



NEWSLETTER

14TH OCTOBER 2022

Nursery Soup Morning

This week our Nursery children have been very busy preparing vegetables for soup, and making fresh bread and butter for their Harvest Soup Party which was held this morning. The children also sang some harvest songs which they had been practicing all week.

Thank you to everyone who came along today and enjoyed the soup—it looked delicious!



contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone No.
01785 337 300
Absence Reporting
Via ParentMail app



Our School Attendance Target is **96%**

This weeks attendance is **91.8%** which is

Reception	84.7%
Year One	93.7%
Year Two	94.3%
Year Three	89.7%
Year Four	95.0%
Year Five	89.7%
Year Six	99.5%

Attendance

On the 29th September the DfE published the attendance for 26th September.

These figures are derived from regular automatic data uploads to the DfE by participating schools.

The attendance rates across the week was 95.1% in state funded primary schools.

Absence rates have increased since the start of term. This is driven by an increase in illness absence from 2.6% to 3.6%.

Diwali Day

On Friday 21st October children across the school will be learning about the Hindu light festival 'Diwali'. As part of the day they will be learning about the story of Rama and Sita, will be taking part in a Hindu dance workshop, food tasting and many more activities.

We are asking for a small contribution of £4 for the day which can be paid via your ParentPay account.

As part of our learning we will have a slight change to our school dinner menu this week and will be serving our **Fish and Chips on Thursday** and enjoying either a Chicken or Vegetarian curry on Diwali day.

As this is a light festival, the children are welcome to come to school in special occasion clothes—the more colourful the better! Please no football tops/sportswear.



Harvest Donations

Thank you to everyone who has so generously brought in donations for our harvest festival collection. We have been overwhelmed by your response.

The items will be donated to the House of Bread on Monday.



Parents Evenings

We will be holding our Parents' Evening sessions on Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th October. Details of how to book appointments has now been sent out to all parents via ParentMail. The appointments will take place in school face-to-face with the teachers. The ten-minute meetings will take place in the classrooms. Within this meeting, your child's teacher will discuss how they have settled in to their new class, as well as targets linked to their next steps in learning for the year. You will also get the chance to look through the work that your child has completed so far this year during the meeting with your child's teacher.

Please be mindful during these sessions that times are tight, so please be on time for your child's meetings. Additionally, if you wish to discuss a matter that may take longer than the allocated ten minute slot, your child's teacher will be happy to arrange another time to meet.

We have a number of students in school who are training to be teachers and would like to sit in on the parents evening appointments on Thursday evening. If you are not happy for a student to attend please let your class teacher know.

We ask that anyone showing symptoms of Covid cancel their appointment, letting the school know as soon as possible. The class teacher will re-arrange a time to meet when it is safe to do so.



Dates for your diary

Tue October 18th and Thur October 20th

Parents evening

Fri 21st October

Diwali Day

Mon 24th October – Fri 28th October

Half term holiday

Thur November 3rd

Year 5 Mayan Day workshop

Thur November 3rd 9:15am or 6:30pm

Reception Maths workshop

Mon 7th November

Year 4 Bikeability

Please Note

After School Sporting Clubs are cancelled next week on Monday and Thursday due to sporting competitions

Francesca Gibbons Visit

On Thursday next week we are welcoming Francesca Gibbons into school for a special assembly for our Key Stage Two children.

Francesca is a critically acclaimed children's author, best known for her debut novel, *The Shadow Moth* and also a former pupil of Oakridge Primary School.

She will be talking to the children about her books, her life as an author and the inspiration for her writing.

If there is time, she will be happy to sign books if you already have copies.



Year 5 and 5 Maya Day

The next Knowledge and Understanding of the world unit for Year Five and Six children is "Why were the Maya so Mysterious?" and as part of this, on Thursday 3rd November we are privileged to be receiving a visit from Dr Diane Davies, who is a world expert on the Maya Civilisation (a rare thing amongst British Archaeologists!).

The day will provide an exceptional opportunity for the children to learn more about the role of an archaeologist, as well as having the opportunity to handle real Maya artefacts and gain valuable insights into their lives. In addition, the children will look at and decipher the earliest Maya mural found, which Dr Davies helped uncover, calculate sums using the Maya number system and create their own real-time Maya calendar and learn how to read it, so that they can use it for the next 52 years of their lives!

Contributions of £6.50 are invited towards the cost, payable via your ParentPay account. Please note that if there are insufficient contributions the Workshop may need to be cancelled.

Dogs

Could we please ask that if you bring your dog to school that you please keep them on a short lead and under control at all times. Please remember that dogs are not allowed onto school grounds.

Please remind your children that they should always ask the owner if it's okay before going near or touching a dog, and that they need to listen if the answer is no.



Year 5/6 School Games Girls Football Competition Winners!

On Monday our Year 5/6 girls football team took part in a tournament at Bishop Lonsdale School alongside another 7 schools.

After drawing the first game 0-0 against Veritas the girls dominated their group with consecutive 2-0 wins against Parkside and All Saints thanks to four goals from Isla. This sent the girls through to the final to play Bishop Lonsdale where they saved their best performance for last – a great cross by Ayla brought Isla another goal and some more good teamwork brought Isla a second goal, before Jenny rounded off the win with a brilliant strike to give Oakridge a convincing 3-0 win and secure the tournament win.

Massive congratulations to all the girls who took part and a great way to start the season!



Year 5/6 Cross Country Competition

On Thursday Oakridge sent 15 children to take part in the School Games Cross Country competition at Stafford Grammar.

This was a fantastic event with 16 schools taking part in Year 5 and 6 girls and boys competitions. In the overall placings the Year 5 girls finished 10th, Year 5 boys finished 4th, Year 6 girls finished 2nd and the Year 6 boys finished 6th.

Congratulations to all of the children who took part and represented the school so well, and a massive well done to Elsee in Year 6 who won the girls race by about half a field!

