



NEWSLETTER

9TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Remembering Queen Elizabeth

With Buckingham Palace announcing yesterday evening the sad death of Her Majesty The Queen we immediately cancelled Golden Book assembly and today the Oakridge School community gathered together to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth.

The assembly gave everyone the opportunity to reflect on her deep sense of duty, her unrivalled service to our nation and her resilience, as well as the Queen's sense of humour and kindness. We have now entered a period of national mourning that will continue until the end of the State Funeral.

We have been informed by the DfE that they will contact schools with further information about the period of national mourning once it has been released by the cabinet office.



contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone No.
01785 337 300
Absence Reporting
ParentMail



School Attendance and Holidays in Term Time

As I am sure that you are aware from our meet the teacher meetings in July, as well as our correspondence in the school newsletter, the Government has placed an even higher priority on school attendance and holidays in term time. There is no entitlement to time off during term time. Leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances and the Government's aim is that each child's attendance is at least 95%, however children do get poorly and there is no expectation that any child who is unwell attends school.

The school attendance guidance that was sent to schools in May by the Government states that:-

'Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school. The government expects:

- *schools and local authorities to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence*
- *act early to address patterns of absence*
- *parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly*
- *all pupils to be punctual to their lessons*

With this in mind holidays in term time should only be requested in exceptional circumstances, as clearly outlined in the school policy and Government guidance. We have worked with attendance officers to ensure that our policy is in line with Government guidance and we have attached our 'Attendance Policy on a page' for you at the end of this newsletter. The full policy is available on the school website. Last year our school attendance was 93.1% which was a fantastic achievement when particularly during the autumn term we had many covid absences. We look forward to your continued support this year. Thankyou.

Emotional Coaching

On Thursday Sept 15th we have a live webinar for all parents which will be delivered by Rachel Rainer from HOPE Training. The session will cover the main principles of emotion coaching and how parents can support their children overcome emotional difficulties.

Further details and a webinar link will be sent out to all parents on Monday next week.

School Milk

Children in our Nursery and Reception classes enjoy drinking a carton of milk each morning.

Up until the age of 5 children are entitled to free milk but you need to register your child to receive this if you have not already done so.

Once your child has turned 5 they are still able to have a drink each day if you pay via the Coolmilk website.

If you do not have a form please ask a member of staff.

Cool Milk

Year Three and Four Visit to Stonehenge

This week we have arranged our first educational visit of the school year and are excited to invite our year three and four children on a trip to Stonehenge on Thursday 29th September. Due to increased costs for coach travel and accommodation we have made the decision to make this a day visit.

The trip is a fantastic opportunity to visit Stonehenge as part of this term's topic 'The Stone Age' and will provide your child with an inspirational experience which will stay with them for life. The visit will include a guided tour of Stonehenge and a Neolithical workshop.

As we will be travelling by coach from school leaving at 6.00am prompt could we please ask that children arrive at school no later than 5.45 am. We will be departing from Stonehenge at 3.30pm, arriving at Oakridge at approximately 6.30pm.

All children will need a packed lunch, enough drinks and snacks for the day. School uniform must be worn and a warm waterproof coat is required.

Contributions of £35.26 are invited towards the cost, payable via your Parent Pay account. Please note that if there are insufficient contributions the visit may need to be cancelled. Below is a breakdown of the costs of the visit:-

This really is a special trip that enhances the children's learning as well as creating wonderful memories. Contributions towards the cost of the visit are payable via your Parent Pay account, which if you wish to do so will allow you to pay in instalments which may be made from now until the end of this term on Friday 16th December.



Year Four Bikeability

On Wednesday 21st September our Year 4 children will be taking part in Bikeability Level One Cycle training run by Velo Cyclist Training.

The course will take place on the school playground and teaches children how to set off, control their bike, slow down, braking and stopping as well as how to maintain their cycle and keep it in good condition.

Year Six Bikeability

On Monday 19th September and Tuesday 20th September, our Year 6 children will be taking part in Bikeability Level Two Cycle training run by Velo Cyclist Training.

The instructors will take the children on to quiet roads to experience "real" cycling. They teach riders how to start and stop with confidence, pass stationary vehicles and negotiate the road.

Children may come into school on both days wearing their school PE kits. Can you please ensure that children have appropriate clothing for the weather and bring in a waterproof coat if necessary.

Don't forget to
bring your bike
and helmet!



School Forms

At the beginning of each school year we need to ensure that all of our pupil information is up to date and accurate and as a consequence there are a number of forms that we will email to you next week.

The following two forms are completed annually and we require a printed paper copy, however do not worry about photos as we can add these in school.

- Medicine care plan
- Asthma care plan

If you are new to Oakridge you will need to fill in three additional forms which ensure consent for the time that your child is at Oakridge unless you inform the school otherwise. These are electronic forms sent by ParentMail.

- Photo consent
- Local visits consent
- Food allergies, intolerances and dietary requirements

We are very aware of the administration that is involved, however we are legally obliged to obtain this information and we

After School Sporting Clubs

As it's the start of a new year, we will begin our new after-school sports clubs from the week commencing Monday 12th September. Clubs will run from 3:20pm - 4:20pm and will run from Monday to Thursday.

Monday Y3&4 Girls & Boys' Football

Tuesday Y5&6 Girls' Football

Wednesday Y5&6 Girls & Boys' Cross Country

Thursday Year 5&6 Boys' Football

If your child's club falls on their P.E. day then they can simply stay in their P.E. kit. Should your child's club not coincide with their P.E. day then they can either bring their school kit to change in to, or some alternative sports clothing if they wish. This will help to prevent overuse of school P.E. kit. For football after-school clubs, football boots and shinpads must be worn. For Cross-country, children may wear boots or trainers. However, the field usually becomes quite slippery and muddy so football/rugby boots are advisable. Please ensure children have a waterproof coat with

Amazon Smile

Thank you to everyone who supports OSCA our school PTA by using Amazon Smile. This quarter you have raised **£56.47** which is fantastic! Amazon Smile is an easy way for you to support us every time you shop and at no cost to you. If you go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk you will find the exact same low prices and selection with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Oakridge School Association.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Collection from After School Club

If you are collecting your child from our Little Oaks after school club please ring the doorbell at the front of the school to be let into the school.

You may then go through to the hall to sign out your child.



Guitar Lessons

We currently still have a small number of places available for our guitar lessons and have decided to open these up to our Year Four children.

If you have a child in Year Four who would like to learn to play the guitar please get in touch with the school office.

Music lessons cost £130.00 per year and can be paid for either in full or in three instalments.

Music lessons

All Instrument Music lessons will start again next week. All lessons take place during the school day. Please remember to bring your instruments into school on these days:

Keyboard will take place during the school day on Thursday morning.

Woodwind will take place during the school day on Tuesday morning

Strings will take place during the school day on a Wednesday morning.

Brass will take place during the school day on Friday afternoon.

Guitar will be during the school day on a Friday afternoon.

Tuition fees are available to pay via ParentPay account.



Tuck and Lunch Orders

If you would like to order tuck or a hot dinner for your child please remember that you need to do this before 8.00am each morning (tuck and meals can be ordered in advance).

Children from Year One to Year Six are able to order tuck.

Tuck will be available to order from Monday morning and we will continue to offer sausage sandwiches for £1 cash on a Friday.



A full list of dates for your diary will be attached to next weeks Newsletter.

Attendance Policy on a Page

Your child's Individual School Attendance Target is at least 95% - but the higher the better!

- Ensure your child attends school regularly and punctually.
- Absence should only happen if your child is significantly ill and therefore unfit to attend school, or if there is an unavoidable/unforeseen reason or circumstance which is causing a difficulty/period of difficulty.
- Notify school of your child's absence by 8:55am through parentmail, giving a reason for the absence as well as a timescale for their likely return.
- After a three day absence parents must contact the school again with an update via parentmail. If there is no contact from a child's parent, this will be marked as unauthorised.
- Where the school does not receive information about child's absence from a parent, the school will text parents by 9:30 to ascertain the reasons for absence. If there is no response within 15 minutes then a phone call will be made directly to the parent / guardian and other emergency contacts. If there is still no response then the school safeguarding lead will be informed who may visit the home or contact Staffordshire Children's Support and Advice Service.
- Any unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised absence. It is unauthorised absences that are the evidence for a Penalty Notice or prosecution for irregular attendance.

Punctuality

School starts at **8.45am** and finishes at **3.15pm**.

- It is important to be on time for the first part of the school day as learning begins at 8:45am.
- Your child is late if they are not in school by 8.55am when the bell rings
- Your child is unauthorised late if they arrive at 9.05am or later.
- If your child receives 5 late codes in a half term then we will write to parents to inform you of our concerns over your child's persistent late arrival. If it continues we will send another letter before setting up a meeting to discuss the situation with you and to find solutions to support you.

Exceptional Leave- requesting a Holiday or leave of absence during term time.

There is no entitlement to time off during term time. Leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Head teacher, in accordance with the DFE guidance.

- Alongside your request of leave for 'exceptional' circumstances it is parents/carers responsibility to provide all the necessary information and proof of the exceptional circumstance to enable the Headteacher to make an informed decision. Without the necessary proof and documentation to support the request for exceptional circumstances absence, the request will be automatically refused. The form is available on the school website.
- Parents/Carers wishing to apply for a leave of absence need to fill in an application form well in advance (with a minimum of 2 weeks' notice unless there is a family emergency) and before booking tickets or making travel arrangements.
- Please be aware that a Headteacher should not authorise leave of absence after the event, if a parent failed to inform the school in advance. If school become suspicious over an absence, then further investigations may occur to ensure the safeguarding of your child.
- If your request for leave is granted under exceptional circumstances but your child does not return to school at the time he/she is expected (i.e. the date following the leave of absence) and no information is available to explain or justify the continued absence, this extended absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If term time leave is taken without prior permission from the school, the absence will be unauthorised and you may be liable for a penalty notice fine (issued by the Local Authority.) If you choose not to pay the fine you may face prosecution if the absence meets the criteria set out in the Local Authorities Code of Conduct.