, please speak to a member of our office staff who will be willing to help you.



Healthy New Year!

New Year, New Healthy start!



As many people are setting themselves New Year's Resolutions to be healthier, we wanted to highlight a campaign which encourages parents to get "Sugar Smart" and take control of their children's sugar intake.

The Change4Life campaign follows revelations that 4-to-10 year olds consume over 5,500 sugar cubes a year, or around 22kg - the average weight of a 5-year-old.

The Sugar Smart app has been launched to help parents see how much sugar there is in everyday food and drink. The free app works by scanning the barcode of products and revealing the amount of total sugar it contains in cubes and grams.

Change4Life has created an eye-opening short film to warn parents about the health harms of eating and drinking too much sugar, including becoming overweight and tooth decay.

Go to the link below to watch the short film and to find out more information on how to download the app.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/be-food-smart#83mmjSPjfqICKLzM.97>

School Closure due to Weather Conditions

If we have to close due to poor weather, the best source of information is our own frequently updated school website which is as follows: www.oakhillfirst.com

The County Council Website www.worcestershire.gov.uk will also display the list of schools that are closed or partially closed.



Local Radio stations, see list below, also access this information and broadcast closure information.

RADIO STATION BBC HEREFORD & WORCESTER

Worcestershire 104 FM

Worcestershire MW 738 MW

BRMB 96.4 FM

XTRA 1152 AM

HEART 100.7 FM

Provided health and safety is not compromised (pathways, heating, staff/pupil ratio) we will be open! It is a parental decision as to whether it is safe to travel to and from school. Please ensure that you have updated the office with any changes to your contact details - as on occasions parents have been requested to collect pupils from school during extreme weather conditions.

If a decision has to be made to close, every endeavour will be made to make the decision as early as possible. Text messages will be sent out as early as we are able.

Please note: we only send a text if we are closing.

Oak Trees Children's Centre



We are excited to let you know that we will be taking over the running of the children's centre on site here on a trial basis. We will soon be giving you information about opportunities for our children and for yourselves that we will be developing over the next three months.

The children will benefit greatly by the additional space and facilities on offer. Many children will do some work and activities there in small groups throughout the day.

Mrs Court and some early years staff will soon be starting some 'drop in' sessions, 'stay and play' groups for younger siblings and parenting groups.

Mrs Court is the member of staff who is responsible for this area of school development and if you would like further information or if you have any ideas about parents' groups or learning opportunities for yourselves, please speak to her.

Sports stars!



There must be a lot of our parents who enjoy sports as part of their hobbies.

We would like to offer the opportunity for you to come and share your skills as a sports star. Have we got any Archers, dancers, fitness class leaders, badminton players, any junior Rugby, football or coaches that could share their hobby with the children in school. This could be in the form of a demonstration or even a workshop working with some children. This could be anything sporting we are open to anything.

If you are interested, please let the school office know and we can take it from there.

Many thanks

Mrs. L. Ashford-
Smith

PE Leader



Composer of The Month

The composer that we are learning about this month is Gustav Holst.



Gustav Holst was a British composer who was born in Cheltenham, England in 1874 and died in London in 1934.

He is perhaps best known for his orchestral suite composed during the years 1914-1916, called The Planets.

There are seven pieces in 'The Planets' and 'Mars, the Bringer of War' is the first one. We will be listening to Mars and watching clips from the Ten Pieces created by BBC Music.



Take a look at the BBC website and watch the Dick & Dom clip introducing Mars by Holst.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02fls7d>

Dates for the diary

26th January	4C Class Assembly
2nd February	4S Class Assembly
3rd February	School Photographs
7th February	RJ Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
8th February	RB Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
9th February	Y2 Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
9th February	4H Class Assembly
9th February	Y3 Hindu Temple Visit
10th February	RM Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
13th February	Y3 Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
14th February	Parents' Evening
14th February	Nursery Parental Engagement
15th February	Year 4 Outdoor Learning
16th February	Parents' Evening
17th February	Last Day of Term
20th—24th	Half Term
27th February	School reopens for pupils
27th February — 3rd March	Book Fair in school all week
2nd March	World Book Day
2nd March	Tea Day
16th March	3J Class Assembly
20th, 21st & 22nd March	Year 4 Pedestrian Training
21st March	Y1 Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
23rd March	3I Class Assembly
23rd March	Y4 Parental Engagement 1:45-2:45
24th March	Easter Craft Sessions
24th March	Year 2 Outdoor Learning

Parental Questionnaires December 2016

Thank you to all of the parents/carers that completed the Parental Questionnaire and returned it to school before the Christmas break. We really do value your feedback and will be reviewing your responses over the next few weeks. We will publish the findings and any future actions we intend to take in the next newsletter.

Admissions

A reminder that applications for **September 2017** places in **Reception and Middle School** need to be submitted to Worcestershire County Council by **15th January 2017**.

Applications should be made online at
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

For further details, please contact the
School Office.

Volunteers

After a fabulous Christmas and new year, we are settling back into our new classrooms and thinking about the year ahead and all the exciting events and challenges we have to prepare for. Reading is very important to us and our children are such fantastic readers who really enjoy being listened to. We want to continue this success and so we are asking for your help. We would be really grateful if any parents/carers who think they could spare 1 hour a week on a regular basis would let your child's class teacher know. The children really enjoy parents coming in to help and it's a great way for you to see the fabulous learning that takes place within school and to help support the children's learning and development.



28th March	Year 4 Pedestrian Training Unescorted Walk
30th March	3W Class Assembly
5th April	Y2 Parental Engagement 9-10am
5th April	Y1 Outdoor Learning
5th April pm	Reception Performance
6th April am	Reception Performance
6th April	Year 3 Outdoor Learning