

OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

Dates for the diary

20th-22nd Sept	Year 4 Condoover Trip
29th Sept	Year 2 Outdoor Learning
3rd Oct	Parents' Evening
5th Oct	Year 1 Parental Engagement
5th Oct	Parents' Evening
6th Oct	2W Class Assembly
9th Oct	Year1 Outdoor Learning
10th Oct	Year 4 Outdoor Learning
12th Oct	2T Class Assembly
12th Oct	Year 3 Parental Engagement
13th Oct	Year 2 Walk to the woods
18th Oct	Reception Parental Engagement
19th Oct	2C Class Assembly
19th Oct	Last day of the half term
20th Oct	School Closed—Training Day
30th Oct	First day back after the 1/2 term break
2nd Nov	Open Morning for prospective Reception 2018 parents 9:30-10:30
3rd Nov	Nursery Parental Engagement
7th Nov	Year 3 Outdoor learning
13th Nov	Open Morning for prospective Reception 2018 parents 9:30-10:30
17th Nov	Tea Day
21st Nov	Year 4 Parental Engagement
28th Nov	Year 2 Parental Engagement

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

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. We now only have 2 places available across the whole of Key Stage 1 & 2.

Oak Hill, being one of the largest first schools in Worcestershire, 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 such as a larger new playground for Early Years and Y1 pupils. We will continue this programme of improvements if future government funding is able to support it.

There is a wealth of opportunities available to your child and we encourage pupils to get involved in as much as possible. We run many clubs for pupil in Year 1 and above that vary over the year run by either school staff or external providers.

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, getting to know new pupils, their new teacher and of course the heightened expectations for them.

We had our first Gold Book of the year on Friday and it highlighted the very good start in terms of pupils work and attitude to learning. For the first time we had six classes sharing the Early Bird award with not 1 late arrival between them! We will continue to give punctuality and attendance the high profile it deserves and challenge lateness and poor attendance being that it impacts on pupils' readiness and ability to learn.

You may have heard in the news last week of the changes to assessments that will effect pupils in Early Years and Y2 in the coming years with the introduction of a "on entry" assessment for Reception pupils and Y2 SAT's being removed in 2013! We already carry out assessments on entry to Reception. This information has helped us to evidence good progress, as pupils generally come in below or even well below the criteria expected for their age and generally leave year 2 attaining the national average (2017).

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Within our annual plan of school improvement we have targeted the following areas for the Autumn Term.

Curriculum Development	Essentials Curriculum develop the Essentials approach with in school to strengthen depth of understanding Foundation Subject Assessments - introduce a new way of tracking pupils progress in subjects such as History, Geography, Art etc Writing - Introduce alternative assessment activities. To spend more time encouraging pupils to talk through and clarify their ideas in preparation for a writing task. Introduce a new grammar scheme to Y1 - 4. Reading - Whole Class Guided Reading - developing "deeper" learning opportunities.. Phonics Year 1. Introduce alternative assessment activities Maths - Share good practice in the teaching and learning of "depth and mastery" of maths. Investigate whether "Singapore maths" would be an effective programme for our pupils.
Early Years	Communication - Develop reading skills through the introduction of "Story Bears" Nursery Phonics - Create further opportunities for parents to support this at home
Leadership & Management	KPAP Project - Continue to be involved in a project to improve outcomes for pupils across Redditch Monitoring - Use recently learnt techniques to evaluate the quality of teaching and learning and provide more effective feedback to teachers. Subject Leaders- Training and support in the roll out of the new tracking system Induction of new staff - Carry out a programme of support for staff who have recently joined us.

I'm sure you'll agree - a very busy time ahead of us!

We will update you with the impact of the actions we will be taking to improve these areas at the end of term. For the impact of Summer Term actions, please read the additional newsletter that will be sent out later this week.

We look forward to welcoming you into school over the course of the coming year. This is an exciting time in the educational journey for your child and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Miss Kelly

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 term are:

Year 1—Thursday 5th October

Year 3— Thursday 12th October

Reception—Wednesday 18th October

Nursery—Wednesday 3rd November

Year 4—Tuesday 21st November

Year 2 - Tuesday 28th November

Composer of the Month

We have selected the composer

Alma Elizabeth Deutscher

who is only 12 years old. She is an English composer, pianist, violinist, and child prodigy.



Parents' Evening

Tuesday 3rd October 3.40—5.40 pm
Thursday 5th 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 19th September**. 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.



September Assembly Themes

- Rule of Law
- Celebrating differences
- Tolerance
- Mutual Respect

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
- European Day of Languages

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.

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.

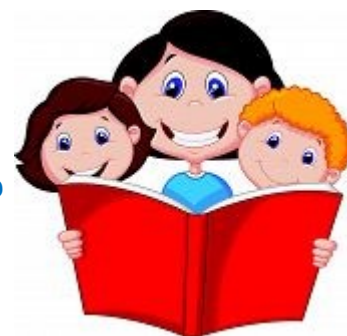
We know that most children follow the rules all the time and their reward comes on a Friday afternoon - **Friday Challenge!** A range of curriculum subjects are taught in mixed groups within each year group, with a focus on team building, creativity and problem solving. Each class have had an input into 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 dancing, cookery and cross country.

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.

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!



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.

